

Regular Meeting:

The Governing Body of the City of Wamego, Kansas, met in a Regular Session on Tuesday, November 21, 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 November 07, 2023. After careful reading and discussion thereof, it was moved by Commissioner Baughman and seconded by Commissioner Jacobs 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. 1681. After a careful review and discussion thereof, Commissioner Ditto moved, seconded by Commissioner Baughman, to approve and adopt Appropriation Ordinance Number 1681. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

**Public Comments and Communications:**

The next regular work session will be December 05, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. with the possibility of a library tour.

Michael Adams advised the Governing Body that it had been mentioned at a previous meeting that PrairieLand Partners' base of operations was in Iowa. Michael stated that PrairieLand's corporate office is located Hutchinson and that a different division called Agravision is based out of Iowa, but Michael is part owner of PrairieLand and also resides in Wamego. Investors are all across the Midwest.

**Hospital Board Annual Update:**

Jake Pugh, Chair of the Wamego Hospital Board, was present to give a brief annual report. He advised that the board has oversight of building, and the Wamego Hospital Association has oversight of the hospital operations and in contract with Ascension. Currently, the MRI expansion project is underway. The board is making a strategic plan for the future projects to include expanding the clinic and visiting physicians' areas. The Governing Body thanked Jake and the board for their time and dedication.

**Wamego Health Center Update:**

Brian Howells, hospital director, was present to give a brief update on the hospital. He advised that currently the hospital has a seventy-four percent (74%) patient satisfaction rate. Dr. Webb started in the fall and has a full patient load. They are hoping to have a pain management partner physician soon and to start marketing the MRI expansion as well expanding the operating room in the future.

**PrairieLand Tax Abatement:**

The City Manager advised the Governing Body that to move forward with the potential tax abatement, they would need to decide the length of time and percentage of the requested abatement or deny the abatement to move forward. She advised that the City of Wamego would be the approving agency, but they could not separate the taxing entities. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Baughman moved to have city staff notify the bond counsel of the intention to move forward with a five (5) year one hundred percent (100%) abatement. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. Motion carried. Aye: 4, Nay: 1, Commissioner Weixelman voting against.

**Chrysler House Update:**

The City Manager reported that she would bring back demolition costs for the Chrysler house to the next meeting, unless they wanted to authorize her to approve up to a certain dollar amount. Commissioner Baughman moved, seconded by Commissioner Beem to authorize the City Manager to have the Chrysler House demolished for a cost of up to \$6,000. Motion carried. Aye: 4, Nay: 1, Commissioner Weixelman voting against.

**Flexible Spending Employee Benefit:**

Stacie Eichem advised that after flexible spending benefit was approved at the last meeting however this would be for a three (3) year term and not annual with the option of changing the benefits each year. Commissioner Ditto moved, seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve the flexible spending benefit for three (3) years contingent upon the City Attorney review. Motion carried. Aye:5, Nay:0.

**Yard Sale Ordinance No. 1796:**

Ordinance No. 1796 was presented and read as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WAMEGO, KANSAS, AMENDING CHAPTER VIII: HEALTH AND WELFARE, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAMEGO, KANSAS, ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR YARD SALES WITHIN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS OF THE CITY; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Baughman to approve Ordinance No. 1796 contingent upon City Attorney review. Motion carried. Aye:5, Nay:0.

**Personnel Policy Update:**

The City Manager reported several wording changes were made to the employee personnel policy including the addition of employees that also volunteer as firefighters. Commissioner Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Ditto to approve the personnel policy changes contingent upon City Attorney review. Motion carried. Aye: 5, Nay: 0.

**Employee Cost of Living (COLA) Increase and Merit 2024:**

Stacie reported that according to the social security administration the annual cost of living increase is 3.2 % and last year staff received a 3% COLA with the potential of 1% merit increase, it would be her recommendation for 2024 to have a 3% COLA increase with the potential of up to a 2% merit increase for employees that have been employed for 12 months or longer. Commissioner Baughman moved, seconded by Commissioner Weixelman, to approve a 3% COLA with the potential of a 2% merit increase for 12 month or longer employees. Motion carried. Aye:5. Nay:0.

**Loose Fire Equipment Bid:**

The City Manager reported bids had been received for loose equipment for the new fire truck, but the fire chief had not given his recommendation yet. This will be on the next regular agenda. Mayor Beem asked for the approximate cost of the new fire truck, Stacie advised \$775,000 and will hopefully be here in 2024.

**Project Updates and Change Orders:**

The City Manager reported that the library project is still in progress and planning a dedication for the children's library on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Scenic Ridge and street projects are moving along.

**City Manager and Other Reports:**

The parks department is getting ready for Christmas while all other departments are preparing for winter. The police department still has one full time opening.

Stacie advised the need to schedule a public hearing for a budget amendment in relation to the pickleball project. Commissioner Baughman moved, seconded by Commissioner Beem to hold a public hearing on December 19, 2023 at 6pm for a budget amendment. Motion carried. Aye:5. Nay:0.

The Season of Lights event is this weekend.

The Kansas Government Journal was passed out.

At this time, Commissioner Beem moved to adjourn into executive session for seventeen (17) minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and the meeting would reconvene at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. Motion carried. Aye:5, Nay:0.

The meeting reconvened.

At this time, Commissioner Beem moved to adjourn into executive session for fifteen (15) minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and the meeting would reconvene at 7:15 P.M. Commissioner Baughman 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