

Regular Meeting:

The Governing Body of the City of Wamego, Kansas, met in a Regular Session on Tuesday, November 07, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Commission Chambers at 430 Lincoln Avenue, Wamego, Kansas. Those present were Commissioners: Clifford Baughman, Richard Weixelman, William Ditto, Michele Jacobs and Mayor Thomas Beem.

Also present were the City Manager, Stacie Eiche, City Clerk, Shanda Jahnke, City Treasurer, Leslie Dugan and City Attorney, Jake Pugh.

The City Clerk presented the minutes of the regular meeting of the Governing Body held September 19, October 17 and October 19, 2023. After careful reading and discussion thereof, it was moved by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Weixelman to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

The City Clerk then submitted to the Governing Body for their consideration and approval Appropriation Ordinance No. 1680. After a careful review and discussion thereof, Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Baughman, to approve and adopt Appropriation Ordinance Number 1680. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

Public Comments and Communications:

The next regular work session will be November 21, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Jim Meinhardt advised the Governing Body that he is not in favor of any tax abatements that might be given to PrairieLand as their corporate offices are in Iowa and not local. In his opinion, PrairieLand will build their addition regardless of a tax abatement. The Governing Body thanked Jim for coming to the meeting.

Cali Ridder voiced her displeasure with the truck route after her husband received a ticket and that there is not a stop light at Balderson Blvd and Hwy 24. Mayor Beem thanked Ms. Ridder for bringing this to their attention.

Roxanna Linnebur advised that she appreciated staff researching the issue of removing a board member from the Housing Authority Board. She advised that the person in question has had ethical violations at their meetings. Mayor Beem thanked Ms. Linnebur for bringing the matter to their attention.

Housing Authority Annual Update:

Joann Sutton, Housing Authority Property Manager, was present to give a brief annual report. Joann advised that they are currently contacting individuals on the waitlist for a vacant studio apartment. She also reported several ongoing maintenance items, as well as they have an opening for a maintenance person. The Governing Body thanked Joann and the Wamego Housing Authority Board for their time and dedication.

Airport Board Annual Update:

John Hupe was present to give a brief update on the airport. He advised that the board was reviewing plans with the engineers regarding the plans for the airport with the awarded grant money. They do not have any major upcoming projects. The Governing Body thanked John and the Airport Board for their time and dedication.

Safe Driving Coalition Update:

Stacie gave an update on safe driving coalition. Several yield signs have been changed to stop signs. The speed study had been completed with the engineer's recommendation of changing most residential streets to 20 mph were a few exceptions, an ordinance will come to a future meeting. The traffic study at Hwy 24 and Balderson Blvd was completed, the intersection does not meet the KDOT criteria for a traffic light. The coalition is working on several upcoming grant opportunities and projects.

PrairieLand Tax Abatement:

The City Manager reminded the Governing Body that at the special meeting they had approved the sales tax exemption and industrial revenue bonds with the possibility of a tax abatement for the PrairieLand expansion. She advised that Caterpillar and Homestead Senior Housing had received ten (10) year abatements at 100%, knowing that there is a guideline of a descending rate for abatements although it is merely a guide. The Governing Body requested more information on the projected loss to the City of Wamego and for the cost analysis to be presented for the next regular meeting.

Flexible Spending Employee Benefit:

Stacie Eichem advised that after sending a survey to current full-time employees, approximately a quarter of the staff was interested in flexible spending accounts for 2024. This would allow the employees to receive a pre-tax credit on approved medical spending. It was the staff recommendation to offer flexible spending with a minimum annual contribution of \$100 and a maximum annual contribution of \$1000 with a \$500 rollover. Commissioner Baughman moved, seconded by Commissioner Weixelman to approve flexible spending in accordance with the staff recommendation. Motion carried. Aye:4, Nay:0 with Commissioner Jacobs abstaining.

Music Studio Parking Request:

The City Manager advised that it had been requested to rescind this request from the last regular meeting, as they had researched the parking lot next to the proposed location and it is available for public parking, they will be requesting a variance from the board of zoning appeals for the number of parking spaces required.

Thomas Outdoor Signs:

Stacie reported that the City renews a contract with Thomas Outdoor Signs every three (3) years for their billboard located in the Miller Nature Park in the amount of \$550 per year. Commissioner Beem moved, seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the contract contingent upon City Attorney review. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

Ordinance No. 1795 Utility Service Permit for Rural Customers:

Ordinance No. 1795 was read and presented as follows:

Commissioner Baughman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ditto to approve Ordinance No. 1795. Motion carried. Aye:5. Nay:0.

Patrol Car Proposal:

The City Manager reported proposals had been received for a new patrol unit. It was the staff recommendation to go with the lowest proposal of \$40,230 with the addition of a spotlight from Robbins Motors in Manhattan. There was an option to trade the 2018 Dodge Ram in the amount of \$17,500, however staff recommended keeping for the school resource officer. Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the purchase of a new Dodge from Robbins Motors and keep the 2018 Dodge Ram. Motion carried. Aye:5. Nay:0.

Fire Department Per Diem:

The City Manager advised that due to taxing requirements for volunteer firefighters, she was requesting to increase the dry calls from \$10 to \$15 and their per diem would be issued through payroll. Commissioner Baughman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs to approve the increase for volunteer firefighters to \$15 per call. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

Project Updates and Change Orders:

The City Manager reported that the street project is going well, the library project is still in progress, neither project has a change order for this meeting. The library will be closing for a couple of weeks around Thanksgiving, and they will be hosting a dedication ceremony for the children's section on December 15th at 3:30pm.

Scenic Ridge is on schedule but had a requested change order in the amount of \$2,650. Commissioner Ditto moved; Commissioner Baughman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay:0.

Proposals were received for the distribution of biosolids from the wastewater plant. It was the staff and Chris McMahon's recommendation to accept the low proposal from Justin Elder for \$20.25 per cubic yard. Commissioner Baughman moved; Commissioner Beem seconded the motion to accept Just Elder's proposal. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay:0.

City Manager and Other Reports:

All city departments are working well, we are still hiring for one position in the street department and police department as well as seasonal recreation officials.

Sales tax for the city was up 6% and up 4% for the county.

The Kansas Government Journal will be passed out at the next regular meeting.

At this time, Commissioner Beem moved to adjourn into executive session for twenty (20) minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and the meeting would reconvene at 7:25 P.M. Commissioner Baughman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Aye:5, Nay:0.

The meeting reconvened.

At this time, Commissioner Beem moved to adjourn into executive session for ten (10) minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and the meeting would reconvene at 7:35 P.M. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. Motion carried. Aye:5, Nay:0.

The meeting reconvened.

No further business appearing, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

/s/ Thomas Beem, Mayor

/s/ Shanda Jahnke, City Clerk