

City Commission
Special Call Minutes (Date Change)
July 2, 2012
Commission Chambers, City Hall
101 S Hickory, Ottawa, Kansas

The City Governing Body met at 7 pm this date for the Regular City Commission Meeting with the following members present and participating to wit: Mayor Jorgensen, Commissioner Richards, Commissioner Caylor, Commissioner Ramsey, and Commissioner Reed. A quorum was present.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed the Chamber Audience and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the invocation was given by Director of Finance Scott Bird.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Caylor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richards, to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda included the agenda and minutes from the June 11 and June 18, 2012 Study Sessions; and the June 20, 2012 Regular Meeting. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the Consent Agenda duly approved.

Public Comments

None offered at this time.

Declaration

The Mayor asked the City Commission for declarations of any conflict or outside communications that might influence their ability to impartially consider today's issues and come to a fair decision. Commissioner Reed announced she will abstain from voting on the Prohibited Sign ordinance due to her relationship with Ransom Memorial Hospital.

Ron Hughes Retirement

The Governing Body heard from Director of Finance Scott Bird who honored Ron Hughes for his contributions to the City. Mayor Jorgensen presented Mr. Hughes with a plaque to recognize his retirement after 26 years of service to the City of Ottawa. Mr. Hughes thanked the City and summarized his career with the City.

Public Hearing-Proposed Tauy Jones Parking Lot

The Mayor explained a public hearing for the consideration of a proposed Tauy Jones parking lot on the campus of Ottawa University is needed. Ottawa University is considering the construction of a 41-space parking lot immediately north of Tauy Jones Hall. As required by state preservation statute K.S.A. 75-2724, this request was reviewed by the State Historical Preservation Officer, and was deemed to "encroach upon, damage or destroy" the environs of the Tauy Jones Hall. This hearing will consider all relevant factors and will determine if the proposed new parking lot represents the only feasible and prudent alternative, and if the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the historic property and its environs.

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Mayor Jorgensen opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 pm.

The Governing Body heard from Ottawa University Chief Financial Officer Clark Ribordy who reviewed details of the proposed parking lot north of Tauy Jones Hall and answered questions from the Governing Body.

The Governing Body heard from Rick Nunez, 803 S Poplar, who spoke in favor of the parking solution to relieve congested traffic on Poplar Street during the day.

The Governing Body heard from City Attorney Bob Bezek who reviewed the public hearing process and review of evidence and suggested the Governing Body ask any questions they may still have.

There being no one else to speak to this issue the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 pm.

Resolution-Parking Lot at 403 E Ninth Street

The Governing Body reviewed a resolution providing for the construction of a parking lot at 403 E Ninth Street. Commissioner Ramsey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Caylor, to adopt the resolution with information from the previous Public Hearing on May 16, 2012 to be included.

During discussion it was explained after consideration of the information presented in this hearing and the previous hearing, this resolution allows the construction of a parking lot near Tauy Jones Hall on the Ottawa University campus. The findings of the hearing show no feasible and prudent alternative, and this project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the historic property and its environs. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted and the resolution was duly numbered Resolution No. 1583-12.

Public Hearing-Condemnation 936 Hamblin

The Mayor explained a public hearing for the consideration of the condemnation of the property located at 936 Hamblin is needed.

Mayor Jorgensen opened the Public Hearing at 7:40 pm.

The Governing Body heard from Director of Planning/Codes/Inspections Wynndee Lee who provided a presentation on the property located at 936 Hamblin and answered questions from the Governing Body.

There being no one else to speak to this issue the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:44 pm.

Resolution-Condemnation 936 Hamblin

The Governing Body reviewed a resolution to condemn an unsafe and dangerous structure located at 936 Hamblin in the City of Ottawa, Kansas. Commissioner Reed made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Caylor, to adopt the resolution.

During discussion it was explained this resolution authorizes this Governing Body to declare the structure at 936 Hamblin to be unsafe or dangerous, and to direct that such structures be made safe and secure, or be demolished. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted and the resolution was duly numbered Resolution No. 1584-12.

Public Hearing-Condemnation 830 S Cherry

The Mayor explained a public hearing for the consideration of the condemnation of the property located at 830 S Cherry is needed.

Mayor Jorgensen opened the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm.

The Governing Body heard from Director of Planning/Codes/Inspections Wynndee Lee who provided a presentation on the property located at 830 S Cherry and answered questions from the Governing Body.

There being no one else to speak to this issue the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:51 pm.

Resolution-Condemnation 830 S Cherry

The Governing Body reviewed a resolution to condemn an unsafe and dangerous structure located at 830 S Cherry in the City of Ottawa, Kansas. Commissioner Richards made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, to adopt the resolution.

During discussion it was explained this resolution authorizes this Governing Body to declare the structure at 830 S Cherry to be unsafe or dangerous, and to direct that such structures be made safe and secure, or be demolished. The motion was considered and upon being put, passed by the following vote: Commissioner Caylor aye, Commissioner Reed aye, Commissioner Richards aye, Commissioner Ramsey aye, and Mayor Jorgensen abstained. The Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted by a 4-1 vote and the resolution was duly numbered Resolution No. 1585-12.

Public Hearing-Condemnation 804 S Cherry

The Mayor explained a public hearing for the consideration of the condemnation of the property located at 804 S Cherry is needed.

Mayor Jorgensen opened the Public Hearing at 7:53 pm.

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The Governing Body heard from Director of Planning/Codes/Inspections Wynndee Lee who provided a presentation on the property located at 804 S Cherry and answered questions from the Governing Body.

There being no one else to speak to this issue the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:57 pm.

Resolution-Condemnation 804 S Cherry

The Governing Body reviewed a resolution to condemn an unsafe and dangerous structure located at 804 S Cherry in the City of Ottawa, Kansas. Commissioner Caylor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richards, to adopt the resolution.

During discussion it was explained this resolution authorizes this Governing Body to declare the structure at 804 S Cherry to be unsafe or dangerous, and to direct that such structures be made safe and secure, or be demolished. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted and the resolution was duly numbered Resolution No. 1586-12.

Ordinance-Sign Regulations

The Governing Body reviewed an ordinance amending Article 27, Section 27-4 General Standards for the City of Ottawa Zoning Regulations. Commissioner Ramsey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Caylor, to adopt the ordinance.

During discussion it was explained this ordinance amends the requirements for electronic message centers. The Governing Body heard from Director of Planning/Codes/Inspections Wynndee Lee who provided details of the amendments to Article 27, Section 27-4 General Standards. The motion was considered and upon being put, passed by the following vote: Commissioner Richards aye, Commissioner Ramsey aye, Commissioner Caylor aye, Mayor Jorgensen aye, and Commissioner Reed abstained. The Mayor declared the ordinance duly adopted by a 4-1 vote and the ordinance was duly numbered Ordinance No. 3822-12.

Resolution-Gymnastic Center

The Governing Body reviewed a resolution granting a nonconforming use permit to allow a gymnastics center in a R-1 low density residential zoning district located at 913 E Wilson. Commissioner Caylor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, to adopt the resolution.

During discussion it was explained this resolution approves a nonconforming use permit for the operation of a gymnastics center at 913 E Wilson and establishes conditions under which the business may operate, including by not limited to signage requirements, landscaping and hours of operation. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this nonconforming use permit with a 6-1 vote.

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The Governing Body heard from Director of Planning/Codes/Inspections Wynndee Lee who provided an overview of the requested nonconforming use permit and answered questions from the Governing Body. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the resolution duly adopted and the resolution was duly numbered Resolution No. 1587-12.

City Employee Residency Policy

The Governing Body reviewed a request to revise the residency policy for the employees of the City of Ottawa. Commissioner Reed made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richards, to approve the revision to the residency policy with a 35 mile driving distance.

During discussion it was explained upon review of policies of other municipalities, City staff requested a revision to the residency policy for employees of the City of Ottawa. The Governing Body heard from City Manager Richard Nienstedt who provided an overview of the proposed policy revision.

The Governing Body heard from City employee James Kerns and his spouse Angie who spoke in favor of the proposed policy revision. Commissioner Ramsey spoke in opposition of the proposed policy revision. The motion was considered and upon being put, passed by the following vote: Commissioner Caylor aye, Commissioner Reed aye, Commissioner Richards aye, Mayor Jorgensen aye, and Commissioner Ramsey nay. The Mayor declared the policy duly approved by a 4-1 vote.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager reported on the following:

- He thanked the Governing Body, staff, and the public for arranging their schedules to attend this meeting.
- He wished the citizens a happy and safe 4th of July holiday and encouraged them to remember what the Declaration of Independence stands for.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Ramsey reported on the following:

- He wished everyone a safe and wonderful holiday.

Commissioner Richards reported on the following:

- He read the introduction to the Declaration of Independence and spoke of representing the citizens of Ottawa who elected them and thanked the public for their feedback.

Commissioner Caylor reported on the following:

- She wished everyone a safe holiday and reminded citizens fireworks are not allowed within the city limit.
- City Band is playing at 7:30 pm at City Park
- She reminded the public Ottawa is a Playful City USA and Play Day is July 14, 2012 from 10 am–1 pm at Forest Park.

Announcements

The Mayor announced the following:

- July 4, 2012: Independence Day holiday – City offices closed
- July 9, 2012: Study Session at 4 pm
- July 11, 2012: City/County Budget Open House from 7-8 pm at Ottawa High School Cyclone Room
- July 16, 2012: Study Session at 4 pm

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Governing Body, Commissioner Caylor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richards, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was considered and upon being put, all present voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting duly adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Carolyn S. Snethen, City Clerk

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