

**MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF GODDARD
118 NORTH MAIN, GODDARD, KS
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

The Goddard City Council met in a Regular Session at Goddard City Hall on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Mayor Hunter Larkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation. Council members present were Hunter Larkin, Sarah Leland, Keaton Fish, Aubrey Collins, and Brent Traylor.

Also present were, Teri Laymon, City Clerk; Matt Lawn, Finance Director; Brooke Brandenburg, Public Works Director; Lance Beagley, Police Chief; Harlan Foraker, City Engineer and Ryan Peck, City Attorney.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Teri Laymon, City Clerk, asked to remove Item H.2) Rezoning of 321 North Pine Street, Case #Zone 22-8 due to the absence of Community Development Director, Micah Scoggan.

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember *Fish* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Larry Zimmerman, 6 South Main St, accused the City Council of making hasty decisions regarding the condemnation case on property that was set aside for a new community center/library, which will have long term effect on the City. Zimmerman added that plans and promises made to citizens have been broken.

Melissa Silver, 327 North Pine, addressed the City Council regarding the rezoning of 321 North Pine. Silver expressed her concern regarding parking; the distance between the proposed duplex and her house, and the size of the lot for constructing a duplex. Silver asked the City Council to not rezone this lot as a multifamily.

Brad Vincent, 328 North Pine, also addressed the City Council regarding the rezoning of 321 North Pine. Vincent stated that he appreciates what the new owner has done and that they have cleaned up the lot but agrees with Ms. Silver regarding her concern of having a structure six feet from her house. Vincent also stated that with one garage per unit there will probably be a problem with parking on the street. Vincent stated he would much rather see a single-family house on the lot than a duplex.

Denise Heick, 2300 S. Leo Street, thanked Council Member Traylor for voting no on Zoning Case 22-5 for constructing duplexes at 167th Street and US 54. Heick added that she will be more involved in the City Council Meetings. Heick asked Council Member Leland for clarity on why she previously made a comment that there were too many duplexes in the community, but then later voted on having more duplexes.

Councilmember Leland clarified why her opinion had changed on the number of duplexes. Leland stated that she spoke with the Community Development Director and did some research to obtain additional information on what the actual numbers were, and felt that the developer had listened to the concerns that number of duplexes and adjusted the plan accordingly.

Heick also commented on the proposed zoning change at 321 North Pine.

George Liebe, 227 North Spruce, stated he would like to see the appointment of an Interim City Administrator and recommended that the position last for at least 18 months to extend past the next election to have a fully elected council to consider the hiring of a new full time City Administrator.

Gloria Bartnick, 312 South Elm, stated the people in the back of the room cannot hear what is being said at the bench. Bartnick suggested putting a microphone at the bench and one at the podium.

Travis Bryant, 19 E. Shenandoah, stated there were discussions at previous council meetings regarding the hiring of a building inspector and an interim City Administrator and asked that the City Council make informed decisions on what the city will need to pay for those positions. Bryant also commented the concern that he has about the city growing too big too fast in the STAR Bond area and who it will affect traffic flow. Bryant also stated he would like to see the investor in that area finish projects before starting new ones.

Jeffrey Jones, 269 Arbor Creek Court, addressed the City Council regarding H.5 Tree Removal discussion on frontage road. Jones suggested that for every tree that is removed a new one be planted somewhere else in the city.

Jones commented on the previous resignation of Mayor Larkin and the resignation of Jamey Blubaugh.

Jones asked when the City Council voted to change the structure of the Governing Body from having an elected mayor to having a mayor chosen by the City Council from among its members. Jones shared his opinion, to reestablish the way this town has governed and allow opportunity to vote on who they want. Jones stated he has spoken with people from all over the United States and they wonder what's happening here. "Save us all the embarrassment and step down from mayor and council effective immediately."

APPOINTMENT TO SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Teri Laymon, City Clerk stated a resolution was approved by the Board of County Commissioners, with the input from the cities participating, for the creation of a steering committee for the Sedgwick County Fire Department (SCFD). This resolution established Goddard, along with Bel Aire, Haysville, Maize, and Park City, as a representative city and there will be four at-large members selected from residents and business owners.

It was the consensus of the City Council to support the creation of a SCFD steering committee on September 6, 2022.

Laymon stated the mayor selects one individual to represent the City of Goddard and it is approved by the Governing Body. The individual must either live within the corporate limits of Goddard for at least two years from the time of appointment or has a business that is paying *ad valorem* taxes within the city for the last two years.

Laymon stated that the mayor has appointed Russ Lowen to the Sedgwick County Fire District #1 Steering Committee.

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to approve the mayor's appointment of Russ Lowen to the Sedgwick County Fire District #1 Steering Committee. Councilmember *Fish* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GODDARD GRATITUDE – APRIL HERNANDEZ

Sherry Lauer – President of the Goddard Library Board read the following statement:

Nearly four years ago, the City of Goddard and the Goddard Library Board of Directors envisioned a better library experience for the citizens of our community. Together, they hired the WSU Public Policy and Manager Center to help us with planning and with finding a new Library Director. We were thrilled when April Hernandez accepted our offer to lead the staff of our Goddard Library.

In September 2019, the same year she was hired, the non-profit Friends and Foundation was formed to help sponsor and support new programs at the library. In 2020, the pandemic hit us all very hard. But it didn't slow down the library! Under April's leadership, the library transitioned to virtual programs for kids and adults, and no contact materials checkouts. Our library was kept open when nearby libraries were closed.

In 2021, April envisioned a mobile library to serve those in the community who cannot easily visit our library building. A \$25,000 grant funded the purchase of a 30 foot, 2006 RV with only 19,000 miles. The City of Goddard, the Lion's Club, the Goddard Women's Club, and other sponsors have helped to support this new Mobile Library which now visits local churches, senior living centers, preschools, and senior centers.

During her tenure, April has increased registered patrons of the library by 87%. Attendance has grown by 41%, and use of library materials has increased by 31%. Program participation has grown by 200%. Last year, the summer reading program served more than 900 children and adults.

The Board of Directors are saddened to see April leave even though we are happy for her as she moves closer to family in southeast Kansas while taking on a new role offering support to 103 public, school, and academic libraries spread across 15 counties in that corner of the state. April has revived the Goddard Library. Her creativity, tireless energy, and passion for her work has shown us that the quality of a public library is not determined by the size of the community it serves, but rather upon how well it serves its community. Through her leadership, the library has become an integral part of the community, empowering our citizens by providing resources and activities that enrich, enlighten, and inspire.

We appreciate her efforts and are committed to continuing to build upon the legacy she has created during her time with our library.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Councilmember *Traylor* moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember *Leland* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BLACK HILLS ENERGY

Matt Lawn, Finance Director stated that Black Hills Energy (BHE) has submitted a request for a franchise fee agreement to serve the properties to the north of Maple that are within the Corporate City limits.

Lawn explained that every utility provider doing business within the corporate city limits of Goddard must agree to a franchise fee agreement with the city to conduct business. Franchise fees agreements vary but for gas the fee is based on the volume sold to customers within the city limits of Goddard.

James Williams, Senior Community Affairs Program Manager and Joe Terick, Operations manager were present for any questions.

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to waive the reading of the ordinance. Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to adopt said ordinance. Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea: Fish, Leland, Larkin, Traylor, Collins
Nay:

Ordinance #918

PUBLIC WORKS NEW HIRE

Brooke Brandenburg, Public Works Director stated as the city grows the need for additional staff becomes necessary to continue to have a clean and well-maintained city. Goddard has grown significantly over the past decade. During that time several existing and new subdivisions were completed, nearly doubling the city's population. The completion of those developments added over 12 lane miles to the City's Street Maintenance and Snow Removal Programs. Daily water operations also increased due to additional testing and monitoring requirements associated with a larger population and more individual water services. When the multiple approved and proposed subdivisions are built out, Goddard population is projected to reach nearly 10,000 by the year 2030.

Public Works has been operating with the current allotment of eight employees for over ten years. At times Public Works staff shortages restrict the ability to address citywide needs and citizen concerns in a timely manner. An additional employee would help alleviate staffing shortages and allow for additional work to be completed.

This position would be subordinate to the Public Works Director and as such the Public Works Director would manage all the aspects of the position with the new hire including, but not limited to, onboarding and training.

Brandenburg stated the average cost will be \$69,000 annually for salary, benefits, taxes, and retirement. Costs will be charged equally to water, sewer, and street admin.

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to approve the addition of a new public work laborer position. Councilmember *Traylor* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CAR SHOW RAIN DATE CHANGE

The City Council approved the Goddard Lions Club car show sound waiver and road closure for April 1st on the Main St of Goddard between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. They have submitted a road closure permit to host this event along with all necessary documents including liability insurance.

The event will have amplified sound with music and announcements that will be audible 150' away and a sound waiver was approved by the city council.

The Lions Club would like to ask for a "Rain Day" amendment to allow for the sound waiver and the road closure to be conducted on Sunday April 2nd in case the car show gets rained out on April 1st.

It was recommended the City Council:

1. Waive the reading of the ordinance.
2. Approve the amendment for the waiver for the sound ordinance for the Goddard Lions Club car show and approve the road closure amendment to allow for a rainy day on Sunday April 2 if the needs call for it.

MOTION: Councilmember *Fish* moved to waive the reading of the Ordinance. Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to adopt said ordinance. Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea: Fish, Leland, Larkin, Traylor, Collins

Nay:

Ordinance #919

TREE REMOVAL DISCUSSION ON FRONTAGE ROAD

Brook Brandenburg, Public Works Director stated the Goddard Genesis development is the largest commercial project in the city of Goddard. It runs along the south frontage road and abuts Crowne Dr on the east and Goddard Rd (199th) on the west.

In December of 2020 the developer asked if the city would be willing to remove the trees that block the development from US 54/400.

Most Commercial businesses along US 54 do not have a tree row blocking their view from potential patrons except for this project. Discussion with KDOT revealed a lengthy story about previous landowners and the conclusion that the city could remove them if they desired to.

Donald Snyder of KDOT stated he had no objections to the trees being removed by the city since it would help with mowing.

Brandenburg stated that rather than get bids for the project, he believes that public works can remove the trees in house, and contract with a company to haul the trees off to save a substantial amount of money.

Brandenburg added that they would, however, get bids to grind out the stumps once the trees are removed. Brandenburg added that once there is a landscape plan, more trees will be planted in the area.

MOTION: Councilmember *Fish* moved to approve the removal of the trees by public works and to get bids on the removal of the stumps. Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT ABODE GRANT

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) stimulus package was passed on March 11, 2021. This stimulus package provides grant opportunities to the disabled and elderly called ARPA Building Opportunities for the Disabled and Elderly (A.B.O.D.E).

Michael O'Donnell addressed the City Council on behalf of Rodney Stevens who is actively looking at requesting ABODE financing in the form of \$2,000,000 to build a senior multifamily apartment building in the Goddard Genesis Development area. The apartment building would consist of 50 units and be marketed toward those who qualify as senior, which, according to the county is 55 and over. O'Donnell stated that there was a study completed within the City of Goddard which showed a complete lack of affordable housing and a lack of apartments. The study shows that a project such as this would be filled up immediately.

The deadline for submitting the letters of support is February 27, 2023.

Staff recommend the city council authorize the mayor to sign a letter of support for the A.B.O.D.E grant and have the Community Development Director sign another letter.

MOTION: Councilmember *Traylor* moved to authorize the mayor to sign a letter of support for the ABODE grant as presented. Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Yea: Traylor, Collins
Nay: Fish, Leland, Larkin

Motion failed

LETTER OF SUPPORT RAISE GRANT

Paul Gunzelman, Assistant City Engineer with the City of Wichita, has asked the city to consider having the mayor sign a letter of support for a R.A.I.S.E grant.

Wichita will use the letters of support to bolster their application to the U.S Department of Transportation and KDOT to compete for grant money to create infrastructure improvements around Eisenhower Airport.

“The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$12.1 billion for fourteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.”

The City of Wichita will be asking for \$2,400,000 from the federal request and will be contributing \$600,000 of its own money in a local match.

It was recommended that the City Council: Consider having the mayor sign a letter of support for the R.A.I.S.E grant.

MOTION: Councilmember *Traylor* moved to authorize the mayor to sign a letter of support for the R.A. I. S.E grant as presented. Councilmember *Fish* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAMBER PROPOSAL

Angie Duntz, Director of the Goddard Chamber of Commerce presented a proposal to partner with the City of Goddard to raise awareness of services, promote Goddard businesses and organizations and encourage participation in community events.

The proposal includes:

City of Goddard/Goddard Chamber Collaboration Videos:	\$ 5,000
Goddard Family Movie Nights	\$ 3,000
Goddard Farmer’s Market	\$ 5,500
Goddard Community Event Additional Features	\$11,156
Administration Fees	\$10,000
Goddard Fall Festival/Community Event 2022 Budget Deficit	<u>\$11,019</u>
Total	\$45,675

Approx \$25,000 will be funded from Transient Guest Tax via the Tourism Promotion Fund. The remaining \$20,675 will be funded through the Community Events cost center in the General Fund which has a 2023 budget of \$32,100.

It is recommended the City Council: Receive the Chamber of Commerce proposal and direct staff to release funds to the Chamber and establish a budget for these services beginning in 2024.

MOTION: Councilmember *Traylor* moved to approve the Chamber's request of \$45,675. Councilmember *Fish* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

YEAR END DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Teri Laymon, City Clerk presented the 2022 year-end Administration Report.

Matt Lawn Financial Director presented the year-end Financial Report.

April Hernandez, Library Director presented the year-end Library Report

Matt Lawn, Presented the year-end Community Development Report

Lance Beagley, Police Chief, presented the year-end Police Report

Brooke Brandenburg, Public Works Director presented the year-end Public Works Report

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR POSITION DISCUSSION

Teri Laymon stated that on February 6th 2023, the City Council announced the possibility of assigning an interim city administrator to fulfill the role of acting city administrator until such a time as a new city administrator could be hired. The position would be for the continuing management of the day-to-day operations for the city while working with department heads, city staff, elected officials and the citizens to facilitate the city moving forward and would help the future city administrator once they are brought onboard to acclimate to the day-to-day operations and facilitate a smooth transition into the future.

Mayor Larkin suggested that previous city administrator duties be split among multiple people and have one person as the liaison between city staff and the city council as a whole. Larkin also suggested compensating those individuals for their extra duties assigned.

Matt Lawn, Finance Director, stated that he has a Master of Public Administration and stated that he would be a good candidate for the position and the liaison between city staff and the city council. Lawn added that Teri Laymon, City Clerk and Human Resources Director could share in the City Administrator duties along with Micah Scoggan and it could be done without bringing in an Interim City Administrator from outside the organization.

Councilmember Collins wanted to make sure that no one individual is overwhelmed with the additional duties and to let the Council know if staff is getting overwhelmed.

Councilmember Leland asked that the city be represented at the Chamber board meeting by one or all the administrators on a regular basis.

Mayor Larkin asked that any requests or pertinent information that is received by staff, be submitted to the City Council as soon as possible.

Matt Lawn requested that if City Council has a request of staff that it be communicated to all three of the administrators so that everyone is all on the same page.

MOTION: Councilmember *Larkin* moved to split up the interim city administrator duties between Matt Lawn, Teri Laymon and Micah Scoggan and to increase their salaries by \$3,500 each per month on an interim basis.
Councilmember *Collins* seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:
Yea: Fish, Leland, Larkin, Traylor, Collins
Nay:

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

Councilmember Fish stated he has had a few conversations with Angie regarding the Main Street Market and shared the Logo that they came up with. Fish clarified that he wanted to call it the Main Steet Market as opposed to the Farmer's market as they wanted it to support Goddard's businesses and to get more foot traffic on Main Street. Fish added that he has visited with some of the businesses to discuss a good day and time for the Market and it was the consensus to hold it on a Sunday afternoon starting around June 2023, although that is not set in stone.

Councilmember Leland thanked City Staff for all that they do and their commitment to the city and added that she is deeply appreciative. Leland clarified that she is all in for senior subsidized housing in Goddard and would love for help from the government to help fund that, but said she felt that the proposed project was not a good location.

Mayor Larkin brought up some issues that he has been working on, including the library, the Community Center, the Goddard Chamber, and water reserves.

Councilmember Collins addressed the amplification problem within the council room and added that staff should probably look into it.

Councilmember Traylor apologized in advance for his vehicle that he will be driving around during the car show, as it is loud.

Mayor Larkin stated to address some of the concerns from Citizens Comments, pointed out that the adoption of the Charter Ordinance that changed the structure of the Governing Body was initiated by the former Mayor.

Mayor Larkin also pointed out that former Mayor Larry Zimmerman stated in his comments that the City had a plan for the proposed community center that was to be constructed on the property that was in the process of being condemned under eminent domain. Larkin stated the city did not have a plan. The city hired an engineer and paid thousands of dollars for a drawing, and that is not a plan. "Misinformation like that is what tears this community apart."

Councilmember Larkin stated that he wasn't sure if they needed an executive session but wanted to openly say that he is not in favor of condemning any property without the owners of the property agreeing to sell the property and agreeing with the terms. Mayor Larkin explained that the imminent domain process can, however, be used as a tool for certain situations like for city infrastructure or streets. Discussion ensued regarding the railroad property, which the City has been mowing for years. Ryan Peck City Attorney stated that there is a full agreement in place between the City and the property owners for that property, and the property owners are in agreement to proceed and we are just waiting to close on the property.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilmember *Leland* moved to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. *Collins* seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.
Teri Laymon, City Clerk