

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALTAMONT
January 28, 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 Councilmember Souders led the prayer. Councilmembers present: Craig Carnahan, Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey and Paul Souders.
- MINUTES Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.
- INVOICES Councilmember Souders moved and Cochran seconded to approve the invoices in the amount of \$26,319.08. Motion carried.
- VIRGINIA O'CONNELL Virginia O'Connell and Amanda Maele recently moved to Altamont from Joplin Missouri. Ms. O'Connell stated she has two American bullies who are very gentle and obedient. She didn't realize Altamont had an ordinance against her dogs. Ms. O'Connell stated there was an incident where someone walked by her house while her granddaughter was outside with the dog. Both dogs started barking at each other. Ms. O'Connell stated her dog did not get away from her granddaughter and she took the dog back inside. Ms. Maele stated that American bullies are considered their own breed, not a pit bull. Ms. O'Connell and Ms. Maele would like their dogs to be allowed to stay in Altamont. Mayor Hayward stated Council will discuss it and have a decision at the next Council meeting.
- CITY ADMINISTRATOR Report written by Audree Aguilera. City Hall closed on Monday, February 15, 2021 in observance of President's Day. Electric Fund – no changes from last meeting, rate study results and cost benefit analysis for lineman services at City Council on February 11, 2021. USDA has accepted and completed loan writing; waiting on fund disbursements from Federal Government. Website training on 1/28/2021 and then will launch website live next week. Year-end is complete; payroll, budget, lake booking and server backup implemented. Audit preparation, finishing up fixed asset listing and working on 2021 insurance renewal. Upcoming projects – utility billing and procedures, towing policy for Police Department, GIS Maps for utilities, update of personnel handbooks (policies and guidelines.)
- There is an individual who is interested in building on Ness Road and annexing into the City. Audree has been working with the individual on that.
- ANIMAL ORDINANCE Audree stated our current ordinance prohibits pit bulls. Audree would like to be able to control them. If pit bulls are allowed we can enforce the licensing process on those dogs. Chief Michael Shields stated the Police Department receives several calls saying there are pit bulls in town. The Police Department cannot say for sure if a dog is a pit bull. Chief Shields stated any breed of dog can be a vicious animal, and the current ordinance already has guidelines set in place if an animal bites someone. Chief Shields said when he knocked on Ms. O'Connell's door the dogs didn't even bark. Councilmember Carnahan asked where is the burden of proof with these dogs. Chief Shields stated there is blood test which can prove whether a dog is a pit bull or not. Councilmember Coffey stated he looked up the top 10 vicious dogs by the power the jaw of how hard they bite. Audree stated whether pit bulls are legal or not legal they can still bite someone. Councilmember Cochran informed the Council that dog bites are a mandated report for any healthcare personnel. Councilmember Cochran liked the idea of revamping the licensure to include if the dog has bitten anyone. Councilmember Souders doesn't have a problem with making pit bulls legal. He has a problem with the cost to the person that was bitten. Councilmember Souders wants to see the owner take responsibility for making sure the dog has a strong enough leash or the pen is tall enough. Chief Shields stated if someone reports they were bit, then they have some leeway to recoup their medical fees. Mayor Hayward is not in favor of removing pit bulls from the ordinance. Attorney Jones stated if Council does take it out more people in town will get pit bulls. He instructed Council to research and do their due diligence when making this decision. Councilmember Carnahan is unclear if an American bully fits our description of a pit bull.
- KMEA BOARD Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to approve Audree Aguilera to the Director 1 position for KMEA. Motion carried.
- Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to approve Brad Myers as the Director 2 position for KMEA Board. Motion carried.
- Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to approve Louis Joe Carson as the Alternate for the KMEA Board of Directors. Motion carried.
- WSU AGREEMENT Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to approve the Affiliation Agreement between Wichita State University and the City of Altamont. Motion carried.

