

Regular Council Meeting March 8th, 2004

Mayor Buckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Jay Harrison, Terry Marsh, Janice Brasher, Steve Scott and Ed Carmona.

Opening Comments:

Gary and Sharon Branson indicated they would be organizing this years city-wide garage sale which will be held Saturday, May 1st. Anyone interested in participating should contact them about obtaining a registration form, which includes your name, address and main items for sale. They will utilize this information to prepare a map which will be handed out to shoppers upon their arrival in Ozawkie. Additionally, the sale will be advertised in all of the local newspapers including the Valley Falls Vindicator, Topeka Capital Journal and the Lawrence Journal World. This will be the 20th year that the city-wide garage sale has taken place. **Participants are asked to remit \$5 with their registration form to assist with the cost of advertising and map preparation.** The Branson's can be reached at 876-2720.

Jim McCarthy has requested the Jefferson County Sheriff be contacted about making more frequent passes through town. He cited concerns over speeding as the primary reason.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of 3/08/04 Agenda

Agenda was approved with the addition of 2 items at the request of the Mayor. Item #13 – Corps Lease-Ball Diamond and item #14 – Executive Session. Motion by Carmona to approve the revised agenda, second by Marsh, motion carried.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Consent Items

Motion by Carmona to approve the Consent Items, second by Marsh, motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 – Reports

Planning & Zoning: Ed Carmona reported that P&Z has been reviewing the fee structure for building permits and will provide recommendations for Council next month. He reported that there is still a vacant position on the committee. Interested citizens should contact the City Clerk. P&Z meets once a month for about an hour.

Streets: Terry Marsh reported that A&W Asphalt was still scheduled to do work that was contracted last fall but has been delayed due to cold weather. He deferred discussion on Kiowa Street to later in the meeting. Mayor Buckman reported that he had asked City Engineer, Ron Thomas to inquire about the services of a street cleaning service to determine if that service was available and at what cost. He cited the large amounts of sand still on the streets from winter street treatments.

Utilities: Jay Harrison reported that he had met recently with City Engineer Ron Thomas to review utility related items.

Parks: Steve Scott proposed a Volunteer Day for the City Park. This day would be for volunteers to help clean up the park, fix anything that is broken, or stain/paint the playground equipment. It was agreed that Saturday, May 15 would be a possible date for this. Councilman Scott stated he would formalize the date and plans for the Volunteer Day and present at the next council meeting. Citizens interested in volunteering are asked to contact the City Clerk. City Engineer, Ron Thomas stated he planned to get the flag -pole painted prior to Memorial Day.

Law Enforcement: Janice Brasher asked all citizen's to obtain a description of speeding vehicles and contact the City Office with the information.

Governmental Affairs

Nothing to report.

Tree Board

Nothing to report.

City Maintenance

City Engineer, Ron Thomas furnished the Council with a report to review for the month of February. Thomas has requested Council's approval for the purchase of a welder and a pressure washer. Motion by Harrison to approve the purchase of the future needed equipment, second by Carmona, motion carried. Mr. Thomas also noted that both he and Mr. Schuenight had spent several hours over the past few weeks picking up litter from

around the City. They are asking for citizens to do a better job of controlling their waste and to report those that are viewed littering or doing a poor job of trash maintenance to the City Clerk. Citizens are asked to make sure all outside trash receptacles have lids that are properly secured.

City Clerk
Nothing to report

Agenda Item #5 & #6 Kiowa Street. Frances Grolmes, Jefferson County Commissioner and George Poge, Jefferson County Road Superintendent were both present. Mr. Poge wanted to know what the City's expectations were of the County in restoring Kiowa Street prior to ceding ownership and future care of the street to the City. Mayor Buckman stated that the expectation would be that it would meet the same specs as all other streets in town. Mr. Poge stated he would get together with City Engineer, Ron Thomas and review the existing road specifications for Ozawkie and work up a proposal for the County Commissioners to review. He would then report back to the City, with the results of that meeting. Mr. Grolmes underscored the fact that the County was interested in working with the City on this project and would do everything possible to bring the road up to the desired specifications of the City as long as adequate funds were available to do so.

Agenda Item #7 –Fire Department- Building Discussion

Councilman Carmona provided Council with two separate proposals that he had worked up in conjunction with the Township in an effort to address the Townships needs to expand their current facilities. The first proposal would have the City donating two lots north of the current Township Building to allow for the addition of two extra bays and an office/training room. In exchange the City would retain sole use of the current office and would also have use of the meeting room. There would be no cost to the City under a long-term lease agreement proposed. Separate utilities would be set up so that both the Township and City would pay only the utilities that they incurred in their particular areas of the building.

The second proposal would have the Township acquire from the City a 200x200 foot lot on Main Street, beginning at the property line with Casey's and extending both west and north. The Township would construct a new building while the City would retain the sole use of the existing Township building under a long term lease.

Jack McNary, Fire Chief, stated that the Township had already made financing arrangements for either alternative. Due to time constraints with the funding he has asked that the City take the matter under consideration and provide the Township with an answer on what they would like to do at the April Council Meeting. Mayor Buckman stated he would refer both proposals to the City Attorney for review and recommendation.

Agenda Item #8 – WS Rate Increase Proposal

In January, Councilman Carmona provided the Council with 2 Water/Sewer Rate Increase Proposals. Discussion took place regarding these proposals. Proposal number one would change water rates to a minimum of \$16.00 for the first 5,000 gallons, as opposed to the first 8,000 gallons currently in place, and raise sewer rates to \$7.00 a month as opposed to \$6.00 a month currently. Proposal number 2 would raise the water rates to \$18.00 for the first 5,000 gallons and \$3.00 for each additional 1,000 gallons, as opposed to \$2.00 for each additional 1,000 gallons, and the sewer rates to \$7.50 a month. Proposal number 1 will produce a projected additional annual revenue of \$12,000 while proposal number 2 is projected to produce additional annual revenue of \$16,500. Councilman Marsh reported that even with the increase in proposal number 2, the City of Ozawkie's rates are still exceptionally lower than other surrounding cities. Mayor Buckman noted that City Sewer and Water rates were raised approximately 2 years ago. Prior to that raise the city had been operating at a loss in producing water for its citizens. The rate increase 2 years ago essentially, provided for the City to operate at break-even levels on water production. Mayor Buckman stated a further rate increase would allow the City to generate a profit on the production of water which is critical for meeting future repairs and improvements necessary to keep the excellent supply of water flowing to the City. Motion by Harrison to approve Proposal #1, second by Brasher, motion carried.

Agenda Item #9 – Disconnect/Reconnect Fees & Procedures

The City Council has requested that City Clerk Zimmerman contact the City Attorney to find out the procedure for collecting back fees. Discussion pending until next month.

Agenda Item #10 – City Brochure Discussion

A letter will be sent to the Jefferson County Economic Development Commission requesting a non-profit grant for the purpose of printing a tourism/destination brochure for the City of Ozawkie.

Agenda Item #11 – City-Wide Cleanup Discussion

Discussion took place regarding this year’s City-wide cleanup. This year, S.M. Ball Waste Disposal will furnish the City of Ozawkie with 2 dumpsters which will be placed at the City Maintenance Parking Lot on Saturday, May 15 from 9am to 5pm. **No dumping will be permitted by anyone other than Ozawkie Citizens.** The dumpsters will be monitored. Additionally, items that cannot be placed in the dumpster will not be allowed. The City retains the right to refuse access to the dumpster and/or to refuse items it deems inappropriate.

Agenda Item #12 – Stop/Yield Sign Review

Councilman Marsh recommended plan #1 from the plans he presented in the December 2003 meeting. Councilman Scott stated he did not think any changes were necessary. Councilman Harrison indicated he thought proposal #1 was too broad, but thought some intersections could benefit from some additional signage.

Councilwoman Brasher indicated she was in favor of implementing proposal #1. Councilman Carmona was undecided. Mayor Buckman suggested the liability concern cited in Councilman Marsh’s original proposal be addressed by the City Attorney prior to implementing any plan to be sure that the proposals would in fact accomplish their intended purpose of decreasing the City’s liability for improper/inadequate signage. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #13 – Corps Lease – Ball Diamond

Mayor Buckman informed the Council that he had been approached by the Optimists about the City taking on the Corp Lease for the Legion Ball Diamond east of the bridge and wanted to know what their thoughts were. No council support for the idea was shown and the issue was dropped with no action taken.

Agenda Item #13 – Executive Session

Mayor Buckman announced that the Council will go into an Executive Session for 5 minutes. Motion by Carmona to go into executive session, second by Brasher, motion carried. Session began at 9:20 and ended at 9:25.

There being no further business before the Council, Motion by Carmona to adjourn, second by Marsh, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25p.m.

***NOTE TO CITIZENS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS:**

April

2nd	Office Closed
3rd	Vet Clinic at City Hall from 2pm to 4:30pm
5th	Planning & Zoning Meeting
12th	Council Meeting
14th & 15th	Office Closed
28th	Office Closed

May

1st	Ozawkie Garage Sales
3rd	Planning & Zoning Meeting
10th	Council Meeting
15th	City-wide Cleanup in Maintenance Parking lot from 9am to 5pm