

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 Alan Moeder, Cory Urban, Jolene Biggs, Davis Jimenez, Gary Parr and Tina Mingenback. Absent were councilmembers Rickee Maddox and Kevyn Soupiset. Also in attendance were City Administrator Logan Burns, City Attorney Allen Glendenning, and Deputy City Clerk Alison Urban.

OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Regular Session held on March 17, 2025.
- b) **Claim's Warrant Register 4-7-25:** Covering 2025 bills to date in the amount of \$943,021.95.
- c) **Payroll Register P/R 3-21-25 & P/R 4-4-25:** Covering payroll ending March 15, 2025, in the amount of \$571,109.55 and covering payroll ending March 29, 2025, in the amount of \$427,708.40.
- d) **Appointments:** Mayor Schmidt made the following appointments;

Library Board:

- Cassandra Hernandez
- Katy Schmidt

Commission on Aging Board:

- Carol Steiner

BOCTEA Board:

- Ryan Hammeke
- Jason Wahlmeier
- Alan Crowther

Zoning Board

- David Olson

Building Board of Examiners & Appeals

- David Olson

- e) **Agenda:** Mayor Schmidt amended the agenda changing the dates of the Great Bend Recreation firework show at the Sports Complex to April 12th, 2025, for approval under the consent agenda and removing Item #3, the report from Economic Development President Sara Arnberger.

Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Biggs seconded the motion 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. **Councilmember Reports:** There were no Councilmember reports.

2. **Administrators Update:** City Administrator Logan Burns presented an update on what is happening within the City organization.

3. **Discussion of Vet's Park Alcohol Ordinance:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that we currently treat Vet's Park as permission only for events that happen at the park such as Party in the Park. The other avenue the Council could take is that it would be exempt like the Event's Center and the Expo Complex where there is a blanket exemption on no alcohol. There is no requirement for Council approval for any particular event or time and alcohol can be consumed there at any time. At the zoo and the main hangar, consumption must be approved by the council each time. This essentially leaves the prohibition on alcohol in place except when lifted from time to time by the council. The one thing that was brought up was during summer adult slow-pitch softball games, there is alcohol consumed in the parking lots of Al Burns and Vets, but we have not had any trouble after speaking with Chief Haulmark. One idea is to make Vet's Park permission only but then come back with a resolution to allow alcohol consumption during adult softball leagues and be exempt. The purpose of this discussion would be to figure out what details the Council does and does not want in the ordinance and then we would correct the attached ordinance and bring it back for consideration and approval by the Council at the April 21st meeting.

5. **July 3rd Fireworks Show:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that annually, the City of Great Bend puts on a fireworks show on July 3rd for the community. In 2024, we used Victory Pyro for the show, and I have attached the proposals from them that include a 1-year agreement for 2025, along with a 1-year agreement for 2026. They have also included a 3-year agreement for 2025, 2026, and 2027 and if the Council were to approve that agreement, I would recommend doing Option 2 which would be to sign the agreement, no deposit required for year 2 or 3 but that includes a 6% additional product allotment. Option 1 would be no deposit for year 2 & 3 but would include a 4% discount. I have also attached separate proposals from Wald & Co., Inc. and All-American Display Fireworks for the price of \$15,000. Christina raised the money for the 2025 show along with securing money for next year's show in the amount of \$12,637 over the course of several years. We will need to continue to raise funds for the 2026 and 2027 show going forward. Ms. Biggs made a motion to go with the bid from Wald and Co. All American display for a cost of \$15,000. Mr. Moeder seconded the motion and passed by a vote of 4-2, with Mr. Urban and Mr. Davis voting no.

6. **Mini-Pitch Surfacing at Heizer Park:** City Administrator Logan Burns reported that as part of the Heizer Park project, the City of Great Bend was awarded grant funds from the Land & Water Conservation Fund through KDWP in the amount of \$161,260 with matching funds from the city in the amount of \$200,000 for a total of \$361,260 for the

project. The original project did not include any surfacing on the mini-pitch courts and would only be concrete. After consulting with KDWP, we are able to fluctuate the budget 10% across line items as submitted and is an allowable expense. We will be able to save some money on some other line items that would make it possible to put an acrylic surface on the court to add to the aesthetics and long-term preservation of the concrete. We received a quote from Merritt Tennis & Track Systems out of OKC in the amount of \$27,930.16. This would include the surface and lines for the mini-pitch system including a 12' stencil for mid-court with a City of Great Bend logo. The colors that we have selected are blue and gray and the work would be completed after the mini-pitch system is installed on May 12. Merritt's full quote and specifications are attached to this report. Mr. Moeder made a motion to approve the quote from Merritt Tennis & Track Systems for the mini-pitch surfacing at Heizer Park for \$27,930.16. Ms. Mingenback seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

7. **Preliminary Engineering Report for the Water System:** Public Works Director Jason Cauley reported that the City of Great Bend would like to enter into an agreement with JEO Consulting Group for the 2025 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). This project will evaluate both the City's main water system and the airport water system, identifying current issues and proposing solutions for future needs. The study will focus on water supply, distribution, storage, and quality, while also considering the city's growth projections. JEO will provide recommendations for system improvements, along with cost estimates. The project, totaling \$75,000, will be completed in stages over the course of 2025, with the final report offering key insights into the city's water infrastructure planning. The money is coming from the 2023 year end transfers for a utilities comprehensive study. Mr. Parr made a motion to approve the agreement with JEO for the 2025 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report for \$75,000. Mr. Moeder seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
8. **Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater Treatment Facility:** Public Works Director Jason Cauley reported that the City of Great Bend is wanting to partner with JEO Consulting Group to develop a 2025 Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Plan. The goal is to assess the current state of the WWTF and provide recommendations for necessary improvements. JEO will evaluate the facility's condition, capacity, and safety, focusing on both immediate repairs and long-term upgrades. The total cost for the project is \$85,000, with additional services available as needed. The money is coming from the 2023 year end transfers for a utilities comprehensive study. The final report will be delivered in phases, with a completion date estimated for 2026. Ms. Biggs made a motion to approve the agreement with JEO for the 2025 Wastewater Treatment Facility Preliminary Engineering Report for \$85,000. Ms. Mingenback seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.
9. **Air Burner:** Public Works Director Jason Cauley reported that since the inception of the compost site, we have burned tree debris in a berm area. We watch and pay attention to wind conditions, wind direction and moisture conditions before burning and get approval from the Fire Department. Depending on the wind the city can become inundated with the smell of smoke. In addition to this the street crew must watch the fire 24 hours while the fire is burning. According to KDHE statutes, if it is smoking it is still burning. We then must make sure someone is with it until it is completely out. We anticipate with this system we will be able to burn more frequently, allowing us not needing to stockpile as much tree debris. This system would burn approximately 3 to 4 tons of material an hour. Utilizing funds from our FEMA reimbursement for debris removal we would like to purchase an Air burner Firebox. The system is an enclosed steel box with an air curtain that traps smoke and increases the interior temperature to

approximately 1800 degrees F. Once it is up to temperature there is no smoke. We can burn during the day and within two hours of the end of the day begin the process of snuffing the fire, thus, under normal conditions, eliminating the need for staff to stand by. This system is a sole source and is endorsed by the EPA and US forest service. Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the purchase of the air burner firebox from Air Burners Inc. for \$163,107.00 and for Hammeke Electric to install an electric box at the compost site for \$2,259.12 for a total cost of \$165,366.12. Ms. Biggs seconded the motion and passed with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moeder made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mingenback and passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.