

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ALTAMONT  
December 27, 2022**

- 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 prayer. Councilmembers present: Ben Cochran, Kyle Wiford, Lyle Sykes & Cameron Johnston.
- MINUTES Councilmember Johnston moved and Cochran seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.
- INVOICES Councilmember Cochran moved and Wiford seconded to pay the invoices in the amount of \$99,072.09. Motion carried.
- TAYLOR JOHNSTON Taylor was present to request extended lake stay until May 19 with plans of moving out May 20, 2023. Councilmember Johnston suggested extending his stay through the end of first quarter, the end of March 2023.
- Councilmember Sykes moved and Johnston seconded to extend the stay through the first quarter, end of March 2023. Motion carried.
- ANTHONY AUSTIN Anthony Austin is the new full time police officer for the City of Altamont. Anthony has been in Oklahoma for 15 years and is planning to rent a house in Altamont. Anthony looks forward to being in Altamont and seeking out his passion in Law Enforcement, and making it a safer place.
- REC COMMISSION The Altamont Recreation Commission is requesting Council appoint Lacy Atkins term ending December 31, 2026.
- Councilmember Cochran moved and Wiford seconded to appoint Lacy Atkins to the Altamont Recreation Commission. Motion carried.
- KMGA Council was provided with the KMGA and MMGA Gas Supply Agreement, as well as the KMGA and City Participation Agreement. The city was given a prepay agreement for natural gas from KMGA, to enter into an agreement with MMGA for a term of 30 years. The city nor KMGA would be prepaying for natural gas, but rather pay as they go. MMGA (Minnesota Municipal Gas Agency) would issue bonds to prepay for the gas initially. Entering into the agreement would allow the city to take advantage of discounts that would range anywhere from 25-40 cents below market index prices.
- City Attorney Robert Myers said that the agreement was pretty standard. They do mention in the contract that the City of Altamont would waive their right to have a jury trial, which is also a standard procedure with these types of agreements. Councilmembers Johnston, Cochran, Sykes and Wiford see no concerns with moving forward in learning more about the agreement.
- SOLID WASTE UPDATE The Labette County Commissioners have asked the Labette County Solid Waste Committee to come to an agreement with GFL regarding the rates for the Parsons Transfer Station. City Administrator LeaAnn Myers attended the solid waste meeting on December 15, 2022.
- GFL expressed their desire to continue running the Parsons Transfer Station for the remainder of their contract, through 2030. GFL stated with the increased price of hauling they needed some help to offset the rising cost.
- The original contract was set up in 2020 at \$38.00 per ton and then a 3% increase every two years. According to the current contract, the rate is set to increase as follows: 2022 - \$38.76, 2024 - \$39.54, 2026 - \$40.33 and 2028 - \$41.14.
- Earlier in 2022, the Labette County Solid Waste Committee granted a temporary 6 month rate increase to \$40.76 per ton to offset inflation and hauling cost. At the December 15 meeting, the Committee approved to continue the temporary rate of \$40.76 through March 1, 2023, while they wait to get more information from GFL to make decisions regarding prices. GFL requested a starting number of \$46.00 per ton for 12 months. The Solid Waste Committee is holding a work session on January 11, 2023, to discuss pricing and budgets.
- LeaAnn Myers recommended that Council appoint herself to the Labette County Solid Waste Committee. Myers also recommended Council appointing a proxy voter to the Labette County Solid Waste Committee as well.
- Councilmember Cochran moved and seconded to appoint LeaAnn Myers to the Labette County Solid Waste Committee. Motion carried.

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Councilmember Cochran moved and to appoint Heather Beasley as a proxy voter in the event of LeaAnn Myers absence to the Labette County Solid Waste Committee. Motion carried.

- CITY ADMINISTRATOR **1) Police Officer Opening** – Mr. Anthony Austin started on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We would like to welcome Anthony to the Altamont Police Department
- a. There is a pending conditional offer to another applicant to fill the fourth police opening, pending pre-employment physical and drug test.
  - b. Hired Office Jodie Whitson as a part time officer. She has worked for the City in the past. We are happy to have her back.
  - c. Part-time Officer Josh Fields-Daniels will be leaving employment with the City of Altamont, as he has accepted a full-time position with another agency.
  - d. Police Chief Michael Shields has worked diligently and covered many extra shifts to make sure shifts have been covered during staffing shortages.
  - e. Police Chief Shields took part in Shop with a Cop in Parsons.
- 2) New Employees** – Processed new employment paperwork and enrollments in employee benefits.
- 3) Solid Waste** – Attended the Solid Waste meeting. There will be a work session in January for the Cities to discuss what kind of increase they could handle to help offset hauling cost.
- 4) Electric Upgrade** – Council approved up to \$53,151.19 for Twin Valley to do the electric upgrade. Thanks to the prep work the Altamont Utility Department completed before starting the project, the bill from Twin Valley came in at \$27,906.63
- 5) Building Repairs** – TW Construction was delayed on starting on utility building but plans to start sometime after Christmas.
- 6) Health Insurance** – Reviewed and signed new Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas contract for the City Employees.
- 7) Christmas Parade** – Bridget Nash did an excellent job with the Altamont Christmas Parade. There was a great turnout for parade entries and public attendance.
- 8) KMU Training** – The City Office attended the KMU Legislative update.
- a. Rob Gartner presented employee training on Flammable & Combustible and Error Prevention.
- 9) Poor Boys Tree Service** – Started trimming trees on December 12.
- 10) Utility Rates** – LeaAnn is reviewing electric and gas utility rates. We are looking at rate increases to help with raising utility expenses and inflation.
- 11) Lead and Copper** – We have received quite a few lead and copper letters back from the residents. If you have not turned one in, please get those back to the City Office. Thank you for your help with this.

COMMUNICATIONS -City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of New Year's Day.

ADJOURN Councilmember Cochran moved and Sykes seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. 7:26PM

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DATE

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Heather Beasley, City Clerk