



City of Bonner Springs

KANSAS

City Council Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2024

WORKSHOP – 7:00 P.M.

1. **Review RFPs for Executive Search Services** - The city clerk reviewed the submissions received for the RFP for executive search services. Council recommended the review committee check references on each of the three proposals submitted and present the item for consideration at the regular council meeting on September 9th.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

Council Present: Mayor Stephens, Councilmembers Gurley, Reeves, Long, Wood, McMahan, Shannon and Blanks. Councilmember Kipp was absent.

City Staff present: Amber Vogan, Interim City Manager; Chris Brake, City Clerk; Tillie LaPlante, Finance Director; Tim Richards, Fire Chief; Jack Granath, Library Director

Invocation – No invocation presented.

CITIZEN CONCERNS ABOUT ITEMS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA. –

Bobby Hodge, 13702 Lawrence, was concerned about potholes at Kerry Roberts Park.

CONSENT AGENDA The City Council will consider consent agenda items by one motion with no discussion unless a councilmember, staff or the audience member requests removal of an item from the consent agenda. The City Council will consider a removed item as the next item after the consent agenda.

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

1. Minutes of the August 12, 2024, City Council meeting.
2. Claims for City Operation
3. Massage Therapy Business Establishment and Therapist License Renewal - Essential Massage
4. Public Use Request - Homecoming Parade
5. Amendment to Medical Director Agreement

OLD BUSINESS - None presented.

NEW BUSINESS -

1. **Public Hearing to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate** - Gurley moved and Blanks seconded to open a Public Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate beginning at 7:34 p.m.
 - Scott Harding, 13786 Valleyview, stated he is concerned about the seniors and poor in Bonner Springs that can't afford new taxes and asked the council to vote "no" to exceed revenue neutral. Harding stated ten people have moved out of his neighborhood because the property values have increased too much, causing their insurance rate to increase.

- Craig Istas, 13520 Pioneer, asked the council to vote against revenue neutral, he stated people can't afford the increases every year.
- Randy Ney, 101 S. Park, stated he is representing Robert and Carol Holmes. He asked how many years in the last ten years has the council voted to exceed revenue neutral? Ney stated his in-laws live on a fixed income and he has to choose between paying for medicine, food or paying his taxes.
- Keith Session, 169 Emerson, stated property values have shot up, and he believes that brought a huge windfall to the City. He believes the city is requesting to increase the property tax rate. He wants to know if the windfall was spent on the new police cars, the library and the new water treatment plant. Session stated everyone is under a lot of inflationary challenges and living on fixed incomes.
- Karen Leshner, 13324 Metropolitan, stated taxes are affecting those who are still working. Leshner stated taxes are going up, but income isn't increasing.

Shannon moved and Blanks seconded to close the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.

2. **Resolution to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate** - Shannon moved and Long seconded to adopt a resolution to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Motion carried on a vote of 5-2. McMahan and Blanks dissented.
3. **Approve Notice of Public Hearing and Schedule Public Hearing for Proposed 2024 Budget Amendments** - Blanks moved and McMahan seconded to approve the public hearing notice and schedule a public hearing for the 2024 Budget Amendments for Monday, September 9, 2024. Unanimous approval.
4. **Approve Notice of Public Hearing and Schedule Public Hearing for Adoption of the 2025 Budget** - Shannon moved and Reeves seconded to approve the Public Hearing Notice Option 2, and schedule a public hearing for the 2025 Budget for Monday, September 9, 2024. Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

1. **City Manager's Report –**
The Interim City Manager thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She thanked everyone for their contribution to Tiblow Days. She stated postcards went out with information as to what to expect when the new water plant comes online.
2. **City Council Items**
 - Blanks - welcomed back Councilmember Wood. Thanked city staff for their support on Tiblow Days. She clarified that the BS/EDW Chamber of Commerce pays for Tiblow Days, not the City. Staff provides support. She invited council and others to the annual Chamber golf tournament on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024. The tournament raises funds for scholarships. She stated Bonner Springs is a small community with a lot of service organizations, and encouraged people to join a service organization.
 - Long - thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Thanked Emily and Megan for their work on Tiblow Days. She encouraged everyone to consider voting, and to run for local elections.
 - Reeves – agreed that others should run for office. He stated his church is responsible for providing water during Tiblow Trot runners and he enjoyed interacting with runners. He encouraged people to Volunteer.

- McMahan - stated the energy brought to the meeting should be present at every meeting. Attendees showed they are invested in the town. He asked attendees to not let it be a one-time event, stay invested. Farmers market, City Band- fantastic, turn out for events is phenomenal.
- Wood – stated it is the residents who create what the council does, because they bring ideas and information.
- Gurley – stated she appreciated everyone for being here.
- Shannon – stated people don't understand the depth of what the finance director does. He thanked the finance director for her work on the budget.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Encouraged people to email or call him; he's always open to talk and listen. He welcomed back Councilmember Wood. Stated this was his first Tiblow Days as Mayor, and he received one compliment after another from the public about Tiblow Days. He commended city staff, the chamber, the education foundation, Rotary members and all the individuals who give up their time and energy. He stated Public Works gets unnoticed; they are out before the event starts, out during event, out after event is over. They don't get recognition they deserve.

ADJOURNMENT - Reeves moved and Blanks seconded, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 9:21 p.m. Unanimous approval

Christina Brake, City Clerk