

City of Edgerton, Kansas
Minutes of City Council Regular Session
September 14, 2023

A Regular Session of the City Council (the Council) was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas September 14, 2023. The meeting convened at 7:01PM with Mayor Roberts presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Clay Longanecker	present
Josh Lewis	absent
Josh Beem	absent
Deb Lebakken	present
Bill Malloy	present

With a quorum present, the meeting commenced.

Staff in attendance:

- City Administrator, Beth Linn
- City Attorney, Lee Hendricks
- City Clerk, Alex Clower
- Assistant City Administrator, Meagan Borth
- Marketing & Communications Manager, Kara Banks
- Public Works Director, Dan Merkh
- CIP Project Manager, Holly Robertson
- Finance Director, Karen Kindle
- Accountant, Justin Vermillion

2. WELCOME. Mayor Roberts welcomed all in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda *(Consent Agenda items will be acted upon by one motion unless a Council member requests an item be removed for discussion and separate action)*

4. Approve Minutes from August 24, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting.
5. Approve Resolution No. 09-14-23A Approval of Indemnity Agreement Between The City And The Edgerton United Methodist Church For Use Of The Church Parking Lots During The Meat Inferno Event.
6. Approve Final Acceptance for the Wastewater Master Plan.
7. Approve Concurrence to Bid Glendell Acres Park Renovation Project.

Councilmember Lebakken moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Longanecker seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved, 3-0.

Regular Agenda

8. Declaration. There were no declarations made.

9. Public Comments.

Scott Williams, 100 W McDonald, addressed the council.

He stated he would like to see about holding a special event car show down Nelson St.

Councilmember Longanecker asked if this is something he's planning now or wants to plan.

Mr. Williams stated something he'd like to have, start small, maybe something like coffee and cars.

Mayor Roberts stated Edgerton Frontier Days was started by the boy scouts many years ago and grew to what it is today. He stated he welcomes the idea of trying something new, and he would encourage Mr. Williams to work with staff and outline the event.

Mr. Williams stated he saw that there is some camping allowed at the lake, he knows people that have stages, sound systems, etc. to have a camping event festival at the lake.

Mayor Roberts stated this is really something that is up to the City Administrator, what he knows from the past is that camping was really limited to Frontier Days and the carnival people that came into town. He stated the reason it's not used for camping is because the lake is small and no control measures for safety at night as far as lighting, outdoor fires are also not allowed. He stated he would hope someday Big Bull Creek Park would have something open for this, it was in their original master plan to have a camping area, it's just not established yet.

Ms. Linn stated they do have one group spot open. However, it is only rented out to youth programs.

10. CONSIDER THE 2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Ms. Kindle stated this is the final step in process for budget, we have held work session and public hearings regarding the revenue neutral rates and budget recommendation. She stated tonight is the formal adoption piece.

Councilmember Longanecker asked if any updated since the Work Session.

Ms. Kindle stated no changes have been made except those brought forward at the public hearing date. She stated included in the packet is the updated budget recommendation to include those items such as Senior Rebate Program, added cleaning with Adopt a Highway, etc.

Mayor Roberts stated Garnder News just wrote an article about the City of Gardner's budget talks, sounds like they just held their mill levy hearing. He stated Edgerton had a slight reduction, that's progress. Although inflation and housing costs continue to rise, lessening property tax on houses that the City collects.

Ms. Linn showed the demographic from budget work session. She stated keeping the appraised value constant, there has been a significant decrease over time.

Mayor Roberts stated he's very excited about the rebate program for seniors, they're the most susceptible for fixed incomes and this could be huge for them. He stated some may qualify for up to 100% of taxes back. He stated candidly, he's very proud of this council for taking these steps for the community. He stated he's also very proud of the staff as they continue to be fiscally responsible while increasing services as they can. He stated many things we see in the community today were not here when he became Mayor and not everyone recognizes that. He stated we've continued to improve what we give back to the citizens while continuing to lower what we take. He stated the citizen survey is conducted every two years with a very large turnout of response back. He stated this is used diligently to reach goals the community desires and has really improved the community over the years.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve the recommended 2024 Budget as presented.

Councilmember Longanecker moved to approve the 2024 Recommended Budget as presented by City Staff. Councilmember Malloy seconded the motion. The 2024 Recommended Budget was approved, 3-0.

11. Report by the City Administrator

- Public Works Quarterly Update

Mr. Dan Merkh addressed the council. He stated it's been very productive and busy for public works staff. He reviewed the quarterly report with council and stated public works is really a 24/7 operation, the City has staff on call at all times, not just in snow season.

Mayor Roberts stated he still gets phone calls about how to get ahold of someone, he stated citizens can always call the city hall phone number and it will roll over to the on call phone. He stated he thinks it's important to advertise this as much as possible, it's much faster to go this route than to call him he said.

Mr. Merkh stated this is a growing process for them and they continue to work hard to provide exceptional services to the community.

Councilmember Longanecker stated for 9 guys on the crew, this is a lot of work.

All councilmembers commended public works on their work.

Ms. Linn stated next month the Sheriff's Office will be here to give their update and with that staff will provide the first Municipal Court update. She stated staff will then round out the year with a utilities update.

Mayor Roberts stated it's a lot for the amount of staff here. He stated as we continue to grow our community, with the workload, we'll have to look at adding workers to keep up with the demand. He stated these reports will allow council and citizens to see what

happens in government, people can forget and often wonder what government does, these reports on a regular basis will say what they do.

Councilmember Longanecker stated and with all that ground to maintain, equipment will have to grow too.

Mayor Roberts stated staff has worked fiscally responsibly and so far have chosen a path to continue to use equipment they already have with the increased work load.

Ms. Linn stated it's important to note that the City does have other areas that they must maintain but due to the safety challenges it brings, staff has chosen to contract that area out.

Councilmember Longanecker asked what makes it safer for those contractors.

Ms. Linn stated city staff tried, and the need for a protection vehicle on the sides of the median while mowing was not feasible for the amount of staff we have. She stated it really comes down to contractors having more people to complete the work safely.

WALK ON: City Holidays

Ms. Borth addressed the council and handed out information regarding surrounding City's holiday schedules.

She stated currently, our holidays line up pretty on par with the surrounding city's except that most have done away with Columbus Day and now observe Juneteenth, others also observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day rather than Presidents Day.

Ms. Linn stated the number is pretty on par with what other City's observe the days are just different, staff's recommendation is that we adopt the changes to observe MLK day instead of Presidents and Juneteenth instead of Columbus Day to be in comparison to the surrounding communities.

Councilmember Lebakken stated she'd love to see Juneteenth added.

Mayor Roberts stated this would make us competitive with other municipalities, he thinks swapping makes sense to pick up those holidays that are more popular to be seen as observed by the city. He stated he doesn't know the real answer to how city employees feel about this, could live with recommendation of staff.

Councilmember Malloy asked about adding Christmas Eve.

Mayor Roberts stated typically Council gives them Christmas Eve as a thank you to the staff for their work throughout the year. He stated he likes doing it this way because it forces the Council to recognize staff and their continued work.

Councilmember Longanecker stated it gives us the chance to recognize them.

Mayor Roberts stated yes, exactly, recognize such that it is a gesture to them and their hard work. He stated he did tell staff to bring this tonight but thinks along with this it would be great to have a more comprehensive look at competition time off.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Roberts requested motion to approve staff's recommendation to remove the observation of Columbus Day and Presidents Day and adding Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day as of January 1, 2024.

Councilmember Lebakken moved to approve the motion, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. The motion was approved, 3-0.

12. Report by the Mayor

Mayor Roberts asked Mr. Lee Hendricks, City Attorney to give an update regarding open cases.

Mr. Hendricks stated he really only has one update; July 11th was the court of appeals hearing for the project rural joco case against the City about annexation. He stated the District Court ruled they had no standing as neighboring property owners; this was then appealed to the Court of Appeals. He stated the difficulty with the Court of Appeals is that you can go months without hearing anything, however we heard back in less than two months. He stated on a 3-judge panel, it was ruled in favor of the City and prior determination in the District that there was no standing on this case. He stated this is good outcome and thus far, all good outcomes in all cases.

Councilmember Longanecker asked if this is the Kris Kobach thing.

Mr. Hendricks stated that's different, ruling by court in district would be that the county, person filing annexation or the attorney general's office would be the only ones that could take action. He stated the attorney general brought their case significantly later, that case is set for the 27th. He stated he'll keep updating as it goes along.

Mayor Roberts asked out of 3 cases, how many remain.

Mr. Hendricks stated none, none of them even went to trial.

Mayor Roberts stated this is huge as it shows the city has done nothing wrong and continue to be in compliance. He stated with the rezoning case, not only did the city not do anything wrong, but we went above and beyond to make sure all items were correct.

Mr. Hendricks stated that's exactly correct. He stated Council, Planning Commission, and staff are doing everything they can do and take their time throughout all process. He stated to see a court recognize that is huge and needs to be brought to attention.

13. Future Meeting Reminders

Mayor Roberts reminded council of the future meetings for council and planning commission.

Adjourn

Councilmember Lebakken moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

Submitted by Alexandria Clower, City Clerk