

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALTAMONT
October 14, 2021**

- REGULAR MEETING The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Mayor Richard Hayward presiding. Mayor Hayward opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Eric Rucker led the prayer. Councilmembers present: Craig Carnahan, Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey, Jeff Garretson and Paul Souders.
- MINUTES Councilmember Garretson moved and Cochran seconded to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting from September 23, 2021. Motion carried.
- INVOICES Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to pay the invoices in the amount of \$100,787.86. Motion carried.
- CHANGE COURT SESSION Judge Brian Johnson commented that Heather Beasley is the most interested in the position as court clerk than what he has had in the past. He states that she had only two days of training inside the court before she was left to do it alone. She has a huge amount of paperwork to do that people don't see or know about, she is learning a new system and has done a good job. He is glad that Beasley was brought on as the City Clerk, but asks that she remain the Court Clerk. He would like to see her get a raise due to the amount of time that she has put in and the amount of training that she has done. As the County Counselor one of the problems they have at the county is keeping qualified people, they currently have 34 open positions. Keeping people who are really interested and show that they want to do the job is a wonderful thing and he has always believed more in investing in people than machines.
- Judge Johnson proposes that due to the workload that court be held once per month, rather than two. He doesn't want to step on Chief Shields' toes by requesting to hold court once a month, but thinks it would work better. Johnson asks that the court be able to purchase a rolling cart, with a new printer accessible to the Court Clerk, rather than leaving the room to make copies for defendants. Mayor Richard Hayward says until Heather Beasley leaves the City of Altamont, she will always be the Court Clerk. Mayor says he told Heather to check prices on equipment and order whatever the judge thought needed to be purchased. City Administrator LeaAnn Myers suggested to purchase the new equipment next year, because of the budget numbers for the remainder of this year. Johnson suggested using American Rescue Plan money to purchase equipment. Mayor Hayward states that Heather Beasley did receive a raise with her new position, but he thinks that what Judge shared with council may have a bearing when it comes to raises, knowing now the extra amount of work that she is putting in for Court Clerk too. Hayward states that she has been somewhat compensated but isn't saying that can't be relooked here come the end of the year and maybe first of the year do something too. Hayward doesn't see any issues with only holding court one night during the month. Hayward states that it's Johnson's court, he's the Judge and if he thinks it's best to hold one night a month, that's what we should do. Johnson asks for the second Wednesday of the month to hold court. Judge Johnson thinks we need to give people time for the court days to be changed he suggests we start in January. Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to change court to the second Wednesday of the month as being the only court date for the Altamont City Court, starting January 2022. Motion carried.
- Mayor Hayward asks how court is going and overall how things are going. Judge Johnson says that the police are doing a good job with security of the city we haven't had any major issues. He says he has been the Municipal Judge for 5 years and everything has been going well, compared to other cities we have low crime. Mostly non-violent and mostly traffic related.
- LC TRAP SHOOTING CLUB Dwayne Rosson says that Twin Valley offered land in front of Western Way and there wasn't enough shot fall area. Dr. Wyrick checked with the attorneys about the 40 acres south of the football field, north of the industrial park and they said that area would work. Dr. Wyrick doesn't want them going through the football field in order to get there, due to the kids having guns and it gets congested. Dwayne Rosson requests to get approval for the shooting range to be in city limits and cross city property to a parking pad. School board voted unanimously for the shooting sports to move to the 40 acres south of the football field. Brad said they have some clay and other things they've had hauled out. John Baugher says they've had donors offer to do construction for them, he thinks they will be able to do a lot of the work with their funds and the donors help. City would need to supply reliable electric to the property. Brad says they would need a transformer but there is an electric pole out there for them to use. The parking pad would need to be enough for 10-12 vehicles, maybe 20 Baugher states, in case they ever got a bigger league going. Hayward is all for the parking area as that is less area for the city guys to maintain. Councilmember Carnahan asks if the city would be incurring any cost to complete the road, Baugher states that he thinks they can get it done privately. They have self-funded a budget for the trap team through fundraisers also and state they would not be asking the city to pay for anything on the project. Hayward requests them to send their liability waivers and insurance to LeaAnn to forward to Robert Myers. Practices would be held for an hour and a

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- LC TRAP SHOOTING CLUB** half twice a week with a possibility of some Saturday tournaments. Hayward asked Robert Myers to check about the discharging of firearms in the city limits. Myers will check and if need be there can always be an exception made. All shotguns, no pistols or rifles will be shot states Baugher. It will be set up so the fall zone stays on the property. Moving forward they can hire a company to come in and remove the shots and lead for free, with permission to be on the property. Robert Myers states there is already a built in exception for the discharge of firearms on a private or public shooting range, so as long as it's posted there is an exception in place. Councilmember Carnahan moved and Souders seconded to approve the LC Shooting Sports plan as presented to use city property in the industrial park as access for their shooting range and give them permission to construct a road and a parking lot, contingent on our attorney. Motion carried.
- 20 ACRES DEVELOPMENT** LeaAnn Myers added the utility information to council's packet this time about their general utility study. Councilmember Carnahan says there's been lots of talk over the years about what they would do with the property and he thinks if there were ever going to be a first step to figuring that out this is it. There still may never be anything that gets constructed but this seems to be the venue to hold the conversations with the community and figure out what they would like to see. LeaAnn Myers explains that with a master plan we will be able to work on grants to make the master plan a reality. Without a plan how do you start that process? Councilmember Coffey asks about other costs that are not included like hotel rooms and such. LeaAnn says the paperwork states those costs should not exceed \$500, if it were to exceed that amount they would get approval in writing in advance for those expenses. Councilmember Coffey moved and Sounders seconded to move forward with the GMLV architecture agreement for project development plans for the 20 acres. Motion carried.
- TRANSFER 20 ACRES FROM LAND BANK** Councilmember Carnahan asks why they need that property transferred out of the land bank in order to move forward. LeaAnn Myers stated that the land in the land bank leaves it open to someone to come in and put in an application to purchase it. Councilmember Coffey moved and Cochran seconded to move forward with the plan to move the 20 acres from the land bank back to the City's property. Motion carried
- EASEMENT RELEASE** Mayor Hayward would move to table the issue until the survey is complete on the property. He would like to wait for the results of that survey for legal purposes, and would like for the office to reach out to the property owner on a timeframe of when the survey would be done.
- COUNCILMEMBER CARNAHAN RESIGNATION** Craig was asked to coach his daughter's basketball team and he would not have the time any longer to commit to council. Councilmember Coffey moved and Cochran seconded to approve the resignation of Craig Carnahan. Motion carried.
- OPEN SEAT APPOINTMENT** Mayor Hayward would like to appoint Kyle Wiford to the open council position for the remainder of this year. Councilmember Coffey moved and Cochran seconded to accept the appointment of Kyle Wiford to replace Craig Carnahan. Motion carried.
- WAR VETERAN MEMORIAL** Jeff Garretson resent an email requesting the information that he should have had a month ago and they said they would get it out to him as soon as possible.
- COUNCIL RETREATS** LeaAnn said that KMIT may train on the KOMA-KORA topics. She was asked to reach out after the first of the year and try to get something scheduled.
- OLD FIRE DEPARTMENT** Mayor Hayward requested that the office reach out to the people who quoted demolition previously and see about a new quote to get that accomplished next year. Robert Myers stated to make a specific request for the quote to be in that budget year.
- AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS** LeaAnn and Heather are working on getting the numbers on the February bills compiled to pass some money along to the city for the high gas bills in February.
- CITY ADMIN REPORT** Deputy City Clerk position is open and we are accepting resumes until Wednesday October 20th at noon. LeaAnn worked with KMEA and secured 200 kilowatt of electric for the months of December, January and February. For each of those months it was a little over 8 cents per kilowatt hour, by doing that it reduces our daily market exposure from 33% down to 17% for those months, to hopefully offset the price of gas going up. The city won't actually pay for that electric until those months. LeaAnn attended the Southern Star webinar and Southern Star is expecting the gas prices to continue to rise into 2022 and not

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CITY ADMIN REPORT to normalize and back off until well into 2023. They expect that gas production would be lower through the next decade. LeaAnn reached out to SEK Regional Planning to seek help with the LMI study, when speaking with the Department of Commerce they state we needed to wait until they had their meeting after the first of the year. LMI studies are only good from one census to the next, so starting it now isn't helpful currently. Lease purchase for police radios was finalized and sent off. LeaAnn and Heather are working on totals from the February bills so we can see about using some ARPA funds to help the community. Everyone will get the money, not just the people who still owe money or the ones who paid off their bill in total. Lease purchase paperwork finalized for new trash truck. New utility cards were ordered and are here with the options to choose if you would like to donate to Heatshare, fireworks, fishing derby or recreation. Mayor Hayward would like to find out about hedge in gas like they do in electric.

POLICE REPORT Chief Michael Shields says they've handled numerous calls, everything from dog bites, to animal control, horse complaints, our typical civil standbys, child exchange, citizen assists, lake patrol and safety checks. Continuing with citations and warnings, to make sure people are abiding by the speed limits and stuff like that. Conducted numerous investigations and made several arrests, from civil battery, warrants, suspended licenses. Numerous violations of protection orders as well as stalking orders, they also assisted the sheriff's department with arrests as well as motorcycle theft cases. Assisted and made an arrest for Parsons PD when the suspect fled to Altamont. Sexting cases for high school and now into grade school, he is currently working on getting a program started with the County Attorney addressing the situation. Vital signs hung new signs at the police and fire departments. Appreciative of the city for purchasing those signs, they look great. Things have picked up as far as caseloads for the city. Congratulations to Lacy Atkins for completing part time academy and receiving her certification. She has covered ball game security and part time patrol duty. Full time officers received radar training this last week. Councilmember Carnahan asks if the new procedures in the animal ordinance are being followed with the dog bite calls. Shields states they are following those procedures. They are starting a compliance check throughout the city to check for unregistered animals, and sending letters to citizens to register their animals.

UTILITY Brad Myers stated they received the new trash truck. Josh and JB went to overhead electric school in McPherson. Hedgerow was cleaned up at the cemetery, looks amazing. Overflow pipe at the lake lining is done, looks good. Kansas Wildlife and Parks said to send them a bill, they will pay 70%. There is still a little bit of rock to put around the edge, but it looks really good. Councilmember Souders asked what the plan was with the old trash truck. Brad said they've used the old truck two times, for bulk trash so they could run both trucks. They have had to borrow the Oswego trash truck in the past, and other cities have tried to borrow from us in the past when theirs was broke down. Councilmember Garretson thinks we need to keep it. Bulk trash brought 30 tires that the city then had to pay to have disposed of, which cost the city \$64.00. Souders state that the rules need to be followed in regards to bulk trash or measures will need to be taken.

RURAL WATER Councilmember Coffey says that at the Rural Water District meeting they voted on and passed to increase water rates, currently at \$4 per thousand and it will go up to \$4.50 per thousand. This was necessary due to expenses.

ADJOURN Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to adjourn at 8:12PM. Motion carried.

DATE

Heather Beasley, City Clerk