

## **Minutes of the City Commission's February 27, 2025 Meeting**

### **I. REGULAR SESSION**

Commissioners Present: Mayor Scott Smith, Vice-Mayor Dean Hayse and Commissioner Tim Emert

City Staff Present: Kelly Passauer, City Manager; David Cowan, Assistant City Manager; Seth Jones, City Attorney; David Schwenker, City Clerk/City Treasurer; April Nutt, Director of Housing Authority; Scott Patton, Park and Zoo Director; John Garris, City Engineer/Director of Public Works and Lacey Lies, Finance Director.

Visitors Present: Larry McHugh, Sherri Garris, Paul Stoner, Riley Blomenkamp, Mike Younger, Louis Ysusi, Robert Bever II, Ron O'Brien, Robert Bever Sr., Jim Kelly, Mike Cordray, Clayton Kelly and Doug Pickert.

#### **A. Call to Order**

**Mayor Smith called the meeting to order.**

#### **B. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America**

#### **C. Adoption of Agenda**

##### **Motion:**

**On the motion of Tim Emert, seconded by Dean Hayse, the Commission adopted the agenda.**

**Aye: Tim Emert, Dean Hayse, Scott Smith**

**Nay: None**

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Acceptance of Engineering Excellence Award**

**The Big Straw project was awarded the Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (Kansas). This is a statewide award, and recognizes innovative and outstanding examples of engineering. Mike Younger of EBH presented the City and Rural Water District No. 6 plaques to commemorate this award.**

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

## **Minutes of the City Commission's February 27, 2025 Meeting**

### **Motion:**

**On the motion of Dean Hayse, seconded by Tim Emert, the Commission adopted the consent agenda.**

**Aye: Tim Emert, Dean Hayse, Scott Smith**

**Nay: None**

- A. Consider approving the minutes of the February 13, 2025 Commission meeting.

### **Suggested Motion:**

**I move to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2025 regular Commission meeting.**

- B. Consider waiving the City curfew the evening of Friday, April 4, 2025 for a Barbecue Competition at the Riverside Park Oval.

**Independence Barbecue Cook-Off is organizing a barbecue competition in Riverside Park, which will be held on the Park Oval April 5th, 2025. Competitors will set up the evening of April 4th and cook throughout the night. During the event, the public will have the opportunity to purchase sampler plates and vote for the best team. All proceeds from the event will be donated to support a local family in need. A similar event was held by Neewollah in 2023, and posed no issues.**

### **Suggested Motion:**

**I move to waive the curfew the evening of Friday, April 4, 2025 to allow contestants to participate in the Independence Barbecue Cook-Off Barbecue Competition.**

- C. Consider purchase of a replacement mini-van for the City.

**The City has received three bids for the replacement of a 2009 Dodge Grand Caravan, which is currently used for administrative purposes, employee training and schooling outside the city, transportation of children, and other municipal travel needs. Upon replacement, the 2009 van will be reassigned to the airport as a courtesy vehicle, replacing a 2008 Crown Victoria that will be auctioned.**

**Bids were received from Quality Toyota and Quality Ford, with the lowest bid of \$40,205.00 for a Voyager LX. City staff recommends awarding the purchase to the lowest bidder.**

**Suggested Motion:**

**I move to approve the purchase of a Voyager LX from Quality Ford for \$40,205.00.**

**IV. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

- A. Consider an ordinance and resolution regarding the issuance and sale of Series 2025-A Bonds.**

**This resolution is to authorize the offering for sale of the bonds.**

**This Sale Resolution authorizes the City to pursue a sale of Taxable General Obligation Bonds for the construction and related costs of a waterline extension project for an approximately 9-mile waterline to Rural Water District No. 6 to serve the Bartlett facility.**

**Although these are Taxable General Obligation Bonds of the City, in accordance with the Development Agreement entered into between the City and Bartlett, Bartlett will reimburse the City for all costs related to the project, including the cost of financing, over a 5-year period, beginning June 1, 2025.**

**Motion:**

**On the motion of Tim Emert, seconded by Dean Hayse, the Commission approved and ratified the City Manager's prior award of the bid; to pass Ordinance No 4480; and to adopt Resolution No. 2025-014.**

**Aye: Tim Emert, Dean Hayse, Scott Smith**

**Nay: None**

- B. Consider accepting the new Park Master Plan from Indigo Designs**

**Over the past year, park staff and members of the park board have worked with Doug Pickert, of Indigo Designs, to develop an updated master plan focusing on key areas of Riverside Park and the three neighborhood parks. Areas of focus in Riverside Park include the playground, miniature train depot, miniature golf course, and the ATSF 1050 steam locomotive. Improving accessibility was a main priority of the plan, as well as improving safety, aesthetic appeal, and adding park amenities. Park staff and members of the**

## **Minutes of the City Commission's February 27, 2025 Meeting**

**Park Board have reviewed all sections of the master plan with Doug, providing input and suggestions. The Park Board voted to approve the master plan update at their February 3rd meeting.**

**Motion:**

**On the motion of Scott Smith, seconded by Tim Emert, the Commission approved the Park Master Plan.**

**Aye: Tim Emert, Dean Hayse, Scott Smith**

**Nay: None**

- C. Consider adopting an ordinance authorizing the exercise of eminent domain for the construction of a Multi-Use Pathway.**

**The City has approved acceptance of the Transportation Alternatives project, which will build a new multi-use pathway with one segment along the southern part of west Main Street and the intersection of Main and Peter Pan. In order to complete the sidewalk, a closure of the western entrance of Waters Hardware building at 2801 West Main Street is required. To this end, discussions were held with representatives of the owner, and they declined to grant the necessary easement. Therefore, the City must exercise eminent domain to acquire the easements to complete the project. This ordinance prepared by the City Attorney is the next step in that process.**

**Motion:**

**On the motion of Tim Emert, seconded by Dean Hayse, the Commission adopted Ordinance 4481, declaring the necessity of the multi-use path and authorizing the survey.**

**Aye: Tim Emert, Dean Hayse, Scott Smith**

**Nay: None**

**V. REPORTS**

**A. Monthly Projects Report**

**Engineer Garris presented the report and thanked city staff for their hard work during the last snow storm.**

**B. Appropriations**

**VI. CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

## Minutes of the City Commission's February 27, 2025 Meeting

City Manger Passauer informed the Commission that MFG presented the fire department with a \$25,000 donation for fire equipment, the next Commission meeting dates are March 13th, 19th, and 27th, the Main Street fundraiser is on Saturday March 1st, MCAC will have their first quarter meeting on March 20th in Caney, a business after hours event on March 25th in Cherryvale, and on September 18th they will host a taste of Montgomery County in Cherryvale.

### VII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

### VIII. PUBLIC CONCERNS

None.

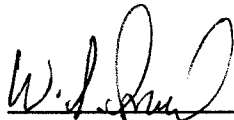
### IX. ADJOURNMENT

#### **Motion:**

**On the motion of Scott Smith, seconded by Tim Emert, the Commission adjourned the meeting.**

**Aye: Tim Emert, Dean Hayse, Scott Smith**

**Nay: None**



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**W. Scott Smith, Mayor**



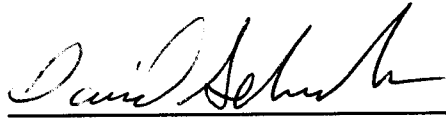
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**Dean A. Hayse, Commissioner**



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**Tim Emert, Commissioner**

**Minutes of the City Commission's February 27, 2025 Meeting**

**Attest:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Schuchman", is written over a horizontal line.

**City Clerk/Treasurer**