

CITY OF LYNDON – TOWN HALL MEETING
Saturday, March 2, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
Lyndon Community Center, 204 Topeka

Governing Body: Bill Patterson, Doug Watson, Darby Kneisler and Mayor Kay Jones

Members absent: Brandon Smith and Wayne Howard

City Staff
Kimberly Newman, City Administrator
Julie Stutzman, City Clerk
David Wilson, Maintenance Superintendent
Scott Culley, Maintenance
Darrel Manning, Chief of Police
Pat Walsh, City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jones called the meeting to order.

The Mayor stated the special agenda is for the purpose of conducting a town hall meeting. The special agenda was signed by council members and the Mayor.

2. ROLL CALL: The City Clerk called roll call; Howard and Smith absent.

In addition to the governing body and City staff, approximately nineteen community members attended the Town Hall meeting; see attached sheet.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Town Hall Meeting.

Mayor Jones introduced council members and staff. Citizens were invited to take handouts which were placed on a table in the back of the room.

A power point presentation was presented by the City Administrator; a copy is attached.

Topics discussed during the presentation by the City Administrator were:

- ✓ The City Administrator discussed the ½ cent sales tax referendum and presented examples of what items are taxable and how much money is generated from sales tax. Examples were also given on items bought at various stores in town, the difference of price if the referendum passes, and how this possibly would not have any effect on purchasing patterns within the City.

- ✓ The City Administrator stated the City had a bridge and culvert inspection done by BG Consultants which will be reviewed by Council on Monday night. The report showed 13 bridges within the City are in need of replacement or repair. Out of the 13 bridges, it was noted that E 9th between Ash & Birch and E 4th at Birch between Ash & Cedar were rated in poor condition. It was also noted that bridges at E 7th between Ash & Birch and W 10th between Monroe & Jackson were rated in fair condition. The costs given were between \$156,000 to \$479,000 with the lower end being minimal repair and the higher amount being full replacement of all four.
- ✓ The City Administrator gave an overview of monies spent each year in road repairs in the amount of approximately \$120,000 per year. It was also stated that this amount does not cover sidewalks, drainage, and any additional road projects.
- ✓ The City Administrator announced the City was awarded grants from the Sunflower Trails Foundation for \$55,000 and from W.S. & E.C. Jones Trust for \$91,000 for a grant total of \$146,000 for the Lyndon Trail Master plan which will be constructed this year. It was noted the City's match is \$35,000. A map of the proposed trail was also provided.
- ✓ The City Administrator presented the next slide giving information regarding the Safe Routes to School program and the progress that has been made. The City had been awarded Phase I funding and a map of the proposed route, changes in streets and crosswalks were provided to residents. Proposed changes would be making Cedar from 6th to 8th street one way, bump outs and raised crosswalks, and site circulation. A timeline of events and deadlines were given with the tentative construction begin date of April 2014.
- ✓ The next slides gave information about our current Council members and also about candidates for Council and USD 421 for the upcoming elections. Each member/candidate was given 5 minutes to speak to residents giving reasons of why they like and would like to be elected or re-elected to these positions.
- ✓ The Mayor stated that she did not file to fill the Mayor's seat again due to possibly moving in the near future, however, she stated that if needed she would fill the Mayor's position in the way of write in votes if no-one campaigns for that vacant position. She stated that if she is re-elected to that position and has to resign sometime during that term, that it would be the position of the Council to appoint someone to the open position.
- ✓ The City Administrator stated the Community Calendar on the City's website is updated regularly and gave a brief list of upcoming events such as the Community Garden meetings, Council meetings, the first annual Daddy Daughter Dance, etc.

The floor was opened to questions.

- S:** The Mayor stated that Wayne White was in attendance and is currently working on a new website. Wayne stated that he is starting his own business creating a new news website which will be osagecountyonline.com and gave a brief description of what he will cover. The City Administrator stated there is a link to his website on the City's Facebook page.
- S:** Steve Zerr stated that flyers have been posted around town asking for participation in the Community Garden. He stated the garden will be on the land purchased by the City on the south side of the street across from the Community Center. He stated they are working a constant water source and also providing equipment, etc. Byron Jordan asked if the Community Garden was going to be in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. The City Administrator stated the City has written a grant for \$5,000 which we are waiting to see if it gets awarded. The City Administrator also stated that either way, the garden is going to proceed. She also stated the Community Garden is only to benefit the community and in provide help in growing healthy vegetables. There will be 12 large plots and 7 small plots for people to purchase. There was also discussion about getting businesses or groups to sponsor a plot and donate it to a group like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. Watson asked if individuals could donate plots to residents who possibly could not afford one and it was noted they can. The City Administrator stated that there will be a meeting on April 6th at the Lyndon Community Center at 8 a.m. for the Farmer's Market and Community Garden were informational packets will be distributed.
- Q:** Byron Jordan thanked the maintenance for all of their hard work during the snow storm removing the snow and opening the streets. He asked if the snow removed could be put in areas where it would benefit by melting into areas such as creek beds, etc.
- A:** The Maintenance Supervisor stated these areas such as the creek beds are on private property and that the City cannot do that.
- Q:** Debbie Edwards asked if there was going to be a place for limbs that were down due to the current storms.
- A:** The Maintenance Supervisor stated the City does not have an area because we do not have a state permit.
- Q:** Chris Cole asked if the City's trail project was far enough in progress for residents to get involved with helping and how to sign up.
- A:** The City Administrator stated no amenities were added in the grant, however, the grant allows for in-kind activities.

Q: Steve Zerr asked where the \$55,000 and the \$91,000 came from.

A: The City Administrator stated the grants were from the Sunflower Trails Foundation for \$55,000 and from Jones Trust for \$91,000.

Q: Hazel Atchison asked the street department if there were any plans in the future to put overlay on the streets of Madison and Monroe.

A: The Maintenance Supervisor stated those are among some of the worst streets and will be overlaid in the future. He stated that the winter was hard on the chip and seal and to prevent further damage only minimal removal was done.

S: Hazel Atchison stated that the snow removal has gotten a lot better since she moved here 39 years ago and thanked the Maintenance crew for their hard work.

Q: Bruce Oelke who lives at 717 Jefferson asked about snow removal in his residential alley, stating it causes a hardship for 3 residences. He felt the City should maintain the alley.

A: The Mayor explained City policy provides maintaining business alleys only. Some residents find someone with a blade to remove the snow, which would be the at the cost of the residents. stated that it sometimes comes down to finding someone with a blade.

Q: Aaron Brucker asked when the end date on the sales tax referendum would be if it passes or if it would be permanent.

A: The City Administrator stated she believed it would have a sunset after 10 years which would coincide with the sunset of last sales tax referendum that was passed.

Q: Aaron Brucker asked if the City had a contingency plan if something were to happen to the Dollar General which brings in substantial amount of sales tax.

A: The City Administrator stated there is no plan and at the last town hall meeting there was discussion about what the City's role is in Economic Development. She stated that during the year she has worked with developers and landowners, and would like to create a economic development committee to work on the City's behalf.

Q: Chris Cole asked how the sales tax gets to Lyndon when you buy cars, furniture, etc.

A: The City Administrator stated that when you go to the larger out-of-town stores, they ask you for your zip code and Lyndon will receive any sales tax on items delivered.

Q: Wayne White asked if the voting issue about people voting outside the city limits from the last election on the sales tax referendum had been resolved.

A: The City Administrator stated there had been discussion with the County Clerk regarding the last election. The County Clerk provided the city with a list of registered voters for the City to review. The City will continue to work closely with the County Clerk.

Q: Erin Cole asked if the sales tax would be added to the utility bills.

A: The Mayor asked the residents to look at what portion of their utility bills are axed. She stated only that amount would increase by ½ cent. At this time, residents are not charged tax on their city utilities.

The City Administrator stated that it is important the ½ cent sales tax passes because it will help alleviate the need for an increase in the property tax, because funds will be generated by people passing through Lyndon.

Q: Bruce Oelke asked why the sewer is not a flat rate and why it cannot be changed.

A: The City Administrator stated that several municipalities use this method for billing their water and sewer utilities. It was noted that during June, July, August and September, the sewer rate is based upon water consumption during the months of January, February and March. Therefore, increased summer water usage does not affect the sewer charge.

Mayor Jones thanked all who attended the town hall meeting for coming and stated if someone's question had not been answered to please fill out a form in the back.

A motion was made by Watson to close the meeting at 11:00 a.m., Kneisler seconded, motion carried.

Julie Slutzman
City Clerk