

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY CITY OF GARDNER, KANSAS

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February 5, 2024

The City Council of the City of Gardner, Kansas met in regular session on February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Gardner City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Gardner, Kansas, with Mayor Todd Winters presiding. Present were Councilmembers Mark Baldwin, Kacy Deaton, Mark Wiehn, and Steve McNeer. City staff present were City Administrator Jim Pruetting; Finance Director Matt Wolff; Police Chief Pam Waldeck; Utilities Director Gonz Garcia; Parks Director Jason Bruce; Community Development Director Dave Knopick; Public Works Director Kellen Headlee; City Attorney Ryan Denk; Interim City Clerk Renee Rich. Others present included those listed on the sign-in sheet and others who did not sign in. Councilmember Steve Shute was absent.

There being a quorum of Councilmembers present, Mayor Winters called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Winters led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cody Snyder 619 S Locust came to ask questions about parking at Veterans Park. There is not enough parking and parking overflows both the north and south sides of Pawnee. He is wondering if no parking could be implemented to accommodate emergency vehicles or residents trying to get through. There is concern of hitting a child who is crossing the road to go to or from the park. He asks if this is being reviewed due to the number of people using the park and the lack of parking. He also wanted to point out that during construction of the park, concrete trucks drove over the walking park and severely damaged a lot of the concrete walking path. There was additional construction equipment not using the parking lot and instead drove over the path. He wanted to be sure someone was aware of the damage.

Cody also wanted to know if there was going to be an expansion of Grand Street from south Pine Street east to Center Street for adding a sidewalk. There is no sidewalk, and you have to cut through the neighborhoods. The road also narrows due to the railroad tracks. It is a busy street due to the new subdivision. Mayor advised we would address those questions and concerns during the council update.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Standing approval of the minutes as written for the regular meeting on January 16, 2024**
- 2. Standing approval of City expenditures prepared January 11, 2024 in the amount of \$294,297.81; January 18, 2024 in the amount of \$1,651,848.79; January 18, 2024 in the amount of \$348,745.00 and January 25, 2024 in the amount of \$591,529.45.**
- 3. Consider accepting permanent sanitary sewer easements for the Prairie Trace Meadows 2nd Plat**
- 4. Consider accepting permanent sanitary sewer easement for the New Trails North development**
- 5. Consider accepting permanent utility easement for the New Trails North development**
- 6. Consider accepting permanent sanitary sewer easement for the Willow Chase VI development**
- 7. Consider authorizing the City Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement for bond counsel services with Kutak Rock LLP for the period February 5, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with additional one-year options, which renew annually unless terminated by either party.**
- 8. Consider a recommendation to purchase two specialty vehicles.**

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Wiehn Seconded.

With a majority of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried. (4-0-1 Absent)

None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consider appointing Renee Rich as Gardner City Clerk and administer the Oath of Office**

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to appoint Renee Rich, effective February 5, 2024 and direct the Mayor to administer the Oath of Office

Councilmember Baldwin Seconded.

With a majority of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried. (4-0-1 Absent)

**2. Consider a resolution designating the Gardner News as the official newspaper for the City of Gardner, Kansas.**

City Administrator Pruetting said in in 2019 in accordance with KSA 12-1651a, the governing body passed a resolution changing the city’s official newspaper from the Gardner News to the Legal Record. At that time, the change represented a significant savings for the city’s required publication of ordinances and Public Notices. At the governing body’s request, staff reached out to the new owners of the Gardner News in December to get updated quotes for the publishing of a sample ordinance and Public Notice in order to compare cost with that of the Legal Record. The quotes received from the Gardner News do represent a savings to the City of between twenty-five and thirty percent compared to what we are currently paying to the Legal Record. The managing editor of the Gardner News also indicated she would honor the pricing indefinitely as long as the City has designated the Gardner News as the official publication of record.

Councilmember Baldwin says this is similar to what happened the last time this came up. It makes sense we would do it at the cheapest price and the people that want to see the notices already know where to get them. Councilmember Wiehn said he has received public comment from citizens supporting the change of moving it back to Gardner News.

Councilmember McNeer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2135, a resolution of the City of Gardner, Kansas, designating the Gardner News as the official newspaper for the City of Gardner, Kansas.

Councilmember Wiehn Seconded.

With a majority of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the Resolution passed and was assigned Resolution number 2135.

McNeer:	Yes
Baldwin:	Yes
Deaton:	Yes
Wiehn:	Yes

**COUNCIL UPDATES**

Director Bruce acknowledged the parking challenges at Veterans Park with the new playground. There is an opportunity for grants with the Land Water Conservation Fund and the application should come out this summer. We currently have a grant for the new restroom facility. Mayor Winters says it seems like tight parking even without the new playground. Councilmember Deaton asked what it would take to make no parking on the north side so no kids are crossing the street to get to the park. Director Headlee advised that signs could be put up if the council authorizes it. Councilmember Baldwin said the park was swamped today, and the problem may get

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worse over the summer. Baldwin asked if no parking signs could be put up temporarily in the interim before we get the grant. If we did get a grant and had to wait fifteen to eighteen months before the project can get completed, then we would have two summers and residents getting upset. Headlee says we can review where people are currently parking and where it makes sense to make no parking on one side of the street. It will push people parking further down, but that will allow a pathway for people to get through. Bruce was not aware of the damage to the sidewalks, so they will have the park maintenance division look into it.

Director Headlee said they will review Grand Street as it is an identified gap in the sidewalk network. They understand there are ways to get on a sidewalk to Gardner Road, but you have to go through the whole neighborhood to get there. Grand Street is being reviewed as part of the pavement management program so they will look further into improvements needed.

Chief Waldeck announced Officer Williams graduated from the academy on Friday and Officer Peterson starts next week. They are working with Human Resources on a trial process of having physical agility, interview and written tests all on the same day. Three sergeants are being promoted on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Director Wolff wants to give a budget update and seek recommendations. His department is looking at automating some of the budgeting process and making it more efficient. They are discussing automating the internal budget monitoring and reporting which should free up some labor. He also asked for council input on switching back from a two-year operating budget to a one-year budgeting process. This was implemented five or six years ago and was considered an innovative new approach. The idea is if you do a two-year budget, then in the off year you wouldn't be redoing the budget, and you would have time to do other analytical work. Kansas never recognized that process, so we have to formally adopt a budget every year so essentially, we are doing a two-year budget every year. Finance suggests that we switch back to a one-year budget. Multi-year forecasting and a five-year operating budget will continue.

Administrator Pruetting said he and the mayor met with Sharice Davids and a member of her staff to discuss the appropriation request. Since congress is currently in the middle of passing CR's just to move from one month to the next, it is still up in the air. She had painted a bleak picture, but it may have been confusion. She indicated that our appropriation request was not in any of the bills that had come out of committee, but she was talking about the CR's. We still have an opportunity if they pass a full year budget for 2023 and we get that appropriation. I have a call with our lobbyist tomorrow to talk about priorities. Unless the council directs otherwise, priority number one is still the wastewater system on the east side. A few years ago we talked about trying to get an appropriation for the Gardner bridge. Our Senate typically prioritizes one project one year and the House the next year, but they have been busy with the transportation network, so it may not be possible for us to get that appropriation for roads and bridges. We are also going to start talking about the outer road as we get closer to Gardner Road being done and realigning 191<sup>st</sup> Street with the landowner and KDOT. Now is a good time to start looking at what that alignment would look like. We are limited in our options due to the Southern Star line, but we are going to start looking at it and try to get some appropriations at the very least for planning the road and then move forward from there.

Councilmember Mcneer wants to be sure the Veterans Park parking area is looked at.

Councilmember Deaton gave a shout out to Gardner Gold. She attended their bingo night and there were 145 participants. The first year only had 40, so this shows how much the program is growing from donations and grants. It was a fun, high-energy night. Mayor Winters said it is a great program to have in our community.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion duly made by Councilmember Deaton and seconded by Councilmember McNeer the meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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City Clerk