

**Glen Elder City Council Minutes  
October 7, 2024**

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Monday night at 7:00 p.m., October 7, 2024, at City Hall with Mayor Sheila Paxson presiding and council members: Lori Augustine, Lindsey Clark, Landen Cleveland, Kevin Noller, and Angie Behymer present. Also in attendance: Brandt Bolte, Dan Winkel, Carolyn Fobes, Julia Rabe, Darel Stuart, Lucas Wiseman, Mike & Christie Louthan, Brandon & Carrie Tritsch, Attorney Scott Wright, Devon Housh, and Jerri Senger.

**Minutes & Claims**

The minutes of the September 3, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Lindsey made a motion to approve the minutes. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

The claims on hand for the month of September amounted to \$50,598.59, plus the outstanding Sunflower Electric Power, Rolling Hills Electric, WorldPay, and City Attorney bills were reviewed. Landen made a motion to approve the claims. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

**Dream Big 2.0 Grant**

Julia Rabe, Executive Director for the Solomon Valley Community Foundation, informed the council about the Dream Big 2.0 Community Impact Grant available to the City of Glen Elder. She said this is a non-competitive grant and they have \$10,000.00 for each of the seven incorporated towns in Mitchell County. Julia said a requirement for the grant is the city must host a town-wide strategic planning meeting before August 2025. Then a grant application must be filled out by the city for the money and is due by December 2025. She mentioned grant reports will be required, just like other grants. Julia suggested finding something new to use the money on as this grant cannot be used for a budgetary project or item.

**EMC Insurance**

Brandt Bolte, agent with Mahin Insurance, presented a quote for the umbrella liability coverage, which was previously discussed at the August meeting. Brant said the additional premium for the remainder of the year would be \$2,407.00, with the increase in the auto liability plus the umbrella coverage of \$1,000,000.00. He also had a quote for cybersecurity coverage at \$1,330.00. The council had questions about what was covered by the cybersecurity insurance.

It was noted, the clerk received the updated policy with the corrections Devon made last month and the addition of the new skid steer and removal of the old skid steer.

**Brandon Tritsch Concerns**

Brandon Tritsch read his letter of concerns with the day-to-day operations by Lakeside Auction across the street from his residence. He mentioned the fork lift operating on the street blocks traffic and drives onto the sidewalk, while unloading trucks. He is concerned about the safety of the children riding their bikes on the street around the fork lift and trucks while being unloaded. It was established that two to three trucks come per week to be unloaded. The attorney mentioned that fork lifts need to obey traffic rules and regulations just like vehicles. Brandon is upset how customers block his driveway and his mailbox, they put merchandise in his yard and throw trash in his yard as well as other yards in the neighborhood. Mike Louthan asked that all the neighbors contact him immediately if one of his customers is parked inappropriately or being disrespectful to their properties. It was mentioned Lakeside's customer traffic is heaviest on

Saturdays. Brandon said it is unsafe to get in and out of his own driveway on Saturdays. Brandon is concerned about how the fork lift and trucks are tearing up the street and asked who is paying for those repairs. Mike stated that he paid for the street repairs in front of his business this summer.

The council asked about parking in front of the building. Mike said the parking spaces in front of his business are on his property. There was discussion on moving the trailer that is currently parked in front of the building, to the north parking lot with his other trailers. Then utilize his front parking area as a truck unloading area, instead of the middle of the street. Mike said he uses the trailers for merchandise storage. There was discussion on cleaning up the trash and clutter around Lakeside's building, as it is not only a code violation but would be a problem for the fire department if a fire broke out in the building. Mike mentioned he has weekly trash pickup.

Carrie Tritsch mentioned Lakeside Auction was a new, small warehouse business when they purchased their house. She asked Mike to test their speakers inside their building, stating it disrupts her work conference calls inside her house – she works from home.

### **Mike Louthan – Lakeside Auction**

Mike Louthan read his statement to the council. He said this issue started when delivery trucks arrived in the middle of the night and sat idling in the street, waking the Tritsches. Mike said he contacted delivery companies and purchased signs to help remedy the problem. Mike asked the city to release the 20-foot access easement in his north parking lot. Devon mentioned it was the best way to get back into the baseball field and old football field. If the easement were to be released, Mike said he would like to put up a fence to block the view of his north parking lot and he would then be able to utilize the entire parking lot. He even mentioned owning 20 feet behind his building, back to third base, and said he isn't parking trailers back there, but could. Mike said his business is open 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and they are busiest during the summer. The council suggested having Mike's employees park in front of the neighbor's houses. This would free up parking in front of his building and hopefully avoid the customers blocking mailboxes and driveways.

Darel Stuart commented on the trucks backing up through the intersection next to his house and traffic not stopping.

The council informed all present that they can only enforce the city ordinances. Hopefully coming together discussing the issues and sharing ideas to solve them was beneficial to all. Landen thanked everyone for coming.

### **Code Enforcement Officer**

Mayor Paxson read James Reed's resignation, effective October 1, 2024. The council asked the clerk to advertise for the code enforcement officer position.

Attorney Scott Wright presented the council with resolutions he drafted for the clean up of the four dilapidated properties in town. These were the properties discussed at the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. Letters will be sent to property owners before the council approves the resolutions.

The clerk reported receiving the following complaints: J-D Trucking has been parking a semi-truck on Hobart Street overnight and on weekends, The Bradley Augustine residence has over the limit of dogs and has dogs not registered, Austin Clark has a trailer and multiple vehicles parked on South Nash Street. The council asked the clerk to send letters to these folks. The council briefly discussed the complaint received about Marzolf trucks driving on South Nash Street.

### **Swimming Pool Reports**

The council reviewed the swimming pool reports. Visitation was up and the concession stand made a good profit. Kevin mentioned the free swims hosted by the Lions Club and Community Club may have helped visitation numbers. He said area towns have free swims every Saturday, hopefully organizations will continue their support next year.

### **Grants**

The KWO Technical Assistance Grant application was submitted before the September 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. Now waiting to hear if Glen Elder will be selected.

Emily Benedick will be at the Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> selling raffle tickets and gathering mural concept ideas. Cunningham Fiber and the Glen Elder Lions Club both made substantial donations to the mural. The clerk mentioned receiving a few mural donations and selling raffle tickets at City Hall.

### **Building Permits**

Kevin made a motion to approve the following building permits: Permit #24-18 a new concrete slab for Don Zahourek at 308 N. Hobart, #24-19 a new 4x10 ft shed for Steve Jermark at 101 E. Main, #24-20 a new 10x12 ft shed for Michael Predmore at 109 W. Allen. Landen seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

### **Employee Report**

Devon visited with Prairie Land Electric. They will not change out the substation breaker for the city, so he contacted KMEA and they will do the job. KMEA has plans to complete the work in early November and it will be done in the afternoon, so power will be out two to three hours. Devon mentioned he is waiting on well bids. The mural structure is done. They are now waiting to get the concrete poured and then will put rock around the structure. He informed the council he ordered sand for next year's street projects, as he had leftover money in this year's budget.

### **Clerk's Report**

The clerk asked the council to review the September connect report. She will be attending the November 13<sup>th</sup> clerk's training in Minneapolis and attended the Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> KMU water/wastewater utility rate workshop in Cawker City. The clerk said she will be learning the new gWorks software this month and plans to go to the cloud November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Council Report**

Angie said the Indian Festival at the State Park was well done and her grandchildren really enjoyed it.

Kevin mentioned the Lions Club is working on repairing the Statue of Liberty's crown.

Landen commented on how well he likes the mural structure. The council thanked Devon for the mural structure idea and the city crew on a job well done.

With no other business, Landen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angie seconded the motion and with five council members voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Corrections per the 11-4-24 meeting*

Jerri Senger, City Clerk