

City of Great Bend
January 6, 2025

REGULAR SESSION

The Governing Body met in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Cody Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following presents: Councilmembers, Rickee Maddox, Alan Moeder, Cory Urban, Kevyn Soupiset, Jolene Biggs, Gary Parr, and Tina Mingenback. Absent was Councilmember Davis Jimenez. Also in attendance were City Administrator Logan Burns, City Attorney Allen Glendenning, and City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on December 16, 2024.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 1-6-25:** Covering 2024 bills to date in the amount of \$1,983,934.30.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 12-27-24:** Covering payroll ending December 21, 2024, in the amount of \$528,802.67.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made no appointments.
- e) **Agenda:** Councilwoman Jolene Biggs requested the agenda be amended to add a discussion on the Solar Regulations. Mayor Schmidt also noted that the work session has been moved to the January 20, 2025, council meeting due to staff members being out because of the weather and being sick.

Mr. Soupiset made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor.

B. OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

C. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no visitors or announcements.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Oath of Office:** City Clerk Shawna Schafer sworn in newly elected councilmembers.
2. **Elect President of the Council:** The council president is a serving council member elected by the members of the City Council to serve in the temporary absence of the Mayor. Mr. Soupiset elected Cory Urban to serve as council president. The motion was seconded by Ms. Biggs and passed with all voting in favor.
3. **Councilmember Reports:** There were no Councilmember reports.

- 4. Administrators Update:** City Administrator Logan Burns presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.
- 5. 2024 Year End Transfers:** City Clerk/Finance Director Shawna Schafer reported that attached is the proposed listing of the 2024 nonbudgeted transfers in the amount of \$1,200,000. The listed projects are what we are earmarking the money for, however, the money does not have to be used for these projects and can be transferred back to the general fund or used for a different project if needed. It is my understanding that the council is still undecided on what to use the funds for, so I ask that you approve the \$1,200,000 so that I can continue to close out 2024, with \$400,000 from the water and sewer fund going to water and sewer projects and the other \$800,000 from the general fund to be transferred to the capital improvement fund with those funds labeled as to be determined. Once the council has a consensus on what to use those funds for, I can allocate accordingly at that time. Mr. Moeder made a motion to approve the 2024 nonbudgeted transfers in the amount of \$1,200,000 with \$400,000 going to water and sewer projects and the remaining \$800,000 to the capital improvement fund labeled as to be determined. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mingenback and passed with all voting in favor.
- 6. 2025 Brush Truck:** Fire Chief Brent Smith reported that as part of the fire department vehicle replacement plan we have implemented a plan so that aging equipment is replaced before it becomes unreliable for emergency response and also while the vehicle to be replaced has some trade in or resale value. GBFD has an apparatus committee that was put together to evaluate our current equipment. This committee is also responsible for working with the crews to determine what is the best replacement option and remain in our budget. The apparatus committee put together specifications for the brush truck. Specification were released to possible vendors, published in the city paper, and advertised on the city website. We received 3 bids, all three of which met our minimum specifications. It is the committee's recommendation that we accept the low bid from Hays Fire Equipment from Hays Kansas for \$195,253.00 with a delivery expected in approximately 365 days. The brush truck being replaced will either be traded in or will be sold following city policy. Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the bid from Hays Fire Equipment for a 2025 F550 Brush Truck for \$195,253.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parr and passed with all voting in favor.
- 7. Solar Regulations:** Ms. Biggs addressed the Governing Body about the Solar Regulations and why she voted no at the previous meeting to the regulations. Zoning in the three-mile should take into account how a particular land use will negatively impact city growth. The same open areas that are the most likely placement for a large-scale solar facilities is the very same land that city needs for potential growth. Ms. Biggs requested that we do have some regulations concerning solar farms but requests the council to make the regulation a 2000 foot setback from properties instead of 1000 foot setback from properties. Mr. Moeder stated that the people who own these properties should be able to do what they want with their property. The county also put a lot of time coming up with their regulations and we should mirror their regulations as well. After much discussion from other councilmembers on what the setback should be, Mr. Moeder made a motion to adopt the original Ordinance 4451, with the 1000 foot setback. The motion was seconded by Mr. Urban and passed by a vote of 5-2, with Ms. Biggs and Ms. Maddox voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moeder made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Soupiset and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56p.m.