

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF PAOLA, KANSAS  
PAOLA JUSTICE CENTER 805 N PEARL  
6:00 O'CLOCK P.M.  
January 14, 2025**

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

**Council Members present:** Mayor Leigh House and Council Members J.R. McMahon, Deborah Hayes, Joshua Brown and LeAnne Shields.

**Council Members absent:** None

**Also present:** City Manager Randi Shannon, City Clerk Stephanie Marler, Police Chief Chad Corbin, Planning and Zoning Administrator Mitch Gabbert, HR Director Jessica Newton, Assistant Public Works Director Brett Marler, Firefighter Chris Courtney, Firefighter Lee Mott, Fire Fighter Jacob Silvers, Firefighter Conner Barnum, Blake Penn, and Bob Penn.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor House and Council Members McMahon, Hayes, Brown and Shields.

**SERVICE AWARDS:** HR Director Newton recognized several employees for their dedicated years of service to the City of Paola and its citizens.

**5 Years:** Michael Shonkwiler, Jacob Silvers, Colby Stanchfield & Bryant Traxon.

**10 Years:** Paul Seaman, Randi Shannon & Kelly Stewart

**15 Years:** Seth Katzer & Kirk Rees

**20 Years:** Lee Mott & Sheila Schultz

**Agenda Item 1 - CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of minutes of the meeting on December 10, 2024.
- b. Approval of Salary Ordinances 24-27 & 25-01.
- c. Approval of Appropriation Ordinance 1040 & 1041.
- d. Approval of the Pledged Collateral Report for December 2024.

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 Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

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

Blake Penn, 1213 Main St, Paola, said he had an issue with his sewer and discovered his home was connected to a private sewer line. He hired a plumber to tie into the City's main line instead of repairing the current private line. He said although he received a 50% reduction in the permit cost, he felt it was unfair since he made improvements to his house and wanted some of the permit costs returned to him.

**Agenda Item 3 – ANNUAL DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORYIES FOR CITY FUNDS**

Clerk Marler said the City annually designates the depository institutions for City funds. She said Paola is lucky enough to have five banks in the city limits. She said it is best to designate all five banks as depositories since that encourages competition and allows the City to earn higher returns.

Council Member McMahon made a motion to designate Security Bank of Kansas City, Great Southern Bank, First Security Bank, First Option Bank and Landmark National Bank as depositories for City funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brown and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

**Agenda Item 4 - ANNUAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PAY CLAIMS.**

Clerk Marler said with the meetings being conducted monthly, the Council has historically passed a resolution to allow the City Manager to pay claims before approval at the regular meeting. She said this could potentially save the city money on late fees and remain in good standing with vendors.

Council Member Brown made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-001 authorizing the City Manager to pay claims pursuant to K.S.A. 12-105b(e). The motion was seconded by Council Member Shields and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

**Agenda Item 5 - NEW BUSINESS****Agenda Item 5a – LDO TEXT AMENDMENT - Keeping of Farm Animals**

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said at the December 17, 2024 Planning Commission meeting, a public hearing was held, and Commissioners voted to recommend approval of a Land Development Ordinance (LDO) text amendment regarding the keeping of farm animals in Paola. He said this was initiated due to the number of inquiries staff has received over the last year about keeping these animals inside the city limits.

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said the current LDO regulations for the keeping of farm animals are limited. He said there are only 9 residential properties in the city limits that would be allowed to keep chickens, or any type of farm animal under the current regulations. Staff researched regulations in surrounding areas and presented draft Ordinance No. 3228 amending section 03.350 of the LDO.

Council Member Shields said she knows there are already chickens and bees in town and will only vote yes so there will be some type of regulations.

Council Member Brown asked about the requirement for a building permit considering all the different types of coops possible. Zoning Administrator Gabbert said the coop will be considered an accessory structure and the permit will help with enforcing the set back requirements.

Mayor House said people have frequently requested chickens be allowed in the city limits. She believes this is a good example of responding to citizen requests.

Council Member McMahon made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 3228, amending section 03.350 of the Land Development Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item 5b – LDO TEXT AMENDMENT - Exemptions From Sign Regulations**

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said at the December 17, 2024 Planning Commission meeting, a public hearing was held, and Commissioners voted to recommend approval of a Land Development Ordinance (LDO) text amendment regarding exemptions of political sign regulations. He said this was initiated due to staff finding that current regulations were not in conformance with Kansas Statute 25-2711. Draft Ordinance No. 3229 was presented to amend Section 07.102 (A)(5), to be consistent with Kansas Statute.

KSA 25-2711 is as follows:

*25-2711. Placement of political signs during election period. No city or county shall regulate or prohibit the placement of or the number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way for city streets or county roads on private property during the 45-day period prior to any election and the two-day period following any such election. Cities and counties may regulate the size and a set-back distance for the placement of signs so as not to impede sight lines or sight distance for safety reasons.*

Council Member Shields made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 3229, amending section 07.102 (A)(5) of the Land Development Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item 5c – MDL Technologies Agreement**

Clerk Marler requested approval to move forward with an agreement for IT services. She said the City of Paola uses an IT company to provide technical support services. The City had used the services of Network Innovations for several years. She said Network Innovations was bought out by Lighthouse then more recently Iron Edge.

Clerk Marler said when Iron Edge took over the City's account, there was no contact from an account manager or onboarding process completed. This has caused issues getting help with technology problems. She said bids were requested from three comparable companies and the following quotes were received:

The Purple Guys	\$5,324/mo
MDL Technologies	\$3,200/mo
GFI Digital	\$2,500/mo

Clerk Marler said after staff review of the submitted proposals, MDL Technologies seemed to be the best fit.

Council Member Hayes made a motion to approve the agreement with MDL Technologies to provide technology support services. The motion was seconded by Council Member McMahon and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item 5d – Street Sweeper Purchase**

Director Rees said the current 2007 Elgin Freightliner street sweeper is inoperable. He said he was able to locate a 2016 Elgin Freightliner street sweeper on Purple Wave Auctions being sold out of Castle Rock, CO.

Director Rees said a brand new street sweeper could range from around \$300,000 to \$400,000. He said staff placed the final bid on the street sweeper for \$96,000 to be paid from the MERF account. He said although this range is outside of the City Manager's purchasing authority, the purchase was approved in good faith knowing the amount of money it would save. He asked the Council to consider approval of the final purchase.

Council Member McMahon made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2016 Elgin Eagle Sweeper in the amount of \$96,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shields and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item 5e - Canvas Buildings Purchase**

Director Rees said the canvas buildings for the Public Works department need recovering. He said the canvas replacement was included in the 2025 budget. Below is the breakdown of pricing from KB Construction & Fabrication, LLC for each building.

Building #1: 50x100	\$22,150.00
Building #2: 50X60	\$15,100.00
Building #3: 30X60	\$9,375.00
Building #4: 30X60	\$9,375.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$56,000.00</b>

Council Member McMahon made a motion to approve the estimate of the four canvas buildings from KB Construction in the total amount of \$56,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

## **Agenda Item 5f - Patrol Unit Purchase**

Chief Corbin said the Police Department utilizes four vehicles for its patrol operations. In 2021, four (4) Ford Explorers were purchased and became the primary patrol vehicles. Based on the replacement schedule, these vehicles are slated to be moved out of the primary patrol rotation. These units will be utilized for detective and administration purposes.

Chief Corbin solicited bids from three vendors. The following bids were received:

Hendrick Chevrolet      \$56,105.00  
Chevrolet Tahoe PPV

Olathe Ford      \$49,515.00  
Ford Interceptor SUV

Louisburg Ford      \$48,609.76  
Ford Interceptor SUV

Chief Corbin requested the quote from Louisburg Ford be considered for approval. The vehicle cost will be \$194,439.04. The total equipment upfitting price for all 4 Interceptors is \$44,766.28 and Louisburg Ford has offered a trade-in value for the 2014 Dodge Durango of \$5,500.

Chief Corbin said the total cost of vehicles and upfitting will be financed through a bank loan. He said annual payments are included in the department's general fund budget. The approximate requested financing will be \$233,705.32 once all vehicles are purchased and upfitting complete.

Council Member Shields made a motion to approve the bid from Louisburg Ford in the amount of \$194,439.04 for the purchase of four (4) 2025 Ford Interceptors for the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

## **Agenda Item 5g - Dangerous Structure - 610 E Kaskaskia St**

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said the process for a municipality requiring the repair or removal of structures which are no longer fit for human life or which constitute a hazard to public health, safety and welfare is established under K.S.A 12-1750 thru 12-1756. He said the initial step of the process is for the governing body to review a report prepared by the enforcing officer. After reviewing the report the governing body, by resolution may set a date, time and place at which time all parties in interest may appear and present evidence why the structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished.

Zoning Administrator Gabbert presented an inspection report of the garage structure at 610 E Kaskaskia prepared by Inspector Buckles, pictures of the property and draft Resolution 2025-002 setting a public hearing. He noted that this has been an issue for several years and the time has come for the City Council to consider proceeding with the next steps in the dangerous structure process.

Council Member McMahon made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-002 setting the public hearing to be held on March 11, 2025 at 6:00 PM, at the Paola Justice Center, 805 N Pearl St, Paola, KS 66071. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shields and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item 6. STAFF REPORTS**

HR Director Newton said the City is starting to get some new hires.

Chief Corbin said former officer Nick Gazzano is returning to the Police Department in the lieutenant position.

Director Rees and Manager Shannon introduced Assistant Public Works Director Brett Marler as the Interim Public Works Director. He then reminded the Council of his retirement party on January 31st from 4-6 pm and hoped they could make it.

Director Rees said the recent snow event was a real pain due to the initial ice and sleet before the snow. He said with broken equipment and new employees it was hard to keep up with.

Zoning Administrator Gabbert said 2024 ended with 428 permits, 5 more than the previous year. He said they have seen some interest in empty lots. He also said there would be no Planning Commission meeting in February.

#### **Agenda Item 5. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

Council Member McMahon thanked Director Rees for his years of service and congratulated Assistant Director Marler on his new Interim Director role. He also mentioned he understood that the winter storm was difficult and luckily doesn't happen often.

Council Member Hayes thanked Director Rees and said she noticed the city streets were getting better from the storm.

Council Member Brown thought the storm was managed well and told Director Rees he appreciated him.

Council Member Shields told Director Rees she was going to miss him.

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

Mayor House said she contacted Luke DeGrande prior to the meeting to discuss his position on the Planning Commission.

#### **Consider the un-appointment of Luke DeGrande from the Paola Planning Commission.**

Council Member McMahon made a motion to un-appoint Luke DeGrande from the Paola Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hayes and all voted aye. The motion passed 4 to 0.

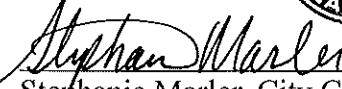
Mayor House thanked Director Rees and said he has been wonderful and will be missed.

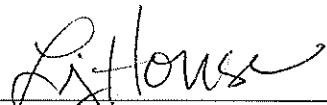
#### **Agenda Item 8 - ADJOURNMENT**

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

ATTEST: [seal]



  
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Stephanie Marler, City Clerk

  
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Leigh House, Mayor

