

City Council Minutes – Regular Meeting – August 28, 2023

The Bonner Springs City Council met in Workshop session at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Councilmembers Shannon, Long, McMahan, Wood, Gurley, Kipp, Stephens and Reeves.

City staff present: Sean Pederson, City Manager; Chris Brake, City Clerk; Amber Vogan, Assistant City Manager; Tillie LaPlante, Finance Director; Billy Naff, Police Chief; Tim Richards, Fire Chief; Public Works Director, Frank Abart and Library Director, Jack Granath

1. **Executive Session for Non-elected Personnel Matters, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)** – Gurley moved and Reeves seconded to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception, K.S.A.75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Council Chamber at 7:20 p.m. Unanimous approval.

Gurley moved and Shannon seconded to resume the open meeting with no action taken at 7:22 p.m. Unanimous approval.

The Bonner Springs City Council met in regular session at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Councilmembers Shannon, Long, McMahan, Wood, Gurley, Kipp, Stephens and Reeves.

City staff present: Sean Pederson, City Manager; Chris Brake, City Clerk; Amber Vogan, Assistant City Manager; Tillie LaPlante, Finance Director; Billy Naff, Police Chief, Tim Richards, Fire Chief; Frank Abart, Public Works Director; Jack Granth, Library Director; Matt Beets, Public Works Deputy Director and Magan Gilliland, Economic Development Coordinator

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and Pastor Flournoy led the invocation.

PRESENTATION –

1. Water Treatment Plant Update

Citizen Concerns about Items Not on Today's Agenda –

Michael Kelling, Bonner Springs Police Officer, with four other officers, read a letter to the City Council regarding their concern that the pay rate in Bonner Springs is causing insufficient staffing. They believe non-competitive pay, has led seven officers to leave for other area departments. The police officers conducted an internet search of local departments' starting pay and determined only two local departments starting pay is less than Bonner Springs'. The City completed a pay study completed five years ago and the officers are requesting the Council reevaluate the current pay scale.

Ray Garza, Holiday Inn Express, stated he received the distinguished citizen award from the Bonner Springs Police Department earlier this year. The police department last year was at his hotel many times, and the police department helped get rid of the crime in his hotel. He stated he supports funding the police department.

Melva Jarrett, Christ First Ministries, stated they also received a community service award and has appreciated the support of the police department for four years.

Olliea Jarrett, Bonner Springs NAACP, expressed support for the police department

Brendan Hedrick, former Bonner Springs police officer, stated he left for money. He compared his current job with his work as a Bonner Springs officer and expressed support for the police department.

The Mayor thanked everyone for addressing the City Council, explained the process the City Council works through to review concerns brought before them, and reiterated the open-door policy for all City employees and reassured the officers there would be no retribution for addressing the council.

CONSENT AGENDA – The Mayor read the Consent Agenda items and asked the staff, audience or City Council if they wished to remove an item for separate consideration. No items were removed.

1. Minutes of the August 14, 2023 City Council Meeting
2. Claims for City Operations
3. Fire Department Staff Vehicle Purchase - Modification
4. Public Use Request – Homecoming Parade
5. Massage Therapy License Renewal – Tianna Shelley – Helping Hands Therapeutic Massage

Reeves moved and Shannon seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous approval.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Public Hearing to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate** – Stephens moved and Reeves seconded to open a Public Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate beginning at 8:15 p.m. Unanimous approval.
Gurley moved and Stephens seconded to close the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m. Unanimous approval.
2. **Resolution to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate** – Shannon moved and Stephens seconded to adopt a Resolution to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. Item passed 7-1 with Kipp dissenting.
3. **Approve Notice of Public Hearing and Schedule Public Hearing for Proposed 2023 Budget Amendments** – Shannon moved and Gurley seconded to approve the public hearing notice and schedule a public hearing for the 2023 Budget Amendments for Monday, September 11, 2023. Unanimous approval.
4. **Approve Notice of Public Hearing and Schedule Public Hearing for Adoption of the 2024 Budget** – Stephens moved and Reeves seconded to approve the public hearing notice and schedule a public hearing for the 2024 Budget for Monday, September 11, 2023. Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Item No. 1: City Manager's Report – The City Manager thanked everyone who attended and all the volunteers who made Tiblow Days successful.

Item No. 2: City Council Items

- Reeves state the Spring Creek weeds were taken care of this summer but are returning and need to be addressed.
- Stephens stated Tiblow Days was successful due to the efforts of everyone involved.
- Kipp stated he wanted to focus on the Police department and thanked them and the staff for the work they do for Tiblow Days.
- Gurley asked for a follow up on the wayfinding sign at Morse & Nettleton.
- Wood stated Tiblow Days was wonderful and the Police were cheerful with everything going on.
- McMahan thanked the Chamber of Commerce for an outstanding job on Tiblow Days, the downtown area was packed on Saturday and first responders were fantastic.
- Long thanked the Economic Development Director for pulling off Tiblow Days. Echoed the Mayor's comments that everyone is welcome to come talk to the City Council or their councilmember about concerns. Stated she wholeheartedly supports the Police Department.

- Shannon stated an individual thanked him Saturday evening at Tiblow Days and told him the department and people around Bonner are excellent. He thanked the Police Department for being part of the community, for being concerned and wanting to make things right.

Item No. 3: Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked the Chamber, City Staff, specifically the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works for their work and professionalism. He had the opportunity to receive a lot of compliments on Tiblow Dyas and credits the volunteers who do a lot of work. He stated he wants the officers to know they are heard and appreciated. He addressed the Police Officers and the citizens that the Council is working very hard to get all the information and work through issues to get the best solutions for employees while working to keep property taxes lower for citizens. He enjoyed the Mayor's banquet on Thursday and thanked the Rotary Club for their co-sponsorship. He commended the low crime, the parks, the fire department improvements and new vehicle and the new water treatment plant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

_____ Christina Brake, City Clerk