

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL
Lindsborg City Hall
December 5, 2022–6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Van Der Wege, Kirsten Bruce, John Presley, Blaine Heble, Andrew Smith, Corey Peterson, Tanner Corwin, Clark Shultz

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Emile Gallant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kristi Northcutt, Roxie Sjogren, Zachary Strella, Beth Ferguson, Marcus Petty, Chief Michael Davis, David Hay, Jordan Jerkovich, Chris Lindholm, Holly Lofton, Ed Kenney

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Clark Shultz, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No amendments to the agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Snowflake Parade was a success followed by the artist open houses; a lot of people were in town. This past week, City Administrator Kristi Northcutt graduated with her Certified Public Management degree.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember John Presley moved to approve the minutes from the Nov. 21, 2022, regular Council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5397, and Purchase Order Ordinance 5398. Motion seconded by Councilmember Andrew Smith. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

No appointments.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

The Planning Commission met with the Design Review Board on November 22. Design Review had received two sign applications that were both approved. The Planning Commission did not have a quorum, but they reviewed the first round of feedback regarding appearance guidelines. There will be a special meeting of the Planning Commission on Dec. 13, 2022 to discuss an application for rezone at 347 N. Kansas.

Community Development Director Jordan Jerkovich also shared that the Lift Up Lindsborg program completed their first home his past weekend.

Mr. Jerkovich also shared that the City has received the final easement on the north half of the Cow Creek project, so an RFP will be issued. There are four easements that remain to be signed to do the south half.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

EMS Garage Door

Shortly after the EMS building was finished, the garage door was slightly damaged when it came down on top of one of the ambulances. The door was only slightly damaged but remained operational.

Recently, the door started making noises and was having difficulty opening and closing. Upon closer inspection of the door, the bottom three door panels were impinging upon each other during operation and the outer shell of the panels were showing signs of warping.

The Public Safety Center experienced similar problems recently with one of their doors having the same issue causing the door to stop in both the open and closed positions. If this happened to the EMS building, it could leave our EMS facility unsecured or unable to get an ambulance out without repositioning the other ambulance.

Quotes were obtained from the Cheney Door Company and Overhead Door Company of North Central Kansas. Cheney Door Company quoted \$3,110.39 to repair the door and Overhead Door Company of North Central Kansas quoted \$3,513.19.

Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege moved to approve the repair to the EMS garage door from Cheney Door Company in the amount of \$3,110.39. Seconded by Councilmember Tanner Corwin and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

MASWU Fuel Surcharge

On June 15, 2022, the city received a letter from the McPherson Area Solid Waste Utility advising that they would be adding a fuel surcharge due to the rising cost of fuel used in collecting refuse service. So far, the fuel surcharge has been constant at 2% in July, August, September, and October. The surcharge was supposed to increase to 3.54% in August but due to an error on MASWU side, it did not occur. The surcharge will increase to 3.54% for November and 3.79% for December. As stated in the MASWU letter, the surcharge is a rolling six-month average, so this percent will continue to change, and the peak has not yet been seen.

With this increase in cost, the city recommends a \$0.25 increase per cart charged on refuse service. The City Fee Schedule would be as follows:

Dwelling Units/Commercial Establishments – Monthly:

- 1 Cart = \$18.25
- 2 Carts = \$27.50
- 3 Carts = \$40.75
- 4 Carts = \$54.00

By increasing the cart prices by \$0.25, there will be additional revenue of \$390.75 per month, and the total cost of the fuel surcharge at 3.54% is \$567.47. Due to strong fiscal positioning in the Refuse Fund, the city can cover the difference and keep the change minimal to residents. Additionally, the city covered the 3.5% increase in the MASWU contract, as well, and did not pass this along to residents in 2022 and does not intend to do so in 2023 due to the strong balance in the fund.

Councilmember Blaine Heble moved to approve a \$0.25 increase per cart charged on refuse service for both residential and commercial monthly. Seconded by Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

Federico-Duerst Consulting Agreement

In November of 2018, the City contracted with Federico Consulting for advocacy services to help build and enhance relationships with state legislators, executives, and agencies within the state.

Under the contract, meetings have been coordinated with the Governor, Lt. Governor, Commerce Secretary, Chair of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, and Kansas Department of Transportation officials. Two “Lindsborg Day at the Capitol” events have been scheduled, coordinated, and executed, with hopes for a return to these events in 2023. The “Meet in the Middle” rural summit was inaugurated in Lindsborg in 2019 with 130 attendees of which 60 were legislators; it was held again in 2021 and had 100 attendees. This event brings legislators and other leaders from the across the state to Lindsborg for non-partisan conversation about important issues affecting all Kansans. Other services received are daily committee reports and weekly recaps during the legislative session.

This year, our relationship with John Federico and Stephen Duerst, as well as the Return on Investment, was apparent on two specific occasions. The first was the agency coordinating a visit between city staff and KDOT Project Manager Peter Van Sickle regarding the K4 Overpass/Grade Separation project. An initial introduction led to ongoing conversations and in-person meetings with Mr. Van Sickle that have the city closer to the realization of this project than at any other time prior. The city once again called upon the agency to make a case with regards to the EMS monitor/ambulance issue (refer to Nov. 21, 2022, agenda item). Before their outreach to the Executive Director of the State Board of EMS, one of AMR’s ambulances was at risk of being taken out of service, which would have resulted in not being able to respond to as many calls for service in in the city. And last month, Assistant City Administrator Lucas Neece testified at the Workforce Development Committee meeting on Childcare, an appearance that Federico-Duerst coordinated as they knew that childcare is one of the city’s legislative priorities. This gave Lindsborg the spotlight in setting the bar for childcare facilities & services.

Attached is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2023. The terms of the MOU are the same as the MOU for 2019 through 2022 with no change in rate proposed (\$2,000/month). John Federico, when sending the agreement for 2023 stated, “We love working with the City of Lindsborg and would not seek any changes to the existing Agreement.”

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Federico Duerst Consulting as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Blaine Heble and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

2023 Legislative Priorities

Each year, the city prepares a document outlining legislative priorities which staff follows and contributes to at the state level. The draft of the city’s 2023 legislative priorities is attached. Changes reflect priorities based on the current economy and needs of the community/region as outlined in the city’s strategic plan; deletions do not necessarily represent a reduction in focus in those areas.

This document was prepared with staff input, guidance from John Federico and Stephen Duerst (the city’s consultants Topeka), and after attendance at the League of Kansas Municipalities Legislative Dinner held in Abilene, which City Clerk Roxie Sjogren, Council President Peterson, and I attended (Asst. City Administrator Lucas Neece attended in Baldwin City).

The following priorities remain **the same** as 2022:

- Home Rule
- Property Taxes
- High Quality Childcare (with revisions)
- Tourism as an Economic Development Tool (with revisions)
- Countywide Sales and Use Taxes
- Property Valuation
- Housing
- Library Funding
- Health, Well Being and Quality of Life (with revisions)

Following are the **additions** for 2023:

- EMS/Hospital Funding
- Mental Health
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Water Quantity

Following are **deletions** from 2022 for 2023:

- Tax Spending Lid
- Energy Spikes
- Filing for Office

Copies of the entire Legislative Priorities document were provided to Council.

Councilmember John Presley moved to approve the 2023 City of Lindsborg Legislative Priorities as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Andrew Smith and passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Cost of Living Adjustment

On an annual basis, City Council considers a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for city staff. Historically, the benchmark used to determine the percentage amount has been the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Midwest Region. Through October 2022, the Midwest Region CPI is 7.4%, and inflation nationwide is at 8.7% (the COLA distributed by the Social Security Administration, for reference). In 2022, the Midwest Region CPI has ranged from 7.4% to 8.8%.

In preparing the 2023 city budget, which Council adopted on Sept. 6, 2022, 5.0% was budgeted for a COLA increase. This percentage was based on inflation projections at the time of budget preparation. The budgeted amount reflects a total of \$138,292.80 in the city's overall budget.

Discussion with 13 other cities in the region resulted in the following data regarding COLAs:

- Nine (9) cities are proposing a COLA less than 5%, but four (4) of those cities have a higher merit increase program than Lindsborg;
- Four (4) cities are proposing equal to or higher than a 5% COLA; specifically, they are proposing 5%, 6%, 8.7%, and 9%.
- One (1) city is adjusting wages a flat 10% across the board based on the results of a recent compensation study, in addition to a 2.5% COLA.

The City of Lindsborg takes great pride in the ability to recruit and retain quality employees in the workforce. Being able to provide competitive pay and benefits is a driving factor in ensuring the security and longevity of the city's employees. A 5.0% COLA is budgeted and possible due to strong fiscal management and would positively impact employee retention and recruitment in a volatile economic environment with rising costs of fuel, food, housing, childcare, and services just to name a few.

Councilmember Kirsten Bruce moved to approve a 5.0% Cost-of-Living Adjustment for all regular full-time city employees, effective January 1, 2023. Seconded by Councilmember Tanner Corwin and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

CMB License Renewal

The city has received applications for Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) renewals for 2023 from Casey's, YesWay, and White's Foodliner. All applications have been reviewed, background checks completed by the KBI, and application fees have been received.

Councilmember Rebecca Van Der Wege moved to approve applications for CMB licenses for 2023 for Casey's, YesWay, and White's Foodliner. Seconded by Councilmember Blaine Heble and passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Sundstrom Emergency HVAC Repairs

BCS is the only provider that is certified to work on the Sundstrom Conference Center LG HVAC equipment. With the City Administrator's approval, the emergency repairs have already been approved and scheduled in order keep the system running for booked events, as there is no heat in the building without the work being done.

- Provide and install EEV Valve Assembly/Expansion (qty 1)
- Disconnect refrigerant and electrical connections on existing EEV Valve Assembly
- Vacuum refrigerant system to 500 microns for leak test verification
- Reconnect high voltage electrical
- Recharge system with virgin R410A refrigerant to manufacturers specifications
- Startup equipment and test for proper operation
- Dispose of used refrigerant to EPA standards

Councilmember Andrew Smith moved to approve \$6,130.00 in repairs to the Sundstrom LG HVAC system. Seconded by Councilmember Tanner Corwin and passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilmember Andrew Smith moved to recess into executive session to discuss meters related to non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) for a period of 30 minutes. The open meeting will resume in Council Chambers at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Tanner Corwin and passed 7-0 by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember John Presley moved for adjournment, seconded by Councilmember Kirsten Bruce, and passed 7-0 by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roxie Sjogren, CMC
City Clerk