

**City of Edgerton, Kansas
Minutes of City Council Special Meeting
October 30, 2020**

A Special Session of the City Council (the Council) was held in the Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson Edgerton, Kansas on October 30, 2020. The meeting convened at 7:01 PM with Mayor Roberts presiding.

1. ROLL CALL

Ron Conus	present
Clay Longanecker	present
Josh Lewis	absent
Katee Smith	present
Josh Beem	present

With a quorum present, the meeting commenced.

Staff in attendance: City Administrator Beth Linn
 Development Director Katy Crow
 Finance Director Karen Kindle via phone
 Public Works Director Dan Merkh
 Marketing and Communications Manager Kara Banks

2. WELCOME

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Consent Agenda

4. Confirm Request for A Special Meeting of The Edgerton City Council

Councilmember Smith motioned to approve the Consent Agenda motion seconded by Councilmember Longanecker. The Consent Agenda was approved 4-0.

Councilmember Lewis joined via phone at 7:03 p.m.

Regular Agenda

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this time.

6. Declaration.

There were no declarations made by any of the Council Members.

Business Requiring Action

7. CONSIDER THE AMENDED 2021 BUDGET

Mayor Roberts thanked Johnson County Fire District #1 for bringing this budget problem to his attention. He said without their information, the City would not have been able to correct the problem created by the County. He stated the County must certify the budget numbers by Nov. 1.

City Administrator Beth Linn explained the timeline for County's annual valuation process. Jan. 1 is valuation date for all property in Johnson County for the current appraisal year roll. On January 29, Edgerton provided the County with IRB exemption filings for three buildings: Kubota, Hostess and Coldpoint Phase 4. On March 1, Johnson County mailed out Notices of Appraised Value to real property owners. On March 2, the County met with the City of Edgerton to provide property revaluations for 2020, including the preliminary appraised value and a list of pending exemptions. On June 1, the County Appraisers Office certifies the appraisal roll to Records and Tax Administration (RTA). On June 12, the County sends lists of pending exemptions. On June 15, Johnson County provides City Staff with a follow-up list of pending exemptions. This list does not include the exemption for Coldpoint Phase 4. Ms. Linn explained that this valuation number, as provided by the County, is used by the City to set the annual budget. On August 25, the City certifies the Council-approved budget to Johnson County. Then in the last week of October, Mayor Roberts had a conversation with Fire District No. 1 that they had an unexpected drop in valuation. He reached out to the County to find out what was behind the valuation drop. Ms. Linn said that's when it was discovered that to achieve our budget request, the County was going to increase the mill rate to 32.045 for City of Edgerton residents.

Finance Director Karen Kindle explained that the budget was set based on the \$54 million assessed value, which included the exemptions that were still pending. Sometime after the City's budget was passed, the County's valuation for Edgerton was reduced to \$51 million to include the exemption for Coldpoint Phase 4.

Ms. Linn asked Council Members if they wanted to reduce the City's budget to lower the mill rate back to where Council originally planned to set it at 30.381. She said there was no way the City could have known the assessed values would be changed.

Councilmember Longanecker asked what happens to Coldpoint now. Ms. Linn explained that Coldpoint will receive their abatement per usual, but the lack of Coldpoint Phase 4 inclusion on the exemptions list meant that the City's expected revenues were based on incorrect numbers.

Ms. Linn explained the amended budget, which delays hiring of vacant positions for a Building Inspector, Parks and Recreation Coordinator and Assistant City Administrator. Councilmember Longanecker asked if these cuts will put stress on staff. Ms. Linn explained that this was the easiest way to make cuts in a limited amount of time. She said the lack of staff is impactful, but that City employees will continue to wear multiple hats until those positions could be filled.

Councilmember Smith asked if there was more time, could the City cut projects? Ms. Linn said that was possible, but not many projects are funded through the general fund.

Councilmember Lewis said in hindsight, it was good that the Council did not vote to lower a full mill during the 2020 budget year. Mayor Roberts responded that it would have been extremely

difficult to make up that difference, but he added that the real problem is that the County did not provide the City the correct information, which is unlike other cities in Johnson County where one project probably would not make that much difference. Councilmember Lewis questioned if this vote was just to delay hiring of some positions. Mayor Roberts said yes.

Councilmember Longanecker motioned to approve the Amended 2021 Budget, motion seconded by Councilmember Conus. Motion was approved 5-0.

8. Adjourn

Councilmember Smith motioned to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilmember Beem. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM, 5-0.