

September 19, 2022

A special council meeting of the Chapman City Council was held Monday, September 19, 2022, at City Hall at 6:00 pm. Mayor Howard Battishill was present. Councilmembers Rick Johnson, James Bell, Tim Jury, Mary Monasmith, and Christy Loy were present. Also in attendance were City Administrator Bill Flanery and Wesley Phillips.

#2 Discussion on Evergy Utility Pole Replacement Project

Wesley Phillips stated Black and McDonald and Capital Electric were the two companies that bid on the Evergy project. Black and McDonald's bid came in pretty close to the bid from Capital Electric. Capital Electric won the bid for the project.

Councilman Jury stated the poles belonged to Evergy and that Vyve also used those poles. He questioned whether Vyve was paying for a portion of the project. The city purchases electricity from the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency and uses the Evergy lines for transmission. The equipment on the poles belongs to the city. Evergy is replacing the transmission line and they are leaving the distribution lines. The distribution lines and the cross-arms belong to the city. The under-build belongs to the city. Evergy has allowed the city to build on their poles. Evergy will set new poles in the same area as the existing poles. Evergy is willing to leave the old poles in place and set new poles for their transmission lines. It would result in two poles in some residents' yards. Wesley stated he is in year two of lineman apprenticeship training. The training can be completed in 4 years, but the required hours of on-the-job training will take much longer. The city could only complete the project if they had enough people to stretch the lines and serve as grounds people. The city cannot complete this type of project with the current number of employees. The city has been able to replace transformers and other small projects many times. Capital Electric will perform the work while the lines are hot. There will be an outage on the north end of Nicholson where the line dead-ends. Capital will complete the project using four linemen. The city tried to hire a couple of people with lineman experience, but it did not work out.

Wesley Phillips stated he liked the idea of experienced linemen completing the work and being able to respond if there was an outage. Wesley also stated he did not like the price point, but the project would probably be that amount regardless of who was doing the work. Evergy is providing the poles and all the equipment. The project will take three or four weeks.

City Administrator Bill Flanery stated the city has received \$238,000 from FEMA and that money could be used to pay for the project out of the capital improvement fund. The Council agreed they do not want two utility poles in residents' yards. If the city left two poles in place, it would be a large mess to clean up later. Vyve will probably change over their nodes themselves, but they will have to coordinate with Capital Electric if they run new conduit down the pole to power the box. The city owns the other poles in town. The city has the capability to replace their own poles.

Councilman Bell stated that based on the pictures and the overall project, the project seems reasonably priced at \$75,000. The linemen with Capital Electric perform this type of work every day.

Motion by Bell to approve the contract with Evergy to replace the under-build on 18 utility poles for \$75,000, 2nd by Monasmith, vote: yes, unanimous (5-0). Motion carried.

Councilman Johnson asked Wesley Phillips what they do when there is a power outage. Wesley indicated that Ed Wehrmeister helps him when there is an outage. Ed will get in the bucket truck when needed and he knows and shares a lot of information that keeps people from getting hurt. Wesley stated he is on call 24/7. If Wesley is out of town, Ed would be the one to respond to an outage. Councilman Johnson

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instructed Wesley to never complete something that he is not comfortable with. Councilman Jury echoed the remarks by Councilman Johnson.

#4 Adjournment

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

Howard Battishill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bill Flanery, City Clerk