

July 13, 2022

The scheduled monthly meeting of the Chapman City Council was held Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at City Hall at 7:00 pm. Mayor Howard Battishill was present. Councilmembers James Bell, Tim Jury, Mary Monasmith, and Rick Johnson were present. Also in attendance were City Administrator Bill Flanery, City Attorney Brad Jantz, Police Chief Kevin Diercks, Carol Frasure, and Laveta Horner.

#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

Carol Frasure stated that she did not feel the city's blight ordinances were being enforced. There have been problems with the property next door to her that have been taken care of, but they were not taken care of by the property owner or occupant. Ms. Frasure stated that she has had to complain for three years about the property next door to her until someone finally mowed the yard. She also stated that there are several yards that are worse than the one next door to her. Ms. Frasure asked who the Blight Enforcement Officer was. The City Administrator, Bill Flanery, stated that he is the Blight Enforcement Officer. Mr. Flanery stated that he generally responds to blights when there is a complaint.

#4 Discussion on Grass Clippings in Street, Pick-up of Branches in the Street, and Blight Yards

Laveta Horner stated the northwest corner of 6th Street and Broadway is covered with grass and grass will clog up the sewer system. Information about blowing the grass into the street has been published but no action has ever been taken. She has discussed the situation with the City Administrator and believes he is addressing the issue. Ms. Horner stated there are cars parked on the wrong side of the street. A car was parked on the west side of the street headed north in the 500 block of Glick Street. This is a hazard and should be obvious to a police officer who is driving around. Many people park in the street instead of their driveway. Ms. Horner stated she had a long and frustrating talk with the City Administrator about tree limbs. Ms. Horner had a tree limb fall in the street and it was moved to the space between the curb and sidewalk. A short time later, the city crew stopped and picked up limbs in the street from her neighbor to the south. They did not pick up the limb at Ms. Horner's residence and that absolutely irritated her. The city crew goes down to the Travelutes' residence to pick up limbs every time the wind blows. Ms. Horner stated that she was told that if limbs are in the space between the curb and the sidewalk, they are considered to be on private property. This area becomes private property because we mow it. There is something wrong with this assessment and we should stop mowing it. Property between the curb and the sidewalk should be considered city property. If an ordinance change is needed, then it should be done. For the fifty years she has lived in Chapman, she has always kept the debris picked up out of the gutters and the street by her property. However, now she is inclined to never pick up another leaf, twig, branch, or limb from the street. Ms. Horner stated the city needs to provide a place for residents to take their limbs and branches. Ms. Horner observed a property owner trimming trees and then burning them in a fire pit. She does not believe this is a good idea. Many residents do not have the means or the ability to haul off limbs that are a result of storm damage. We need to have a fall and spring city-wide clean-up. This was done several years ago but was stopped. It is a needed service. There are many sidewalks in town that are in horrible condition. When Ms. Horner moved into her current house, she put in new sidewalks and paid for them. The city has a need for an active tree board. There are many trees that need to be removed or trimmed. Ms. Horner previously served on the tree board for many years and believes there should be money available to assist residents. If there are no ordinances addressing junk and trash in yards, the council needs to promptly work on that issue. Ms. Horner stated she knows of five places that are a disaster. For weeks, maybe months, a trailer and a pickup loaded with trash have been

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parked in the backyard of a residence. Another property is littered with trash and inoperable vehicles. The neighbors to the west of that property have put up a privacy fence so they did not have to look at the rubbish. Another property is overgrown and has vehicles and junk in the backyard. Another residence has numerous cars without tags. A property on 5th Street is the worst in town and is unbelievable. Ms. Horner stated that when they moved to Chapman, it was a neat well-kept town. Now, Chapman has multiple properties that are unkept. If someone is thinking of moving to Chapman and they drive around, they could cross Chapman off their list. Ms. Horner asked why the minutes of the City Council meetings are not published in the Dickinson County News Times. She stated that Abilene and Herington print their minutes in the paper.

City Administrator, Bill Flanery, stated that Ms. Horner was absolutely right about the properties she mentioned. A couple of those properties were issued blight notices and citations to appear in court. The other properties have received blight notices. Mr. Flanery stated he has issued 18 blight notices this year and two citations. Mr. Flanery also stated all the issues and concerns mentioned by Ms. Horner were valid concerns. Ordinance 990 prohibits blowing grass clippings into the street. The city has never actively enforced that ordinance. Mr. Flanery stated that he will start issuing warning citations to individuals that blow grass clippings into the street and issue citations for second and subsequent violations. The fine for violating the ordinance is \$25.00.

Councilmember Jury stated there is a place for residents to take branches and limbs. It is only open during the day to prevent people from dumping items other than yard waste. The city does fall clean up and will pick up leaves. The city easement is private property and belongs to the homeowner. The homeowner is responsible for mowing it and keeping it clean.

#5 Discussion on City Employee Golf/Pool/Fitness Center Memberships

City Administrator, Bill Flanery, stated the city currently has a policy that provides golf, pool, and gym memberships to all full-time employees. The policy does not provide memberships to part-time employees. Mr. Flanery recommended extending the policy to include part-time employees. This would not include seasonal employees that are only employed during the summer months.

Motion by Bell to extend golf, pool, and gym memberships to part-time city employees, 2nd by Jury, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#6 Appointment of Wesley Phillips to Kansas Municipal Energy (KMEA) Director-1 Position

Motion by Jury to appoint Wesley Phillips to the KMEA Director-1 position, 2nd by Bell, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#7 Discussion on Purchase of New Vehicle for the Police Department

Police Chief Kevin Diercks stated that a few years ago the city adopted a plan to replace a vehicle every two years. The police department is behind schedule with the vehicle replacement. The 2015 Dodge Ram should have been replaced in 2021. The police department has a 2015 Ram, a 2017 Explorer, and a 2019 Durango. Police cars are difficult to find and are very expensive. A new truck would be more than \$50,000 after adding all the accessories. The Kansas Highway Patrol is selling a 2021 Dodge Durango with 49,000 miles that already has all the police equipment installed except for a camera and a radio. They are asking \$29,000 for the vehicle. Chief Diercks requested to add the vehicle to the current fleet instead of replacing a vehicle. The police department is using part-time officers more frequently. The part-time officers would be able to use the vehicle instead of swapping out with the full-time officers. The part-time officers cover down on vacations and other absences. The police department is waiting on an electronic brake module that will not be available until next year. Adding another vehicle will provide

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some needed flexibility. The vehicle is \$29,000 and accessories would be around \$3,000. ARPA funds are available for the purchase of the vehicle.

Motion by Bell to approve the use of ARPA funds to purchase the 2021 Dodge Durango and accessories totaling \$34,000.00 for the police department, 2nd by Monasmith, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#8 Set Date for Budget Workshop (Recommended 27 July 2022)

Motion by Bell to set the date of the budget workshop for 27 July 2022 at 7:00pm, 2nd by Johnson, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#9 Set Date for Budget Hearing and Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing (Recommended 24 August 2022)

Motion by Bell to set the date of the revenue neutral rate hearing for 6:45pm on 24 August 2022 and the budget hearing for 7:00pm on 24 August 2022, 2nd by Monasmith, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

#10 Reports

City Administrator – Bill Flanery

Chapman is part of Tree City USA. The city does not have a tree committee at this time and need to find interested individuals to fill the committee.

The regulations for the municipal pool prohibit the use of the high dive. The pool must be at least 12.5 feet deep at the base of the diving board and the pool is only 12 feet deep.

The FEMA funds for the sewer project are still pending. FEMA requested additional information which the city provided this week.

Chass Clark will be attending a Lead and Copper Rule class on the 19th of July. Wesley Phillips has been enrolled in the KME Lineman Apprenticeship Program. Linda Cosio, the utility clerk, has found another job and Eileen Woodworth has been hired to be the utility clerk.

The Evergy project to replace 18 poles is on hold. KMEA is unable to assist with the project as it is not a KMEA project.

KMEA's proposal for a three-person lineman crew split between Herington, Chapman, and Enterprise will not be moving forward as Herington does not wish to participate.

The grocery store abatement project is on hold until the EPA provides funding.

Council

Councilmember Johnson – Requested the city look into a notification system to alert residents of incidents or severe weather. Brad Jantz stated there are a couple of companies that provide that type of service to other cities (Code Red and Everbridge).

Councilmember Jury – Thanked the police department for their actions during an incident earlier in the week.

Councilmember Monasmith – In Ireland, towns participate in a competition called Tiny Towns. The towns compete for an annual prize and the winning city received about \$200,000 each year. The city may want to look into something similar for Chapman.

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Mayor Battishill – Thanked everyone for what they do and making his job enjoyable.

#11 Adjournment

Motion by Bell to adjourn, 2nd by Johnson, vote: yes, unanimous (4-0). Motion carried.

Howard Battishill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bill Flanery, City Clerk