

**CITY OF BELLE PLAINE
BELLE PLAINE COMMUNITY CENTER
528 N. MERCHANT**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rob Narron called the Regular Council Meeting for the City of Belle Plaine, Kansas, to order, on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Members Present

**Dave Armstrong Allen Hisken
Dennis McGinnis Phila Storts**

A quorum was present

Staff Present

**Interim Police Chief Bill Berry; Guy Howell- Maintenance Supervisor;
Linda Stinnett-City Clerk; Stephanie McGinnis- Deputy City Clerk;
and Loree Hisken, Library Director.**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Narron said he does not respond via Facebook to posts about the City, but he wants to clear up some items. He said he would like the public to know he is very proud of the Council and its recent accomplishments. The Council has updated the sewer plant and it is up to code and operating functionally; paved streets; improved the water well system after lightning eliminated two of the wells, so all wells are now fully operational; purchased a new storm siren; installed a new radio telemetry system for the water tower; is currently installing variable frequency drives in all water wells so the pumps will run smoothly and last longer; and provided new radios and tasers for the police department. Narron said he is very proud of what the Council has done in a short time within the budget they have. They have taken action to bring operations up to code and working better to keep citizens safe. Anyone who says the Council is not doing anything is wrong, he said, adding that Belle Plaine is a fully functioning, modern City.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Addition of Day Care Zoning to New Business.
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PUBLIC ITEMS

Tonya Bernd told the Council about a need to relocate her Kiddie Corner Daycare to the RS Clubhouse. The issue had already been added to the regular agenda.

John Emmons said he is in support of the Quiet Zone. He purchased his home at 300 W. 10th in 1977 and has noticed the increase in noise. He said he must wear ear protection to sleep and when working outside in his yard so he now has a house in Wichita to escape the noise for rest. He said he has considered opening a pharmacy in town but he can no longer live in Belle Plaine all of the time due to the noise. He doesn't perceive the Quiet Zone as less safe, he said.

Emily Struve, of Haysville, who utilizes the Kiddie Corner Day Care, said she was present in support of it. She uses the Day Care for her children.

Jane Taylor spoke in favor of the Quiet Zone. She said her grandson, a railroad employee, told her the amount of train traffic will continue to increase. She said the Quiet Zone would enhance the community so other people will want to come here.

Sally Kimball, rural Belle Plaine, said she supports the Quiet Zone. It will improve the quality of life in Belle Plaine and the surrounding area as well, she said.

Vickie Burris said she is not sure whether she supports a Quiet Zone or not. She asked the Council to show good stewardship of tax dollars as they consider it in the future. She encouraged the Council to get all of the facts and to put it to a public vote. She said in her research on the subject she found wording that the cost to the community can vary from \$200,000 to more than \$1 million per crossing. She said that conflicts what she's been told about the Quiet Zone.

Ine Owens urged the Council to put the Quiet Zone to a public vote. She urged the Council to vote equitably said some have property on the tracks and would gain financially if it is approved.

Jessica Ferguson said she was present in solidarity of Tonya Bernd and her day care.

Brian Seba, high school softball coach, spoke about ball fields near the train tracks. The proximity of the fields and the increase in train traffic has made times on a daily basis that practices must come to a standstill while players wait for the noise to abate.

Amy Glover said she was present in support of Kiddie Corner Day Care. It's a good asset for the community to keep, she said.

Rod Miller asked if the Quiet Zone would eliminate the horn on the crossing at 8th Street and if there is any way the City can regulate the speed of the trains.

A woman from Wellington said she was present in support of the day care issues. She said there are too many backdoor day cares and Tonya Bernd has 15 years of nursing experience.

Mayor Narron read an email from Susie Ripple of Belle Plaine. She asked the Council to reconsider the Quiet Zone due to the example of a fatality accident another community experienced with a driver's education vehicle and a train. She said years later that community still experiences sadness due to the deaths and the community went through

legal issues due to the accident. She said she wants the Belle Plaine community to be protected and thrive.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

MOTION: Hisken made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Council Meeting of 02-01-18 and a correction on the Minutes for the Council Meeting of 01-18-18; Payroll Ordinance 02-15-18, and Warrant Ordinance 02-15-18. McGinnis seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Railroad Quiet Zone Presentation

Howard Gillespie, regional manager for grade crossing safety and trespass prevention for the Federal Railroad Administration, spoke to the crowd about the history and laws of a Quiet Zone. Also presenting from the Federal Railroad Administration was David Huntley, grade crossing inspector. Others answering questions were Mitch Sothers, coordinating engineer, and A.J. Wilson, area engineer, based in Winfield, both with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Mike Mackay, civil engineer, spoke about the local effort.

Brady Short, City Attorney, said the next step in the Quiet Zone process is the contractual negotiations with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He will be in contact with the railroad on that matter.

Housing Grant Re-application

Clerk Stinnett reported that she and Maintenance Supervisor Howell met with Casey Tillman, grant writer for the South Central Kansas Economic Development District, to discuss grant potential. They also spoke with Linda Hunsicker, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, on the housing grant which was denied in January. Both Tillman and Hunsicker spoke confidently about success with a new housing grant application. Tillman also discussed the potential for a grant for the City Park area.

MOTION: Hisken made a motion to pursue the CDBG Grant for low to moderate-income housing assistance and reconvene the HAT Committee to start the process in the near future so the summer deadlines can be met. Armstrong seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

2018 Paving Plan

Supervisor Howell presented quotes from Circle C and Bergkamp Construction for paving in 2018. Circle C Paving, quoted \$87,574.44 to double chip and fog seal 7th Street from Lincoln to Logan; Washington from 1st to 7th; Lincoln from 1st to 4th; Main from 1st to

3rd; and Merchant from 1st to 2nd. Bergkamp quoted \$82,000 to provide stabilization for the street project and \$3,500 for fill materials for the project.

MOTION: McGinnis made a motion to approve the cost of the new paving, not to exceed \$173,074.44. Starts seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

Zoning for Day Care

Supervisor Howell said he was contacted on Feb. 15 by Seanna Schmidt, downtown business owner, who wishes to put a day care in her building. The Central Business District Zoning currently does not provide for a day care business and Supervisor Howell suggested the owner submit a request for a change in the zoning. Attorney Short offered to help the City move the zoning application through in a timely manner, but within the requirements of the law.

OLD BUSINESS

Workshop for North Water Line

Supervisor Howell suggested the Council hold a workshop session at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018, to discuss a new policy and equity fees for the North Water Line.

MOTION: Armstrong made a motion to set a workshop for 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2018 to discuss North Water Line customers. Starts seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

PURCHASE ORDERS

- None
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STAFF INFORMATION

Staff provided information on sewer cleaning efforts in Belle Plaine, installation of an automatic door opener at the Library, taser training by the Police Department, establishment of a Response Team associated with the United Methodist Church, junk vehicle notices going out, and a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss a School Resource Officer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Starts made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 PM in the Large Meeting Room to discuss the Police Chief position, pursuant to the exception of personnel matters of non-elected personnel, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Interim Chief Berry and Clerk Stinnett were asked to be included in the session as needed. The

open meeting was set to resume in the Community Center Multi-Purpose Room at 8:55 PM. Armstrong seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

Council recessed to closed session at 8:45 PM. Council returned to open session at 8:55 PM.

MOTION: McGinnis made a motion to post the police chief position, with job description with amendments as discussed in Executive Session. Hisken seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: McGinnis made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Armstrong seconded. The motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Stinnett, City Clerk