

**CITY OF BELLE PLAINE
CITY HALL
401 N. Merchant**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Richard Penn called the Regular Council Meeting for the City of Belle Plaine, Kansas, to order on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 7:04 PM.

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Members Present

**Tori Bohannon Dennis McGinnis
David Armstrong
Lacy Tedman – via phone**

A quorum was present

Staff Present

Gordon Fell – Police Chief, Linda Stinnett – City Clerk, and Loree Hisken – Librarian.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Penn said in brief comments that the year has started well.

PUBLIC ITEMS

Phila Storts addressed the Council with two questions: She asked about stormwater drains which City crews were cleaning that day and wondered why the street sweeper was not used for the job. Chief Fell answered that dirt and silt which was below street level in the drains was what was being cleaned. The street sweeper does not reach that level. Secondly Mrs. Storts asked about consideration of moving the meeting dates since a suggested change would require residents to choose between church and Council. Council Member McGinnis responded that the conversations about moving the days of meetings had been taken out of consideration. Mayor Penn answered that it had been discussed in Council conversation, but if it comes up again it will be in public discussion.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

- None.
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APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

MOTION: Bohannon made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council Meeting on 12-15-16 and the Special Meeting on 12-29-16; Payroll Ordinances 12-22-16 and 1-05-17; and Warrant Ordinances 12-30-16, 12-31-16 and 01-05-17. McGinnis seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Auditor Discussion

The Council briefly discussed setting a policy for the hiring of the auditor, which would include a limit to the number of years a firm could be hired to do the job. Research will need to be done quickly or the policy will have to be implemented for next year.

MOTION: Tedman made a motion to table the discussion. Bohannon seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Library Repairs

Chief Fell reported that as construction began on repairs at the Library, additional damage was found in the 100-year-old structure. Old World Textures will complete the additional work for \$2,810.32 and will prepare a bid for work on the roof.

MOTION: McGinnis made a motion to allow the additional work on the Library for \$2,810.32. Armstrong seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED.

Code Book Updates

Chief Fell said all changes for the updates to the Code Book have been submitted, with the exception of the section for chickens. In the draft, he plans to include wording which will make it

legal to have no more than five hens. No male chickens would be allowed. A permit to have the chickens would be required and the property would be inspected by City staff prior to approval of the permit. Fell's draft called for a 10-foot buffer between the coop and the property line. Council members suggested that buffer be required unless the owner has a privacy screen. The Council consensus was to move forward with Fell's draft, with the change for a privacy screen. Final approval of the Code Book will include the changes for chickens.

Comp Plan Update

Chief Fell said the final public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the Community Center. The plan will then be on the Council agenda for January 19, 2017. A public hearing will be held at the Raymond Frye Center in Wellington on January 25, 2017 for the City's application for extraterritorial jurisdiction for zoning.

PURCHASE ORDERS

- None

STAFF REPORTS

Librarian Hisken reported that the annual Tea Party will be moved to the Community Center this year, due to both the construction at the Library and the popularity of the event. Chief Fell reported on a water leak after Christmas which resulted in nearly a 100,000 gallon loss of water. It has been repaired. Tower upgrades are in the final stage, he said. The Quiet Zone is still in the comment stage and recently the City answered 13 questions posed by the state and the railroad.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: McGinnis made a motion to go into executive session for Non-Elected Personnel from 7:35 PM to 8:05 PM in the maintenance map room. The Council reserved the right to call back Clerk Stinnett and Chief Fell. Bohannon seconded.

VOTING YEA: ALL VOTING NAY: NONE MOTION CARRIED

The Council returned to open session at 8:05 PM. No binding action was taken.

Adjournment

MOTION: Bohannon made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. McGinnis seconded. The motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Stinnett, City Clerk