

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011**

The Council of the City of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:30 p.m. in regular session in the City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Curt Shreckengaust presiding.

Council Members David Cannon, Glenna Windisch, Carolyn Karns,
Steve Ward, Steve Town
City Administrator Jeff Cantrell
City Clerk Traci Storey
City Attorney Mary Stephenson
Press Brandon Steinert
Visitors David Welch

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Steve Ward moved, seconded by Councilmember David Cannon and carried 5-0, to approve the consent agenda, to include adoption of the agenda, approval of the minutes of the February 21, 2011 Council meeting and approval of the bills.

VISITORS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Welch, owner of Metcalf Ridge Golf Club, spoke to the Council regarding open burning at Metcalf Ridge. Welch asked the Council if the golf course could somehow burn on days other than Friday and Saturday that are prescribed by ordinance. Welch said those are the busiest days at the course and burning would interfere with golf operations. Welch added the neighborhood is located out in the county and it would make sense to allow burning at anytime even though Metcalf Ridge is within the city limits. City Administrator Jeff Cantrell advised against such an approval and explained that it would require an ordinance amendment that would apply to all other locations. Councilmember Steve Town stated he didn't

think it was a good idea to allow the needs of one property owner to change the scope of the existing ordinance. After brief discussion, Administrator Cantrell was directed to return a formal staff recommendation to the governing body at the next council meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator Jeff Cantrell asked the Council for a 10-minute executive session for legal at the end of the regular session. Councilmember Carolyn Karns moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Ward and carried 5-0, to have a 10-minute executive session and the end of the regular session.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

COUNCIL/COMMISSION REPORTS

Councilmember Town: Councilmember Town stated that the Wea Township Board donated new rescue equipment to the Louisburg Fire Department. The department used the Jaws of Life earlier that same day. The Council remarked upon the generosity of the gift and asked staff to send a letter of thanks to officials of Wea Township on behalf of the Governing Body.

Crosswalk at Summerfield: Councilmember Town stated he had sent out 140 surveys to Summerfield residents. Many residents are in favor of having a crosswalk guard, but few residents are able to assist. An unidentified member of the audience announced that she never received a survey and lives in Summerfield. Councilmember Town will provide information to Mayor Shreckengaust who will place it on the Summerfield website and facebook.

New Business: Councilmember Town explained that there are some miscommunications occurring within the community and went on to dispel a few rumors that allege that businesses and service providers were being turned away by the City. Town stated Aldi, Cox Communication, and Time Warner Cable have all had an interest in serving the community, but those

businesses felt the population of Louisburg would not support cost recovery. Additionally, a developer recently requested public financing to open a bar and grill in the strip mall by Alco that would result in a one percent sales tax being imposed to other businesses within the taxing district. In this specific case, the existing businesses refused to support an additional one percent sales tax to support a new bar and grill under the terms of Capital Improvement District (CID). Councilmember Town stated that he would like to see the adoption of a formal CID policy and provided a sample document from the City of Bonner Springs. City Administrator Jeff Cantrell agreed this would be a good idea for the City to consider in light of recent requests. At the direction of Council, Cantrell agreed that he would start working on a draft CID policy that would include important thresholds that would fit the needs of Louisburg.

Councilmember Windisch: Councilmember Glenna Windisch thanked City Administrator Jeff Cantrell for providing the Governing Body copies of Roberts Rules of Order. Windisch remarked that having the manual would have been helpful during the last meeting. Councilmember Windisch apologized to Mayor Shreckengaust and to the citizens for the loss of decorum at the recent meeting. Mayor Shreckengaust also apologized to the citizens.

Trial: Councilmember Windisch stated she had attended the trial of Rural Water District No. 2 vs. The City of Louisburg. City Administrator Jeff Cantrell encouraged Council members to periodically attend the trial.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Proclamation: Mayor Curt Shreckengaust presented a Proclamation that proclaims the month of March as Red Cross Month. Councilmember David Cannon moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town and carried 5-0, to authorize Mayor Shreckengaust to sign the Red Cross Proclamation.

Work Session: Mayor Shreckengaust discussed dates for a work session to talk about Ordinance 744 (truck parking). Councilmembers came to consensus that Monday, April 25th at 6:30 would be the work session to discuss truck parking and truck routes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Budget: City Administrator Jeff Cantrell discussed goals and objectives that were previously adopted by the City of Louisburg. Cantrell explained that many of the previous goals have become conflictive due to declining revenue. It was explained that the continual loss of residential and commercial property valuation was eroding the effects of the mill levy and that if the mill levy was to remain fixed under 30 mills that the City would need to contemplate reductions in service, or consider reserve spending. Cantrell provided a review of the governing Body's previous recommendations and suggested that further prioritization considered due to financial limitations in equally maintaining all goals.

Previous Goals:

1. Preserve existing fund balances that act as reserves.
2. Avoid increases in property taxes.
3. Strive to maintain optimal bond ratings.
4. Plan for specific infrastructure improvements with special sales tax proceeds.
5. Freeze unfunded capital projects associated with phased development.
6. Reduce debt whenever possible.
7. Eliminate programs that are under-utilized with minimal cost recovery.

Hurdles To Overcome:

1. Increasing health care costs.
2. Declining valuation; existing mill producing less revenue than last year.
3. Certain capital assets nearing end of useful life.
4. Growth at all time low.
5. Vacant properties and delinquencies.
6. Minimal return on idle investments with local banks.
7. Increased volatility projected within energy market.
8. Tightening of credit rating standards.

Administrator Cantrell went on to present graphs depicting trends and outlay of existing debt, retirement schedules, debt apportionment, sales tax projections and comparative mill levies of neighboring communities.

The Council members all agreed they did not want to see the mill levy increased. Councilmember Karns suggested we cut the fishing derby, which costs the City around \$5,000 each year. Karns stated she loved having the fishing derby and it was a great community event, but we need to start cutting somewhere. The Council agreed to look for alternative means to save money and possibly use reserved funds for only one year. Administrator Cantrell suggested that reserve spending would warrant the adoption of a formal reserve policy in order to prevent excessive reserve spending beyond the intended fiscal period.

City Wide Clean Up: City Administrator Cantrell stated two dates were available for City Wide Clean Up. The Council inquired about the dates for the Spring Garage Sales so it could coincide with City Wide Clean Up. The dates for the garage sales will be April 21st through May 7th. City Wide Clean Up will be May 14th.

Official Newspaper: City Administrator Jeff Cantrell suggested that the City place the official City newspaper out for bid. The Louisburg Herald and Louisburg Journal will submit competitive bids by April 4th in accordance to the provisions of the staff report. Councilmember Steve Ward moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Town and carried 5-0, to set the date as April 4th for sealed bids for the official newspaper.

House Bill 2294: City Administrator Jeff Cantrell spoke to the Council regarding House Bill 2294. Cantrell stated this bill would affect the growth pattern on cities in Kansas. Administrator Cantrell has spoken with Senator Pat Apple regarding this bill and was advised that the Bill was being held in Senate Committee.

Gas Leak Adjustment: City Administrator Jeff Cantrell presented a letter from Angie McLellan of 1204 N. Metcalf. The yard line had broken causing significant gas usage, but has since been fixed. Councilmember Steve Ward moved, seconded by Councilmember Glenna Windisch and carried 5-0, to approve a one-time gas leak adjustment to Angie McLellan in the amount of \$343.05.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council recessed into executive session at 7:43 p.m. and reconvened in regular session at 7:53 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

No action was taken as a result the executive session.

City Administrator Cantrell stated he would be contacting James Ungerer regarding the dilapidated garage at 102 S. Metcalf. Mr. Ungerer had been given an extension due to inclement weather.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:59 p.m. Councilmember Glenna Windisch moved, seconded by Councilmember Steve Ward and carried 5-0, to adjourn the meeting.

Approved:

Curt Shreckengast, Mayor

Attest:

Traci Storey, City Clerk