

September 13, 2023

The scheduled monthly meeting of the Chapman City Council was held Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at City Hall at 7:00 pm. Mayor Howard Battishill was present. Councilmembers Jim Bell, Sheryl Coyner, Tim Jury, and Mary Monasmith were present. Also in attendance were City Administrator Bill Flanery, Director of Public Works Edward Wehrmeister, Golf Superintendent Austin Murphy, Police Chief Kevin Diercks, Police Sergeant James Reynolds, Douglas Kiessling, Jeffery Wenger, Christy Loy, and Betty Babcock, Russ Gunderson, Gail Gunderson, Matt Hutzenbiler (American Legion), Andrew Avantagiato (Herington Fire Department), Mike Whitefoot, Shawn Monasmith, Jim Weller, Jed Moody, Janelle Dockendorf (Dickinson County), John Hultgren (Dickinson County), and Director of Parks and Recreation Tori Heller.

#2 Consent Agenda

Motion by Jury to approve the consent agenda as presented, 2nd by Bell, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#3 Public Comments

Russ Gunderson stated it did not make any sense to build a dog park in Chapman. It would add extra cost to the city to take care of it. If residents want a dog park, they should raise the money to build it. Russ also stated there is no need for a sidewalk heading north on the east side of Marshall Avenue near Dollar General. Residents can use the sidewalk on the west side of Marshall Avenue, and we can put in a crosswalk to the east side.

Betty Babcock agreed that the city did not need a dog park. Betty stated the city needs to focus on getting streets, sidewalks and curbing fixed.

#4 American Legion 3-D Archery Shoot in Sheeran Park – Matthew Hutzenbiler

Matthew requested the city allow the American Legion to use the tennis courts at Sheeran Park for the 3-D Shoot again this year. It will take place on 28 October 2023 from 1000 to 1400. There was a really good turnout last year and the Legion wants to make it an annual event. The city will barricade the alleyway east of Sheeran Park.

Motion by Bell to allow the American Legion to use the tennis courts at Sheeran Park for a 3-D Archery Shoot on 28 October 2023 from 1000 until 1400, 2nd by Monasmith. Vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#5 Discussion on Chapman FFA Planting Small Orchard Near Community Garden at City Park

Jed Moody requested the city allow the FFA to use some property to create a city orchard. The original location was at the City Park near the community garden plots. However, a soil sample indicated the orchard would not thrive at that location. The city owns property south of the baseball fields and the soil there is perfect for the orchard to thrive. The FFA would pay for the trees and would maintain the orchard. They would also need water at the location. There would be about 75 trees. The city has discussed expanding the ballfields in the future. The orchard would be about 200 feet long and 75 feet wide. Placing the orchard south next to Old Highway 40 would allow for ballfield expansion in the future. There is no water line on the south side of the lot. The city allows Mr. Gfeller to farm the land right now. The council agreed to discuss the project again at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Dale Nelson arrived at the council meeting.

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#6 Discussion on County Sales Tax Increase for 800 Digital Radio System – SGT James Reynolds

SGT James Reynolds stated the current communications system is outdated. The current radios have limited range and leave officers unable to communicate with each other or dispatch. The 800 radios can reach from Topeka to Abilene with no problems. The 800 Radio System would include the system itself and two towers. One tower would be near Herington and the other will be near Abilene. The system can use the KDOT towers as well. If there is any money left over, they will try to purchase two rescue trucks for the county. There are three rescue trucks in the county and two of them respond all the time. The new system is for every first responder in the county. All the neighboring counties have already upgraded to the 800 Digital System. There are too many dead zones in the current system and the county needs to upgrade. The 911 Committee Board is driving this project. The backbone of this system is already in place because everyone around us is already using the system. The sales tax increase would go towards new radios for every first responder in the community. There would be no additional cost to Chapman or Herington, it is a shared cost paid by the sales tax increase. The total cost of the project is close to \$3 million. Increasing property taxes was discussed as an option. Raising property taxes to fund the project would place all the costs on the residents of Dickinson county. Increasing the sales tax would share the costs with everyone traveling through Dickinson county when they stop and make a purchase. People traveling through Dickinson county use EMS and police services. The option of applying for grants to fund the project was considered. However, funding through grants is extremely limited at this time. The sales tax proposal will be on the ballot on November 7th. It will be for a quarter percent sale tax increase county wide. It amounts to about \$2.50 for every \$100.00 spent in the county and 100% of the proceeds would go towards public safety initiatives with the priority being communications. The lifespan of the radios is about 10 – 12 years. After the initial purchase using the sales tax funds, it would be up to each department to replace and maintain their radios. The radios will only go to emergency services/first responders. After 911, Homeland Security granted local EMS 800-compatible radios. We have had 800-compatible radios in our ambulances for approximately 12 years. Some of the radios in the ambulances are still the original 800 radios they bought us. Chapman benefited from the radios during the tornado in 2008. Within an hour after the tornado, there were 17 ambulances in Chapman to assist. The ambulances were able to respond so quickly thanks to the 800 Radio System. With our current system, if we are treating a patient in a basement, we are not going to be able to reach anyone outside of the basement on our radios. Upgrading our current system would not be cheaper than switching to the 800 Radio System. The sales tax increase will be on the ballot this November. The sales tax increase would sunset after 5 years. The money cannot be used for anything other than public safety.

No action taken by Council.

#7 Agreement with Traci Lucas on Acreage for Youth Center

The estimated cost of the youth center project is \$3 million. The council agreed to offer to sell approximately 5 acres located at 2000 block, 2650 Avenue for \$100.00. The council also agreed the offer would require the youth center to secure two thirds of the funding for the project within two years. The project should be under construction within 5 years.

No action taken by Council.

#8 Agreement with Ty Prosser for Old Grocery Store

Ty Prosser is no longer interested in purchasing the property located at 105 E. 3rd St.

No action taken by Council.

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#9 Road Closure in front of St. Michael's Parrish on 1 October 2023 from 10:00am to 2:00pm for Annual Bazaar.

Motion by Nelson to approve Resolution 09132023B – Road Closure in front of St. Michael's Parrish on 1 October 2023 from 1000 to 1400 for annual bazaar, 2nd by Bell. Vote: yes, unanimous (5-0). Motion carried.

#10 Closure of One Lane of Marshall Avenue for Middle School Color Run on 6 October 2023 from 11:00am to 12:00pm

Motion by Bell to approve Resolution 09132023C – Road Closure of Marshall Avenue on 6 October 2023 for Color Run, 2nd by Jury. Vote: yes, unanimous (5-0). Motion carried.

#11 Discussion on Providing Water to Trailer Parks West and North of City Limits

Motion by Bell to disapprove providing water to the trailer parks west and north of the city, 2nd by Jury. Vote: yes, unanimous (5-0). Motion carried.

#12 Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations pursuant to Attorney Client Privilege Exception

No action taken by Council.

#13 Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel (Evaluation of City Administrator)

Item will be placed on the agenda for the next council meeting.

No action taken by Council.

#14 Reports

Sheryl Coyner – Tree Committee

The Tree Committee will be conducting a tree inventory on October 9-10. The committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the inventory. This will be the first tree inventory since 2008.

Director of Public Works Ed Wehrmeister

Labor Day set-up and clean-up went well. A couple of new employees have learned to drive the street sweeper. There were several more water leaks this past month.

Golf Superintendent Austin Murphy

There is a golf tournament on September 30th. Everything is going well at the Golf Course. We still need to run water and power to the new maintenance shop. The office and bathroom have been framed out.

Director of Parks and Recreation Tori Heller

Girls' volleyball has started and is being coordinated with the High School. There are 47 girls signed up. The Recreation Board is looking at fundraising opportunities and grants to improve the recreation department. We plan on having 3-on-3 basketball again this year.

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Police Chief Kevin Diercks

School has started so the police department is busy again. Labor Day dance and went very well. The police department will be serving ice cream at the next home football game. Kansas Coffee and Ice Cream will supply the ice cream.

City Administrator Bill Flanery

The council should look at options for the city attorney and municipal judge positions. The city has ordered new flashing school zone signs to replace those on Old Highway 40 and Marshall Avenue. The city has started receiving bids to remove the trailer house at 232 E. 1st Street. We have received one bid so far for \$3,400. The hitch has been removed from the trailer so the trailer will need to be demolished on site. Labor Day went very well and there were more than 40 vendors. 46 blight notices have been issued so far this year.

Bill Flanery submitted his resignation for the City Administrator position.

Councilmember Tim Jury

Thanked the staff for their efforts and hard work during Labor Day.

#15 Adjournment

Motion by Bell to adjourn, 2nd by Monasmith, vote: yes, unanimous (5-0). Motion carried.

Howard Battishill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bill Flanery, City Clerk