

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ALTAMONT  
February 25, 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 Pastor Han led the prayer. Councilmembers present: Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey, Jeff Garretson and Paul Souders.
MINUTES	<p>Councilmember Garretson moved and Cochran seconded to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.</p> <p>Councilmember Cochran moved and Garretson seconded to accept the special meeting minutes of February 15, 2021. Motion carried.</p>
INVOICES	Councilmember Garretson moved and Cochran seconded to approve the invoices in the amount of \$88,662.87. Motion carried.
LAKE	<p>Gary Chapman and Dean Ruark requested playground equipment at Idle Hour Lake next to the south campsites and possibly a light. Brad Myers will check with Evergy on the light. Council will check into it and see what they can do.</p> <p>Councilmember Carnahan in at 7:07 PM.</p>
PIT BULLS	Midge Grinstead with the National Humane Society (NHS) attended the meeting with information about breed specific bans. Ms. Grinstead stated about 29 communities have overturned these bans and they haven't had issues. Any dog that attacks someone off their own property is a dangerous dog. Councilmember Cochran asked Ms. Grinstead for their policy to review. Mayor Hayward asked if NHS could help us with our ordinance. Ms. Grinstead said there are websites who do not like pit bulls who put out misinformation. The American Veterinary Association is a reliable source according to Ms. Grinstead. She also stated blood test are only about 65% effective, and 60-65% of bites occur in the home. The League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) said the City would fall under the Kansas Tort Claim Act if we removed the ban.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR	Report written by Audree Aguilera. Electric lineman – tabled to May 13 <sup>th</sup> , in meantime will work on liability questions and other possible options with cost. Natural gas/energy crisis – discussion and plan of action. Officer Brian Sinclair has resigned as of February 28, 2021. He will stay on as a part-time officer. Jonathon Davis has been hired as a full-time officer. Jonathon will go to academy on March 29 <sup>th</sup> to July 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Police department is hiring part-time officers. USDA has accepted and completed loan writing; no change. Audit documents have been completed and turned in; audit is set for March. Fixed asset listing is finished; adding blanket coverages for uncovered items. Insurance renewal at the March 11 <sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Update of personnel handbooks, policies and guidelines is half-way complete. Wave Wireless will be here by end of February to look at adding a connection for Facebook Live. Upcoming items and projects – utility billing policy and procedures, towing policy for Police Department, GIS maps for utilities and annexation of property on Ness Road.
ANIMAL ORDINANCE	Mayor Hayward stated if Council wants to redo the ordinance, Council needs to do a good job with our ordinance and gave good stipulations. Attorney Jones stated all dogs need to be treated the same regardless of their breed. Councilmember Souders believes it needs to fall back on the owner. Councilmember Garretson agreed with Souders. Mayor Hayward said the ordinance needs to be updated. Councilmember Carnahan asked how do you know which information is good versus bad. Attorney Jones said there are experts that are fair and unbiased. Council will continue researching the subject. Audree will bring information from other Cities back to Council.
GAS EMERGENCY	Audree stated we had an energy crisis where gas prices fluctuated. Gas prices went from \$3 up to \$622. There were limited resources and it led to a crisis on the electric side. The City is now facing the financial wave. Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) called stating they estimated the City owed \$200,000 for electric and \$800,000 for gas. This included the \$1 million retainer to Southern Star to continue to get gas through the weekend of February 12. LKM stated the City could do a no fund warrant. The City would pay the balance back over a few years. Audree stated the electric would need to be paid soon which will go to the Southwest Power Pool. The City can do an ordinance to transfer money to the electric fund. There are a lot of moving parts on the federal side. The gas may be deferred for a while. Audree said Council needs to decide how to pay for the electric first and then look at the gas. With a no fund warrant there is no collateral. The City would just pay the cost they owe. It has to be approved by the State. The City would be borrowing from a banking institution. Audree stated for the electric we could do an interfund transfer from capital improvement for \$200,000 and then pay \$50,000 out of the electric fund.

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ALTAMONT  
February 25, 2021  
Page 2**

**GAS EMERGENCY** The City received a letter from the Attorney General stating they are investigating the energy crisis. Audree said it could be years before the investigation is done so we can't depend on that. Audree believes we need to do an interfund transfer for the electric and do the no fund warrant for the gas charges.

As the City we are just collecting the bill we owe another company. The City needs to get with the software company to see what our software is capable of in regards to billing. The HELP committee is trying to get funds together to help the elderly and disabled with the increased cost of the bills. Audree has been in contact with other Cities and no one has got to the point of a plan in place. Mayor Hayward suggested the City bills the residents for what their bill is and set up pay agreements on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Carnahan informed the public the daily spot price is the future price of the natural gas plus the basis which is what gets paid at the local level. The Board of Trade doesn't protect anyone on the basis. The Oneok Gas Terminal had the highest spot prices in the nation because of our demand and extreme low temperatures. The City had gas prepaid and half the City's stored gas was pulled out of storage. Councilmember Carnahan stated you have to have your gas production and your storage working together.

Councilmember Carnahan moved and Souders seconded to approve actual billing per customer usage to be sent out in the first bill after receiving KMGGA billing for gas and electric purchasing. Billing and payment agreement to be penalty free until gas and electric indebtedness from this storm is paid in full. And to authorize the development of a payment agreement plan and utility billing procedure. Motion carried.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to allow interfund fund transfers between the electric accounts to pay for the \$200,000 bill for the electric and to prepare the ordinance. Motion carried.

**KMEA LINEMAN** Tabled until May 13, 2021 meeting.

**THANK YOU** Mayor Hayward thanked all the residents and businesses during our gas emergency. He also thanked everyone who worked with us during this time, and those who went above and beyond with donations to support our City.

**ADJOURNMENT** Councilmember Carnahan moved and Souders seconded to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:03 PM. Motion carried.

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DATE

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LeaAnn Myers, City Clerk