

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALTAMONT
March 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 Councilmember Souders led the prayer. Councilmembers present: Craig Carnahan, Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey and Paul Souders.
- MINUTES Councilmember Carnahan moved and Cochran seconded to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.
- INVOICES Councilmember Cochran moved and Souders seconded to approve the invoices in the amount of \$39,958.65. Motion carried.
- CABLE Galen Manners informed Council Wave Wireless will discontinue the cable system in the City of Altamont due to raising costs effective June 1, 2021. Wave Wireless will assist any residents who need help setting up any streaming devices. Mayor Hayward thanked Galen for everything he has done for the City.
- DISC GOLF Aaron Spencer with Altamont Disc Golf addressed Council about stopping companies from scuba diving at Idle Hour Lake for golf disc and then selling them. Mr. Spencer would like to have something set in place to prevent companies from taking and selling the discs. Attorney Jones stated as long as swimming is allowed the City can't regulate it. Attorney Jones suggested the City could require a permit for scuba diving. Mr. Spencer would like to have deposit boxes at the Lake for found discs. Council concurred with allowing the boxes. Councilmember Souders stated the Kansas Wildlife and Parks owns the water. The City will need to get with them to see what rules we can consider. Micheal Carson stated it could be a safety issue if someone is scuba diving and someone is boating in the area. Mr. Carson is going to address Big Hill Lake about the same issue. Mayor Hayward stated the City will get with the State to look for an acceptable solution. He asked Mr. Carson to let the Council know if Big Hill has any solutions.
- USDA FIRE TRUCK LOAN Michael Billings with USDA presented the required loan documents to close the loan for the new fire truck. Some of the documents requires the Mayor's signature. The loan is for \$260,000 with a 2.125% interest rate through the end of March. If the interest rate drops, it could be lower but is guaranteed no higher than 2.125%. Mr. Billing stated by signing the documents, the City could still back out of the loan if they so choose.
- CITY ADMINISTRATOR Report written by Audree Aguilera. Natural gas/energy crisis – penalty exempt if payment or payment arrangement have been made by April 28th; need to define payment arrangement maximum span. Audit was completed – no major issues. Update of Personnel Handbook and new signs for Police and Fire Departments have been ordered. Bids are online for hedge row removal, 20 acres and fence installation at the lagoon; close date is April 5th at 2:00 PM. CIC Annual Renewal will be presented at next meeting; the agreement and invoice are being changed to reflect the court and server backup being removed from CIC. USDA Loan for fire truck in final stages; funds are now available. Fire Truck is anticipated to arrive mid-summer. Will begin using new court software on April 1st. Electric fund – tabled to May 13th, in meantime will work on liability questions and other possible options with cost.
- Audree informed Council the City Park Building was broken into this week. There was damage to the West door but nothing was stolen.
- ANIMAL ORDINANCE The revised Animal Ordinance #625 was presented to Council for review after the work session. Audree stated in section five, the following will be omitted: "provided proof they have been spayed or neutered. An annual license tax of \$5.00 will be assessed for each animal that has not been spayed or neutered." Audree stated educating the public will be very important.
- Councilmember Cochran moved and Souders seconded to approve Ordinance #625 regulating the keeping of animals in the City of Altamont. Cochran - yes, Souders - yes, Coffey - yes, Carnahan - no. Motion carried.
- USDA FIRE TRUCK LOAN Councilmember Cochran moved and Souders seconded to approve the Mayor's signature on Form 1940 for the USDA fire truck loan. Motion carried.
- Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to approve the Mayor's signature on Form 1942 for the USDA fire truck loan. Motion carried.
- GAS EMERGENCY Audree presented the pay agreement for the gas crisis bill and how the City Office will track debt. Audree asked how Council would like to address penalty exemption and payment agreements for the upcoming April utility billing. Councilmember Carnahan stated the City needs to have a standard of how much will be due in the month of April. LeaAnn Myers would like to try to start level payments in May and include the gas payment on top of the level payment amount for the residents. Attorney Jones stated the City needs to make sure everyone has equal access to relief. Councilmember Cochran stated in the event the City gets money back he wants it given back to the citizens. Audree stated

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GAS EMERGENCY according to the loan guidelines, the money would have to go to the loan first. If money is returned, the City Council will address how to handle that at that time. KMEA has filed a grievance for the bill but if money is refunded it would be months. Councilmember Souders agreed with a 60-month payment plan with 20% of the payment down with review in a year.

Councilmember Carnahan informed the public the gas for April is \$75.13 per unit, and the electric is charged at 43.83 cents per kilowatt hour. Councilmember Carnahan stated the City found out about two weeks ago the electric rates were very high.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Souders seconded to set a 60-month payment agreement for the April billing with 20% of the April bill due in April and an application for extension if needed. Motion carried.

Councilmember Carnahan moved and Souders seconded that the City access a 10% late fee on the 20% portion of the bill due in April if not paid by April 27. Carnahan - aye, Souders - aye, Coffey - no, Cochran - no. Mayor Hayward breaks the tie with a yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Coffey out at 8:43 PM. In at 8:47 PM.

STREAMING QUOTE A recommendation was presented from Wave Wireless for purchasing equipment to allow the City to stream Council meetings via Facebook Live. The quote included iPad - \$350, 8 wireless microphones system - \$1300, iRig audio converter - \$40, miscellaneous cables - \$40, iPad case/tripod mount - \$20. Total quote \$1750. If the City wanted to stream to multiple platforms some additional software would be needed; Switcher and Restream, which have monthly subscription fees with overall cost of around \$580 per year.

Mr. Manners stated he would purchase the equipment for the City and help move Council to a streaming platform and show us how to use it.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded to accept Wave Wireless' proposal as written and discussed. Motion carried.

COUNCIL ROOM Audree would like to look into getting new council tables. Council concurred.

LAKE Council discussed the placement of the swing set at the Lake. Councilmember Carnahan stated an additional light would be beneficial by the trash dumpster near the South campsites. Councilmember Souders didn't believe the light was necessary. Councilmember Souders would like to place the swing set where the existing light is already on high ground. Councilmember Carnahan was concerned about the liability of the City building a swing set. Audree suggested the City could apply for a Kansas Wildlife and Parks grant in the future.

Councilmember Cochran moved and Souders seconded to approve the quote Brad received to build a swing set by the South Shelter. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Councilmember Cochran moved and Carnahan seconded the City Council recess into executive session to discuss Attorney – Client privilege matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to include the City Attorney and City Administrator. The open meeting will resume in the City Council room at 9:15 PM. Motion carried. No action at this time.

LIEAP Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) applications are due May 28th. Maximum monthly income guidelines were raised to allow more people to qualify.

COUNCIL MEETING The next Council meeting will be April 8 at 7 PM.

DARRELL WINTER II Mayor Hayward congratulated Darrell Winter II for passing his EMT written and practical for the Fire Department.

OPEN COUNCIL SEATS Councilmember Carnahan thanked the Council for the professional matter as they worked through the gas situation. It is hard making decisions that will have negative impacts for citizens. Councilmember Carnahan stated there will be two council seats and a mayor seat open this year. The deadline to file for City Council is June 1st.

ADJOURNMENT Councilmember Cochran moved and Souders seconded to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:17 PM. Motion carried.

DATE

LeaAnn Myers, City Clerk