

**Glen Elder City Council Minutes
June 3, 2024**

The Glen Elder City Council met in regular session on Monday night at 7:00 p.m., June 3, 2024, at City Hall with Mayor Sheila Paxson presiding and council members: Lori Augustine, Lindsey Clark, Kevin Noller, and Angie Behymer present. Also in attendance: Darren Prince, Devon Housh, and Jerri Senger.

Minutes & Claims

The minutes of the May 6, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Lindsey made a motion to approve the minutes. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

The claims on hand for the month of May amounted to \$59,759.24, plus the outstanding Sunflower Electric Power, Rolling Hills Electric, WorldPay, Kansas One-Call, KDNS Radio, Compliance One, Cash-Wa, and City Attorney bills were reviewed. Angie made a motion to approve the claims. Lori seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

KMEA Electric Rate Study

Darren Prince, Regulatory & Rates Manager with Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA), explained the history and services of KMEA. Darren explained to the council the electric rate review he did for Glen Elder. He stated even with the fund balance decline since 2019, the electric fund has a healthy balance which is very fortunate. Darren said KMEA recommends 180 “days of cash on hand” to cover expenses. In 2023 Glen Elder had 278. However, with the current rate of expenses and the small increase in revenue the number for “days of cash on hand” will decline rapidly. Darren does not recommend a rate increase at this time, but suggests a 2% increase per year for future years. Darren also presented the council with a summer and winter rate design option.

Darren suggested contacting him every three to five years to update the study he presented. The council thanked Darren for doing the rate study. The council members stated they like having a plan and the projections Darren presented.

Fireworks Sale License

There was some discussion and concern on the discharge of fireworks this year with the fourth during the week and the lake fireworks display on the sixth. City Ordinance #708-1 states: Fireworks shall only be discharged between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm on July 1 through July 4th. Lori made a motion to approve the Fireworks Sales License for Creighton & Shauna Remus, at 345 N. Hobart, unless conditions change and we stop getting moisture, for July 1st to 4th, 2024. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Code Enforcement

The council reviewed the May code enforcement report from James Reed. There was a brief discussion about the issue of a resident parking in the alley. The council would like James to follow the notice procedure previously established and if a notice to appear is needed, so be it.

Utility Rates

Angie asked the clerk to figure the “days of cash on hand” quarterly, if possible. The council would like to maintain the current “days of cash on hand” and review all the utility rates

in January 2025. The council asked the clerk to put utility rates on the agenda for the November 2024 meeting so they can begin planning for January.

Wage Ordinance #759

Angie made a motion to approve Ordinance #759 establishing employee wages, with the amendments discussed at the May meeting. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Personnel Manual

The council reviewed the email from the auditor concerning paying employee's unused sick leave upon retirement or leaving employment. The council made a point to mention if an employee is terminated, unused sick leave will not be paid. Angie made a motion to pay sick leave upon retirement or leaving employment as follows: 30% after 15 years, 40% after 20 years, and 50% after 25 years of employment. Lori seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

2024 Audit Proposal

The council reviewed the proposal from Jarred, Gilmore, Phillips to conduct the 2024 Audit for an amount not to exceed \$7,400.00, up \$400.00 from last year. Lindsey made a motion to approve the proposal for Jarred, Gilmore, Phillips to conduct the 2024 audit for no more than \$7,400.00. Kevin seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Glen Elder Mural

Glen Elder was denied the Kansas Rural Mural Grant funds. The council would like to move forward with finding an artist and design for the mural to be placed south of the swimming pool.

Building Permits

Kevin made a motion to approve the following building permits: Permit #24-10 an above ground swimming pool, removing and replacing a sidewalk and add a new concrete slab for John Senger at 304 N. Nash, #24-11 move in a garage with a concrete floor for Seth Krueger at 100 N. Vine Street. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Employee Report

Devon informed the council after 5 years of waiting, Neptune can now radio-read electric meters. He mentioned not all the electric meters in town are compatible with the Neptune system, he said they are still changing out old meters. Devon stated the training fee to learn how to read the electric meters is \$1,500.00 and asked permission to schedule the training. Angie made a motion to proceed with the Neptune training for radio-read meters. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

Devon mentioned the fire station sign is up and asked about the other signs the First Impressions Program results suggested.

Clerk's Report

The clerk asked the council to review the May connect report.

The council reviewed the current rates on the CD's held at the bank. The clerk informed the council city funds can be invested in the Kansas Municipal Investment Pool.

Council Report

The council wants to thank Nancy Stortz and Annette Ybarra for the beautiful flowers they planted and are caring for in the city square. This is the second year these ladies have voluntarily planted and cared for flowers in the square.

The council commented on how well the new cemetery sign looks. The sign was provided by the Loren Remus family.

With no other business, Lori made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angie seconded the motion and with four council members voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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

Jerri Senger,
City Clerk