

November 4, 2024

A work session to discuss Code Enforcement Officer duties was held from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Council members in attendance were Sheila Paxson, Lori Augustine, Lindsey Clark, Landen Cleveland, Kevin Noller, and Angie Behymer. Also present, City Attorney Scott Wright, City Clerk Jerri Senger and Maintenance Superintendent Devon Housh.

## **Glen Elder City Council Minutes November 4, 2023**

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Monday night at 7:00 p.m., November 4, 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: Mike & Christie Louthan, Brandon & Carrie Tritsch, Bradley & Amanda Augustine, Attorney Scott Wright, Devon Housh, and Jerri Senger.

### **Minutes & Claims**

The minutes of the October 7, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Angie made a request to correct the minutes, asking the clerk to redo the paragraph headers to match the agenda. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections, Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

The claims on hand for the month of October amounted to \$83,926.72, plus the outstanding Sunflower Electric Power, Rolling Hills Electric, WorldPay and city attorney bills were reviewed. Landen made a motion to approve the claims. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

### **Brandon Tritsch – Concerns of Lakeside Auction**

Carrie Tritsch thanked the city council and Mike Louthan for listening to their concerns at the October council meeting. She stated, she sees improvements being made. Carrie asked what are the next steps and what is the time-line.

Brandon Tritsch showed security camera footage of the forklift operating in the street, blocking traffic and nearly hitting other vehicles. Brandon also had a clip with an employee verbally harassing him as he pulled out of his driveway. The council instructed Brandon to contact Mitchell County Law Enforcement if being harassed or they feel a law has been broken. The council visited with the two gentlemen about a solution to their concerns. Several ideas and suggestions were discussed. The council asked Mike Louthan if he could move the trailer in the front of the building within 60-days. This will provide a safer unloading area and a parking area for customers when the delivery trucks are not present.

### **Code Enforcement**

The council asked to have the job description for the code enforcement officer updated. Landen made a motion to increase the pay for the code officer to \$350.00 per month. Lori seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes. The council asked to have the position advertised until filled and gave the clerk a list of locations to advertise in.

Amanda Augustine introduced herself. She told the council she married and moved to town with three dogs in April. She asked for permission to keep all of the dogs she and her husband have. She mentioned the dogs are all seven years old and older. She said as these dogs pass away, they will get down to the two-dog limit and not go over it again. The council granted her special permission, as long as no complaints are received on the dogs. Amanda was asked to bring the rabies certificates in and get the dogs tagged as soon as possible.

Attorney Scott Wright said the letters to the four dilapidated properties went out this morning. He gave them 30-days to take care of the structures or contact him with a plan.

The clerk informed the council she sent out the three letters discussed last month. The council asked her to send a letter to James Deverman about the trailer he has had parked on East Kansas Street since last week.

### **Dream Big 2.0 Grant**

The mayor asked the council to be thinking of project ideas for the Dream Big 2.0 Grant. She asked to have the topic put on the December agenda. She would like to set up the public strategic planning meeting after the first of the year.

### **Glen Elder Mural**

The council reviewed the mural sketch ideas from Greg Holdren for the new interactive mural. They liked the ideas with a few changes, but look forward to seeing the other sketch ideas that were submitted at the Chili Cook-off. It was noted that the fund raising was successful and we are only \$752. short of the total needed for the project. The council asked if a mural could be painted on the back of the structure, to be viewed while in the swimming pool.

### **Marketing Opportunity for Mitchell County**

The council discussed the incredible marketing opportunity presented to Mitchell County. A one-minute commercial produced by Viewpoint to be featured on the “Great Places to Live, Raise a Family, and Start a Business” series. Landen made a motion to donate \$1,000. to the project and Angie seconded the motion. The vote carried with five ayes.

### **Kansas Highway 24 Magazine**

The council discussed the new Kansas Highway 24 Magazine. They asked the clerk to give them a list of Glen Elder businesses.

### **Utility Rates**

The council reviewed the utility rate studies done earlier in the year. After some discussion, Landen made a motion to increase all electrical usage charges by 2%, leaving the monthly electric customer charges the same. Increase the monthly water customer charge by \$1.00 and increasing the water usage per thousand gallons by 5%. Increase each of the monthly sewer charges by \$1.00, and leaving the monthly trash charge the same. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes. These new rates will become effective with the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 bills. Ordinances will be drafted for next month.

### **Fire Department**

Clerk Senger announced Jerry Clark has been a member of the City of Glen Elder Volunteer Fire Department for 40 years and Devon Housh for 10 years. They will be given certificates and pins at the annual fireman’s meal later this month.

Devon said the heavy-duty washing machine in the fire station quit working. They are planning to apply for a grant to replace the washing machine and purchase more bunker gear.

### **Executive Session**

At 9:05 pm Lindsey made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, with the mayor, council members, and attorney present. Landen seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

At 9:15 pm Mayor Paxson re-opened the regular council meeting with no decisions being made in executive session.

### **Christmas Bonus**

Lori made a motion to give the full-time employees a bonus of \$700.00 and the office assistant/treasurer \$150.00, all less withholdings. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes.

### **Employee Report**

Devon informed the council KMEA will be replacing the breaker at the electrical substation on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:30 pm. He said the power will be out in town for approximately three to four hours.

Devon said the Lead & Copper Survey list has been submitted to the state and the newly required tri-fold informational brochures were sent out with the customer bills. He said they will begin hanging lights and putting up Christmas displays this month.

### **Clerk's Report**

The council reviewed the October utility connect report.

The clerk asked about closing the office on Christmas eve. After a brief discussion the council decided to let all employees have off Christmas Eve, as well as Christmas day.

The clerk informed the council there are a lot of issues the software company needs get fixed, before the city can move to the cloud-based software. Programmers are working on the issues and it does not look like the move will happen in November.

### **Council Report**

Angie stated November is Match Month with the Solomon Valley Community Foundation. After some discussion, Landen made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Solomon Valley Community Foundation. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with five ayes. The Mayor will present the check on November 15<sup>th</sup> when they are at Cunningham Fiber.

The council commented on how great the Chili Cook-off was. They thanked the community club for bringing the event back, and the weather was perfect that day as well.

With no other business, Landen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lindsey seconded the motion and with five council members voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

*(These are unofficial minutes, until approved at the next council meeting.)*

Jerri Senger  
City Clerk