

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF PAOLA, KANSAS  
PAOLA JUSTICE CENTER 805 N PEARL  
6:00 O'CLOCK P.M.  
August 8, 2023**

The Governing Body of the City of Paola, Kansas, met with Mayor House presiding.

**Council Members present:** Mayor Leigh House and Council Members Dave Smail, Deborah Hayes, Kathy Peckman and LeAnne Shields.

**Council Members absent:** None

**Also present:** City Manager Randi Shannon, City Clerk Stephanie Marler, Public Works Director Kirk Rees, Interim Chief of Police Chad Corbin, City Planner Jessica Newton, HR Director Vicki Belt, Brian McCauley with the Miami County Republic, Carolyn Lasher, JR McMahon, Deborah Crain, Lee Mott, Dustin Hawkins, Miranda Brandt, David Inlow, Jon Troutman, Kim Boehm, Brian House and others

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular council meeting was called to order by Mayor House.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor House and Council Members Smail, Hayes, Peckman and Shields were all present.

**EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION**

HR Director Belt acknowledged the years of services for several employees:

<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>	<b>15 Years</b>	<b>20 Years</b>
Cari Vogeler – Michael	Joe Ball	Joe Flake	Marsha Prothe
Loren Wolken	Ryan Rayzor	Cam Johnson	Chris Courtney
John Kennedy		Woody Farmer	
Zach Mathies		Eric Jenkins	
Marc Miller		Brett Marler	
Justin Ducey		Jeff Van Donsel	

**Agenda Item 1 - CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of minutes of the meeting on July 11, 2023.
- b. Approval of Salary Ordinances 23-15 & 23-16.
- c. Approval of Appropriation Ordinance 1004 & 1005.
- d. Approval of the Pledged Collateral Report for July 2023.
- e. Approval of the Journal Entries for July 2023.

Council Member Shields made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and authorize the mayor to sign. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smail and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

## **Agenda Item 2 - COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Dustin Hawkins, 22428 W 387<sup>th</sup> St, said he has an issue with the poor condition of the natural baseball fields in Wallace Park, he believes they are dangerous to play on. He also said although there are open times on the new turf baseball field's he would like them to be open more.

David Inlow, 605 E Osage, said he would like to second what Mr. Hawkins said about the baseball fields. He then said he is concerned about the speed of cars on Osage St. He suggested the Council consider speed bumps and more police presence.

Deborah Crain, Paola Senior Center Director, 906 N Hospital Dr. #41, said she is representing the Senior Center Board and thanked the Council for the resurfacing of the parking lot near the center.

Kim Boehm, 1033 E. Peoria St., said she has a safety concern about the intersection of Hospital Dr. and Peoria St. She has observed several people run the stop sign traveling from the south going north and believes some people may just not see the stop sign.

Carolyn Lasher, 28310 Lone Star Rd, handed out a letter she wrote to the council regarding 115 W. Wea.

## **Agenda Item 3 – NEW BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item 3a – 2023 Roots Festival**

Roots Festival President, Lee Mott, spoke to the City Council about the upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Roots Festival on August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. He said the event includes live music, food and craft vendors and a State Sanctioned BBQ competition. Mr. Mott recognized some of the people that put on the festival: Gary Patillo, Kristie Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Jon Smail, Taylor Mott, Lindsey Maxwell, Tammie Mott, Jamie & Woody Farmer, Judy Doherty, Brittany Brown and Joshua Furnish. He said the festival is a not for profit and all positions are unpaid. He said revenue gained from the festival goes back into the community and the Blue Moon Scholarship, benefiting students looking to go into the arts.

Mr. Mott said the budget is around \$105,000 with over 200 volunteers and close to 100 local sponsors. The festival is held in the Park Square and the layout will remain the same as previous years. He said they work with the business owners on the square, encouraging festival goers to visit open shops and offer a booth in the festival if they wish to have one. He said online ticketing is available and passes can be purchased at local banks or at the gate. More information can be found at [www.rootsestival.org](http://www.rootsestival.org).

### **Agenda Item 3b – Confirmation of notification of EMMA filing**

Clerk Marler said the 2022 Financial Statement and 2022 Operating Data were filed on the Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) system on July 14, 2023. She said pursuant to the City's Continuing Disclosure Policy, the Council must be notified within 5 days of submission and the memorandum they received on July 17th shall serve as official notification. She said to follow the policy the Council needs to officially acknowledge the submission.

Council Member Peckman made a motion acknowledge that in compliance with Section II (2) of the Continuing Disclosure Policy for the City of Paola, the City Clerk did provide to the Governing Body written confirmation from EMMA that the 2022 Supplemental Operating Data for the City of Paola has been submitted and filed properly with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board through EMMA on July 14, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3c – New Park Plaza Liquor License**

Clerk Marler said she was contacted by a licensing company regarding the change of ownership at Park Plaza Liquor, 1403 Baptiste Dr. She said since a license is nontransferable, the new owner must get a new license through the State of Kansas and City of Paola. Clerk Marler said all applications and fee's have been received and the safety inspection has been completed. She said upon approval the new owner will need to submit the new state license before the city license can be issued.

Council Member Hayes made a motion to approve the new liquor license for Park Plaza Liquor located at 1403 Baptiste Dr. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peckman and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3d – Trash Rate Increase – Ordinance No. 3210**

Clerk Marler said as discussed at the August 1, 2023 work study meeting, the City of Paola contracts with Waste Management (WM) for trash collection and disposal services. She said the contract with WM states annually a 2% increase of the rates will be applied.

Clerk Marler said per Ordinance 3166, adopted on November 10, 2020, the current customer trash rate is \$18.25 per month. With the annual increases, WM now charges \$18.55 per customer, resulting in a loss of \$0.30 per customer. She said the trash fund is only supported by customer collection fees. With the fluctuation of customers and the amount of people on senior rates, it is important to keep a reserve in this fund.

Council Member Peckman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No 3210 to increase trash collection service fee from \$18.25 to \$20.50 beginning with the August 31, 2023 billing. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3e – Social Media User Policy – Resolution No. 2023-015**

Clerk Marler presented a Social Media User Policy to set guidelines for employees who represent the City of Paola on social media. She said there is currently no policy that

establishes the rules and guidelines to communicate with the public as a representative of the City. She said on a personal account you can delete and block comments that are hurtful or rude, but as a public entity, freedom of speech is protected and could result in a lawsuit if violated. She said there are very few instances where comments can be deleted.

Clerk Marler said the policy being presented was created by the Communication Counsel and is based on a review of relevant case law.

Council Member Shields made a motion to approve Resolution No 2023-015 to adopt the terms and conditions for users of the City of Paola's social media sites. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smail and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3f – Traffic Control Device (TCD) Schedule update – Resolution No. 2023-016**

Public Works Director Rees presented suggested changes to the TCD schedule. He said since the Municipal Parking Lot #2 was recently resurfaced, it would be a good time to add additional handicapped parking signs. He proposed the addition of 6 spaces to the schedule.

Director Rees said the Municipal Parking Lot #2 also has 2 loading zone spaces that are no longer relevant to the current businesses and suggested those be removed from the TCD schedule.

Director Rees also said stop signs going eastbound and westbound on Wallace St. at the crosswalk near the new turf baseball fields should be added to the schedule.

Council Member Smail made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-016 amending the Traffic Control Device Schedule for the City of Paola and authorize the necessary signatures. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peckman and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3g – CentralSquare RMS/CAD Proposal**

Manager Shannon said during the planning phase of the dispatch consolidation with the Miami County Sheriff's Office (MISO), it was identified there would be a need to find a "patch" or a replacement for the current Records Management System (RMS) and Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD). She said this is essential for proper record keeping, officer safety, as well as maintaining the efficiency in providing daily police services.

Manager Shannon said as of this date, MISO is under contract with CentralSquare Technologies for both their RMS and CAD. She said they have started the data conversion process and are expecting to go live in the first quarter of 2024. Both Louisburg and Osawatomie Police Departments have also signed contracts to migrate to this system to go live along with MISO.

Manager Shannon said this change will allow information to be entered immediately into the CAD system by MISO Emergency Dispatchers and readily accessible to Paola officers in real time. This system also fulfills everything currently provided and adds real time patrol unit

GPS monitoring as well as crime mapping. The proposal provided by CentralSquare shows an upfront cost of \$55,809.00, with an annual recurring cost of \$7,532.79. The current annual cost of Huber's RMS/CAD is approximately \$10,521.00. CentralSquare's proposal includes a \$29,250.00 fee for data conversion.

After some discussion Council Member Smail made a motion to accept the proposal from CentralSquare in the amount of \$63,341.79 and authorize the necessary signatures. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3h – Digester Diffuser Replacement**

Director Rees said in May of 2022, the city of Paola accepted the Water and Sewer Master Plan that was performed by McClure. The master plan gave a list of upgrades that need to be done to the sewer system. He said a prioritized list was created of the sewer items that need to be addressed.

Director Rees said one of the high priority items is the replacement of the diffuser system in the digesters. He said the current diffuser system is making it increasingly difficult to meet treatment standards, and is causing additional strain on the blowers and motors for the digesters. Two companies were contacted for bids to clean the digesters, replace air headers, and replace all the diffusers for both basins.

Crossland Heavy Contractors	\$205,000.00
CAS Constructors, LLC	\$177,025.00

Director Rees said CAS Constructors built the plant and he is comfortable with them doing the work and suggests moving forward with their proposal.

Council Member Peckman made a motion to accept the bid from CAS Constructors, LLC in the amount of \$177,025.00 for the digester diffuser replacement and authorize the necessary signatures. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3i – 115 W. Wea Deed Acceptance**

Manager Shannon started with an overview of the property located at 115 W Wea. She said following the process under KSA 12-1750 et seq, the City Building Inspector conducted a preliminary investigation and formal report of the property which was reviewed at the March 14, 2023 City Council meeting. She said the City Council approved Resolution #2023-006 setting a public hearing for May 9, 2023. An updated investigative report by the City Building Inspector was presented for review at the May 9th public hearing and Resolution #2023-010 was passed directing the property owners to commence repair of the property within 30 days (June 16, 2023), and to have the repair completed within 60 days.

Manager Shannon said the property owners did not commence any repairs of the property so the City Council had multiple discussions on whether the City should step in to demolish the building, or to repair it. She said in order to repair the building, the City must take ownership of the property and be financially responsible for all the back taxes and future expenses.

Manager Shannon said the current owners, Thomas and Jennifer Wright, utilized Eland Title Company, LLC to have a Quit Claim Deed prepared to deed the property to the City of Paola. She said the back taxes owed to Miami County total \$13,965.15.

After some discussion, Council Member Shields made a motion to accept the Quit Claim Deed from Thomas and Jennifer Wright for the property located at 115 W Wea, and pay the back taxes in the amount of \$13,965.15. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peckman and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 3j – Salary of Governing Body – Ordinance No. 3211**

Manager Shannon noted the Paola City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2674 in 1997, establishing the salary of the Governing Body effective April 14, 1998. She said the salary for each Council Member was set to one hundred thirty-five dollars (\$135.00) per month, and the Mayor was set to receive one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per month.

Manager Shannon said per the discussion at the City Council Work session on Tuesday, August 2nd, the Council reviewed other municipal compensation rates, as well as consider the amount of time that has passed from the establishment of the rates. The proposed changes are setting the annual salary for each Council Member to four thousand dollars, (\$4,000), and six thousand (\$6,000) for the Mayor effective December 31, 2023.

Council Member Smail made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 3211 setting the annual salary for each Council Member to \$4,000 and \$6,000 for the Mayor effective December 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peckman and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

### **Agenda Item 4 - STAFF REPORTS**

Planner Newton informed the Council that a new building inspector had been hired. She said Jody Kimzey will move from Public Works to Community Development beginning August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Shannon said the new turf baseball field open hours started on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. She said the hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4:00pm-8:00pm and Sundays from 2:00pm-6:00pm. She said scheduled practices for rec teams will come first and there is a public calendar on Paola Recreation Commissions website.

Manager Shannon said Mid America Regional Council reached out to say August 15<sup>th</sup> is the 8<sup>th</sup> annual City Hall Selfie Day and asked Paola to participate.

Clerk Marler gave the Council a copy of the final budget numbers for publication in the newspaper.

**Agenda Item 5 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

Council Member Shields commented on how great the Municipal Parking Lot #2 looked after the resurface.

**Agenda Item 6 - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor House said the parking lot looks very nice.

Mayor House said she likes to the progress being made at Rock Stadium and wanted to clear up that the rock stadium is not being demolished.

Mayor House said she thinks the recreation program is making good progress, especially since there is just one person managing it right now.


**Agenda Item 7- ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business to come before the Council, Council Member Smail made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shields and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.



ATTEST: [seal]

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leigh House, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Marler, City Clerk