

MINUTES OF August 18, 2008

The council of the City of Burlingame, Kansas met in regular session in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m., August 18, 2008.

Presiding: Mayor Dorr

Present: Council members: Bloomquist, Fry, Strohm, Swander, DeMars

Present also: City Administrator Hutfles, City Attorney Godderz, City Clerk Patti Gilbert, Police Chief Jon Shaffer, Utility Foreman Gerry Grandstaff

Other persons: Kathy Kessinger, Roberta Bailey, DeAun Michael with the Osage County Herald-Chronicle, Gay Freidli, Teri Swander.

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an executive session on attorney-client privilege by Fry with a second from DeMars.

2009 Budget Hearing was opened with Mr. Hutfles explaining the difference in two budgets with different mil levy amounts. Mr. Bloomquist asked for clarification of why 2 different mil levy amounts and if we didn't need the higher one why ask for it. Mayor Dorr responded by stating Mr. Hutfles said there would be a shortfall with the lower budget. Roberta Bailey asked the Council how can they justify raising the mil, also raising all the utility rates? Mr. Hutfles noted to the council the assessed value through the county will be going up also. Kathy Kessinger reported to the council that the average price of a house in the city is \$67,131.00 adding the percentages a year that the value increases for residential and commercial. If everyone left their mil levy alone the increase would be around \$34.76, adding the county has not published their budget yet. Her basic concern is with the raise of inflation and the increases over-all how can people afford to live, pay utilities and the elderly are taking money out of savings to pay bills. Mrs. Kessinger stated to the council have they considered any of this information with a 3 mil hike. No other public comments were offered at this time. Motion to adjourn the budget hearing was made by Fry and second by Strohm. Ayes 5/ Nays 0

Mayor Dorr then moved into regular session for the council meeting.

Public comments: Gay Freidli asked the council if she was going to get a report on her complaint from last month or what action the council is taking. City Attorney Godderz responded until all reports are in, the city will not be commenting on it.

Authorization of minutes with corrections on August 4th was given by DeMars and a second from Swander. Ayes 5/ Nays 0

The July 2008 Financial Statement was reviewed with Mr. Hutfles asking council to look under receipts and expenditures, we are getting hit harder and our expenditures are outpacing our receipts. With buying natural gas for the winter months and our electrical charge skyrocketing just the Westar bill alone is over \$77,000. Mayor Dorr asked if it is expected to all come back. Mr. Hutfles replied it is a slow process, also in October, November and December is when we recoup what we put in storage now. The problem is now that we are getting to this point; our

checking account needs an injection of cash from the CD account. With the plan being to replace the CD hopefully by the end of the year. Mayor Dorr asked if the \$950,000 of CD's are included in the funds, Mr. Hutfles responded the CDs are mixed throughout the accounts. Ms. DeMars inquired if the CDs are listing in next year's budget and was told yes. Mayor Dorr stated the city needed to tighten their belt a little more such as over-time. Discussion over the procedures and reasons for over-time throughout all departments had been covered. Ms. DeMars wanted to have the cost of utilities to the city and what the resident is charged, Mr. Hutfles stating it will be in the next packet. Mr. Fry asked about the energy charge and the length of it being informed it will be on the bills possibly as far as October. Much discussion followed all the utility charges and the much need to look at the rates. Motion to accept the statement as is by DeMars and second by Fry. Ayes 5/ Nays 0

Claims Ordinance 2135, 2135a, 2135WP was approved with a motion after Mr. Fry asked on the bee removal at the pool charge, with Mayor Dorr asking is there a need to have all the credit cards. Mr. Hutfles informed her of who had a card and the amount. Mr. Fry asked if the city had an account at the post office and felt it would be simpler. Mayor Dorr asked if we could look into see if some of the residents would like the utility bill sent via email to save costs. Kathy Kessinger suggested to the council that the level pay be offered when a resident reaches 12 months instead of the yearly citywide in May. Motion was made to approve by DeMars with a second by Strohm. Ayes 5/ Nays 0

Phase II construction contract was next on the agenda, Mr. Hutfles stated Bartlett and West couldn't make the meeting this evening. He also went over the references he had received on the company that was awarded the bid. Rural Development in order to finalize their paperwork to release a notice to proceed. If everything is going as planned with a proposed pre-construction meeting on Sept 3rd, work could start as soon as Sept. 8th. Ms. DeMars and Mr. Bloomquist both shared they didn't want the city crews following behind doing some of the work. Mr. Godderz recommended to the council to give the Mayor approval to sign the contract only with the city attorney's approval after some questions had been answered. Motion to authorize after Mr. Godderz's approval by Strohm and second by Swander. Ayes 4/ Nays 1 Bloomquist

Ring of Fire entertainment request was presented by Mr. Hutfles stating he had tried to reach them to invite them to this meeting. Discussion over what was available to donate to their cause. Mrs. Strohm said here we are talking about cutting, Mr. Fry said that since it is not until the end of September, he suggests to table the item until the representatives can be there. Motion to table by Fry and second by Swander. Ayes 4/ Nays 1 DeMars

Next agenda item was regarding the Zielinski request on building repair and unsalvageable belongings. Mr. Hutfles updated the council on the repairs and where the situation was with the insurance company. The resident felt the monies offered by the insurance company was not enough to replace what had been damaged. Much discussion from the council on their viewpoints and what the city had to offer. At the suggestion of the City Attorney, the city should pay the difference to the residence and also acquire a signed release in order to close out the claim. Swander offered motion with a second from Bloomquist. Ayes 3/ Nays 2 Strohm, Fry

Discussion to accept the Waste Tire Grant Contract and authorize the City Administrator to sign on the city's behalf. 50/50 grant was awarded to the city for ground covering under the play equipment and a handicap picnic table. Mr. Hutfles stated about \$3800.00 with another \$200.00 from labor. The monies are in the special park fund and the grant is good for one year. Mr. Hutfles listed the obligations of fulfilling the grant requirements. Motion to accept and authorize Mr. Hutfles to sign the contract by Strohm and second by Fry. Ayes 3/ Nays 2 Swander, DeMars

Discussion on the approval of the 2009 Budget began with Ms. DeMars stating she was not happy with the way the budget was presented this year, feeling not enough numbers were given to the council. The published budget is with a mil levy of 37.641 and over the weekend Mr. Hutfles worked on a different budget with a mil levy of 35.027. Showing a reduction of \$10,978.00 in the budget. Mayor Dorr asked if we went with the lower mil levy would there still be a shortfall. Mr. Hutfles said we would still have the amount of \$7,785.00 short. Mr. Fry asked about the budget with the lesser amount including the reserves that are no longer there. Mr. Hutfles added without the reserves, there would be no urgent money budgeted for an emergency such as the sewer lift station or the downtown fire that happened in the past. Mrs. Strohm stated prices are obviously not going down, adding how can we keep cutting when we don't have the funds to operate now? Ms. DeMars interjected with we haven't been provided the numbers to make that fair decision. Much discussion continued over amounts with a motion made by Fry to accept the 2009 Budget unchanged with the second from Strohm. Ayes 3/ Nays 2 DeMars, Bloomquist

Motion by Fry to authorize the adoption of Ordinance of 2133 attesting to the increase of tax revenues with a second by Strohm. Ayes 3/ Nays 2 DeMars, Bloomquist.

Motion to move into executive session on non-elected personnel for 15 minutes by Fry with a second by Swander with City Administrator and Utility Foreman in attendance. Ayes 4/ Nays 1 Bloomquist

Council entered into executive session 8:49 pm.

Council returned to open session at 9:04 pm.

Mayor Dorr stated no action taken in executive session.

Motion to move into executive session on attorney-client for 10 minutes by DeMars with a second by Fry with City Attorney and City Administrator also. Ayes 4/ Nays 1 Bloomquist

Council entered into executive session 9:05 pm.

Council returned to open session at 9:15 pm.

Mayor Dorr stated no action taken in executive session.

Reports: Mr. Hutfles reported to council over the mud jacking at the library. The pool is now closed for the season and listed the remaining items out of the concession stand. Thursday and Friday of next week he will be in an economic development seminar. Mr. Hutfles stated a public thank you for all the help with National Night Out as he deemed it a huge success. City Clerk reported Rural Water # 7 contacted her at the option of purchasing water from the city instead of Osage City. Police Chief Shaffer thanked everyone for the National Night Out and all the assistance from the city's crews that helped. Ms. DeMars clarified what the time frame for the pool to be opened. Mayor Dorr reported at the corner of Dacotah and Santa Fe there is a truck full of brush that obstructs the intersection view, along with another property that needs to be looked at for overgrown weeds for Chief Shaffer to look at.

Motion to adjourn made by Fry with a second by Bloomquist. Ayes 5/ Nays 0

City Clerk