

City Council Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Debi Schwertfeger called the regular City Council Meeting to order. Council members present were Jason Booker, Mark Berner, Denise Hartman, and Nathan Adams, also present were the City Administrator Nick Jones and City Attorney Brian Henderson and Molly Priest, Others attending were Jan Sciacca, Karen Exon, Steven Jess, Julie Richardson, Brain Richards, Shelley Dunham, Ryan McDonald, Taylor Adams, Vern Hay

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the packet. Councilperson Denise Hartman seconded the motion. Motion Carried 4 – 0 The consent agenda consisted of:

- October 5, 2024, Minutes
- October 5, 2024, to Current Appropriations.
- Cabin Transfers: G-7, R-6, G-2

OLD BUSINESS

- **Safe Routes to School: Update**
 - City Administrator Nick Jones told the Council that Bettis has been delayed some because of all the rain but plans to start back soon completing the SRTS project.
- **Street Scape – KDOT TA Grant: Update**
 - City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council the city is waiting on a notice to proceed and the fully executed City/State agreement. The city will have to follow the Quality Based Selection process for selecting an engineering firm for the pre-construction engineering and project management.
- **Water and Sewer Project: Update**
 - City Administrator Nick Jones informed the Council the City of Council Grove received notice from the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund that it is has been selected in the KDHE 2025 intended use plan (IUP) to apply for a loan in the amount of \$3,000,000 from the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to replace sewer infrastructure. Administrator Jones said he has been in contact with Brian Foster with BG Consultants regarding updated cost for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Lake Committee Recommendation: Application for Council Grove Lake Park Boundary Line Adjustment: G-7**
 - City Administrator Nick Jones read the recommendation from the Lake Committee for the Council to approve a boundary line adjustment for Stephaine Hall leaseholder of G-7 of about 34ft to encompass the shed that is currently located on city commons area. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Lake Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nathan Adams. Motion carried 4 – 0
- **Alcohol Consumption and Sale at Community Events Application: Council Grove Public Library:**
 - The event was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- **Office Committee Recommendation:**
 - **Employee Vacation Policy**
City Administrator Nick Jones read the recommendation from the Office Committee to approve the updated Vacation Leave Policy E-4 in the Employee Policy Handbook. Which consist of additional vacation time for all full-time employees. After discussion Councilperson Jason Booker made a motion to approve the updated Vacation Leave Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Mark Berner. Motion carried 3-1 with Councilperson Nathan Adams voting against the motion.

- **Appendix A: Vacation Leave Accrual Schedule for Full-time Employees**

Months of Employment	Accrual Per Year (Days/Hours)
0-3 years	15 days / (3 weeks)
4-7 years	20 days/ (4 weeks)
8-11 years	25 days/ (5 weeks)
12-15 years	30 days/ (6 weeks)
16-19	35 days/ (7 weeks)
20+ years	40 days/ (8 weeks)

- **Worker Safety – Protective Footwear Policy**

City Administrator Nick Jones read the recommendation from the Office Committee to approve the revised Article M-3 of the City Employee Policy Manual Worker Safety Protective Footwear. The old policy only allowed for reimbursement of \$30 dollars per year for shoes or booted with toe protection. The new policy would allow for reimbursement of up to \$250 for a pair of shoes or boots with toe protection with submission of a receipt of purchase. City Attorneys Brian Henderson and Molly Priest recommended a revision on the policy to include up to \$250 per year. After discussion Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to approve the revised policy for protective footwear. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Denise Hartman.

Motion Carried 4 – 0

ARTICLE M. WORKER SAFETY.

Old Policy:

M-3. PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR. The city requires all employees who are involved with heavy objects or equipment to wear metal or fiberglass tipped footwear to prevent the most common type of foot injuries. The city will reimburse employees \$15 for each pair of shoes or boots with toe protection, up to \$30 per year.

New Policy:

M-3. PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR. The city requires all employees who are involved with heavy objects or equipment to wear metal or fiberglass tipped footwear to prevent the most common type of foot injuries. The city will reimburse employees up to \$250 for each pair of shoes or boots with toe protection with submission of a receipt of purchase.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

- **Mayor Debi Schwerdtfeger** – said Candlelight Charm was busy and enjoyed seeing the town so busy and that she handed out over 600 gifts at the event. She also wished the Council Grove Braves football team good luck in there upcoming game.
 - **Councilperson Mark Berner** – N/A
 - **Councilperson Denise Hartman** – said the town was busy and that the Candlelight Charm event was great.
 - **Councilperson Sean Honer** – Absent
 - **Councilperson Nathan Adams** – N/A
 - **Councilperson Sharon Haun** – Absent
 - **Councilperson Jason Booker** – said Holidays are coming up and we have seen the last of the warm weather.
 - **City Attorney Brian Henderson** – N/A
 - **Assistant City Attorney Molly Priest** – N/A
 - **City Administrator Nick Jones** – said the city received a \$18,000 grant from the Nystrom Foundation to go toward the Riverwalk Amphitheater project. Jones said the grant will be combined with match month with the Area Foundation.
- Mayor Schwerdtfeger asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mark Berner made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Nathan Adams seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4 – 0


Debi Schwerdtfeger Mayor

ATTEST:


Nick Jones City Administrator

