

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 21, 2022  
CITY HALL  
121 S. MERIDIAN

Mayor Cicirello called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Matt Stamm, Chris Evans, Clint Bass, Gina Gregory, Dale Kerstetter, Robert Wilson, and Ronald Colbert.

Members Absent: Ben Anderson

Staff Present: Gage Scheer, City Engineer  
Barry Arbuckle, City Attorney  
Lloyd Newman, Public Safety Director  
Ryan Shrack, Community Development Director  
Neal Ownings, Parks and Public Buildings Director  
Barry Smith, Assistant City Administrator  
Brent Clark, City Administrator  
Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk

Press present: The Ark Valley News

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor stated that a wording change need to be made to agenda. Under item 7, Presentations. Kevin Lanterman is now serving officially as EMS Director, not an interim. Stamm moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Evans. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – NONE**

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS –**

Public Safety Director Newman introduced Kevin Lanterman, Sedgwick County EMS Director and Asst. Co. Manager, Rusty Leeds. Mr. Lanterman addressed Council regarding the staffing issues his department has experienced. In response to shortage of staff they move resources to different areas to lessen response time. He urged usage of the dashboard on the Sedgwick County EMS website. Average response time is 12-13 minutes. Lanterman then stood for questions from Council. Cicirello stated that he is concerned about how our local squad is called out. Lanterman also answered questions regarding paramedic training process and openings.

Resident Chris Edwards, 301 Valley Park Drive, stressed that he would like the local squad to respond to lessen the response time.

**PUBLIC FORUM – NONE**

**APPOINTMENTS –**

Mayor Cicirello recommended approval of re-appointment of Jamie Anderson to Valley Center Recreation Commission. This would be a 4-year term expiring June 30, 2026.

Bass moved to appoint Jamie Anderson to serve on the VC Rec Commission until June 30, 2026. Motion seconded by Kerstetter. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **A. VALLEY CENTER 2023 BUDGET – FIRST DRAFT**

Asst. City Administrator Smith reviewed the budget process. He stated that the valuation represents the total assessed value of all RE and tangibles. For 2023 it reflects an increase of 7.25%. He also reminded Council about the Revenue Neutral Rate and the requirement that we must notify Sedgwick County is we will exceed it. He stated that we will notify them as that will get the City more time to complete budget process and approval. Smith discussed all funds and went through the 2022 budgeted expenditures vs 2023 budgeted expenditures. He explained that when he was hired in 2019 the budget was in reactionary process. The budget is now in a replace and maintenance process. Grants have been aggressively pursued with a total of \$11,530,726.00 received from 2020 to 2022. The final step will be addressing personnel expenditures. General fund requests will include 1 FTE in Community Development, 2 FTE in Fire Department and 1 FTE in the Parks and Public Building Department. ARPA funding has been used for the Police car and body cameras and radios for Fire. Smith will have a budget prepared for comprehensive budget discussion on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Council expressed their appreciation to Mr. Smith for the presentation and explaining the budget in such detail but also explaining in a way that makes sense. No action taken by Council at this time.

### **B. COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS PROPOSAL**

Asst. City Administrator Smith addressed Council regarding the need to adjust employee compensation. The last wage analysis was conducted in 2019. Smith utilized wage data compiled by the League of Kansas Municipalities to compare wages in this area. The data clearly showed that Valley Center were lower than the market rate for most positions. He also addressed salary compression. Compression occurs when starting wages are increased for newly hired employees, but those same adjustments are not applied to tenured employees. Smith recommended a mid-year increase in July based on COLA and Merit up to 8.5%. The 2023 proposed budget would also include an increase of personnel pool amounts from 3% to 4% which would be broken out as a 1.5% COLA and a department pool of 2.5% for merit increases.

Mayor Cicirello stated that while this may seem like a large increase the cost of training a new employee must be a factor. Stamm stated he would be in favor of an increase in hourly wages for the part time firefighters. Kerstetter stated that an 8 1/2 % increase is hard to swallow. Council discussed the proposal. Stamm reminded all on Council, that you cannot compare the practices of the private sector to the constraints of public employment. As a city employee, you do not get the financial incentives or large Christmas bonuses. He stated he is lucky to get a turkey at Christmas.

Wilson moved to approve compensation adjustments of up to 8.5% starting on the first full pay period in July of 2022 and increase annual pay adjustments from 3 % to 4 %. Motion seconded by Evans. Vote Yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE – JUNE 21, 2022
- B. CHECK RECONCILIATION – MAY 2022
- C. TREASURER’S REPORT – MAY 2022
- D. REVENUE AND EXPENSE SUMMARY – MAY 2022
- E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2022

Stamm moved, seconded by Kerstetter to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote Yea: Unanimous. Motion carried.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SHRACK**

On behalf of himself and his staff thanked Council for their approval of the compensation adjustments. Announced the launch of the Main Street Valley Center Farmers Market on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00pm. It will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from July 7<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup>. the Thursday time was chosen

to given vendors and shoppers another opportunity if they were already attending one of the many Saturday markets.

PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS DIRECTOR OWINGS.

Also thanked Council for the compensation adjustments. Announced that the large dog park is closed for approximately 3 weeks for restoration. Urged everyone to stop by the butterfly garden in Lions Park. A lot of work has been done by library volunteers. Ownings has also met with an Eagle Scout for an upcoming project at the butterfly garden.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR NEWMAN

Was appreciative of the wage adjustments. Stated that his staff does review the agenda and knew this would be discussed at tonight's meeting. Many of his staff are long term employees and this vote of confidence is appreciated.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CLARK

Thanked Council for their trust and encouragement of staff. Kerstetter asked for update on timeline for Ford Street closures. Scheer stated that work should begin 2 weeks from July 1<sup>st</sup>. Communication will be essential regarding closures. Notices will be placed on doorknobs for those directly impacted. Scheer and Clark also talked about the work on Evergy lines along 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

**GOVERNING BODY REPORTS –**  
COUNCILMEMBER WILSON

Reported that a group had volunteered to take calls during the recent KPTS pledge drive. They had a lot of fun and encouraged people to volunteer.

COUNCILMEMBER COLBERT

Inquired about firetrucks in the high school parking lot. Newman explained that they use various areas around the city for training. They use water from the hydrants and the tanks of the engines, not school water. Colbert thanked the parks department for their help in installation of the Moving Wall sign, but asked Owings if they would look at options to stop the lug bolts from rusting.

Colbert moved to adjourn, second by Kerstetter. Vote Yea: Unanimous.

**ADJOURN -**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.**

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**Kristi Carrithers, City Clerk**