

CITY OF SEVERY
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2025
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SEVERY KS

Present: Mayor Donna Wiss, Council members Marc Warren, Lyle Riggs, Ron Robert, Rodger Kraft, Kevin Klepper, Treasurer Madelyn McClendon, Clerk Tessa Riggs, City Attorney William McClendon and Water Superintendent Paul Schmidt

Guests: Ed Cornett, Bryan Hampton & Darla Hampton

Mayor Wiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was cited and roll called.

Kraft moved to approve July 2025 minutes. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Klepper moved to approve July 2025 bills. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Riggs moved to approve the July 2025 treasurer's report as presented. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Riggs noted the sale of the road grader was deposited in the general fund and once it was receipted in, a transfer from general to the municipal equipment reserve fund could be done according to Kyle Spielbusch from Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips, PA. Robert moved to approve the sale of the Galion road grader funds to be transferred from the general fund to the municipal equipment reserve fund. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Water Superintendent Schmidt reported discharging from the sewer. Part time employee Rollings has been working on ditches. Schmidt will need 5 volunteers to take water samples home so the state can do lead and copper testing. Schmidt reported that since the City is shorthanded on employees, the City still has vacant lots and regular city mowing that needs done. Council directed Clerk Riggs to put an ad in the local newspaper for part-time or full-time help with duties to include mowing, running heavy equipment, lifting heavy objects and desire to obtain a water and sewer license. Starting pay will be \$15/hour with potential increases.

Old Business.

Nothing to report.

New Business.

Clerk Riggs reported that she applied for a grant through the Elk County Community Foundation and received confirmation prior to the meeting that the grant was approved for \$3,600. The

grant was for cemetery improvements. Clerk Riggs noted that at this time, neither cemetery has directory for the public to locate the deceased especially when the office is closed. Riggs suggested an informational building that included maps, books and maybe some signage for the sections of the cemetery.

Clerk Riggs noted that Helen Taliaferro with Junction Insurance had quoted two quotes for the insurance on the water plant upgrade. The quote for one to one and half million would be an additional premium of \$4,820.00 and the other quote for one to two million would be an additional premium of \$6,435.00. Currently the filtration plant has \$240,000 coverage for approximately \$1,668.00. Council asked Clerk Riggs if she would check on doing possibly a \$5,000 deductible to lower the premium. Councilman Riggs stated the City needs enough coverage to cover the General Obligation Bonds. Robert moved to approve the one to one and half million-dollar coverage for an additional premium of \$4,820.00 pending the status of the deductible and have Clerk Riggs note that the council would like to increase the coverage to an additional \$6,435.00 during the audit next year for the 2027 budget. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Riggs stated it was time for the annual SEK Coop propane contract. Usually the City contracts 3,000 gallons for the water plant. If the City contracts more than 2,000 gallons the price would be \$1.39/gallon. The coop credits the City if there is unused propane. Warren moved to approve 3,000 gallons of propane for the water plant. Riggs 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Riggs stated that the air conditioner in the office has been damaged, and water is running down the inside of the office wall and onto all the computer cords. As summer is coming to an end, Clerk Riggs suggested getting a mini split that has heat and air. When the current air conditioner is on during the day it is very loud, and Riggs usually has to shut it off to take phone calls and the same goes in the winter for the wall furnace being rather loud when running.

Robert moved to approve Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips accounting firm to prepare the 2025 Audit and 2027 Budget. Klepper 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Warren moved to go into a 20-minute executive session at 8:30 p.m. to consult with attorney on matters subject to attorney-client privilege and include Clerk Riggs. Kraft 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular session reconvened at 8:50 p.m. No action was taken.

Robert moved to allow Clerk Riggs to publish 4 vacant lots owned by the City in The Eureka Herald for the next 3 consecutive weeks as sealed bids. The purchaser will pay the bid plus fees, which will include a warranty deed, title insurance and survey fees. The opening of the sealed bids will be Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 6:45 p.m. in Severy City Hall.

Klepper moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Warren 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

/s/ Marc V. Warren, Council President

Attest:

/s/ Tessa C. Riggs, City Clerk