

Special Meeting
July 28, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
City of Oswego, Kansas

Present: Councilmembers Kelly Vance, Darren Tynan, Bill Owens, Susan Bringle and Jane Rea with Mayor Glenn Fischer presiding.

Absent: Councilmember Dee Brown

Also present: City Clerk Carol Eddington, City Superintendent Calvin Jurgensen, Chief of Police George Elliott, Fire Chief John Strickland, Bill Trotnic, Carole McKinley, Roger Vance, Kevin Shedrick, Marna George, John Williams, Jon Eck, Larry Richardson, Paula Kern, Pat Hendrickson.

Real Estate Purchase – Second Addendum to Contract with Brett Middleswart

At the special meeting on June 25th, the Council authorized Attorney Tucker to draw up an addendum to the existing contract with Brett Middleswart extending the deadline for the city to take possession of the property. Attorney Tucker provided the second addendum to the original contract. Middleswart has already signed the document and Attorney Tucker asks that the Council formally approve the addendum. Rea made a motion and Bringle seconded to approve the addendum. Motion carried with Mayor Fischer breaking the tie vote.

2015 Proposed Budget

Clerk Eddington went over the State budget form and the proposed budget as well as the proposed Municipal Equipment and Capital Improvement transfers for next year.

7:10 p.m. – Mayor called for a 5 minute break.

8:00 p.m. – Mayor called for a 5 minute break.

After some discussion was held by the Council, Mayor Fischer opened the floor to comments from members of the audience.

Kevin Shedrick – Fire Dept. Captain – stated that the average age of the fire department equipment is over 30 years old. The department needs to have funds set aside for future purchases. Shedrick asked about setting aside any unused budgeted expense for future purchases by transferring that amount into Municipal Equipment. Clerk Eddington said that was a possibility as long as the balance in the general fund at the end of the year would support that. The city actually started that last year with the transfer of the unused balance in the uniform line item to Municipal Equipment.

Bill Trotnic – asked if he could receive a copy of the 2015 proposed budget. Clerk Eddington gave him a copy at the end of the meeting.

Paula Kern – expressed concern over a large increase in property taxes and felt that the proposed salary increases should be eliminated.

Marna George – was critical of the city purchasing the Jennings property for housing. Mayor Fischer asked her what she would do to increase revenues for the city? She had no ideas. Mayor Fischer said that the way to increase revenues to the city is to increase the tax base and that individuals who wish to build a nice home have no desire to build on a very small lot in town or on a lot next to run down properties.

Jon Eck – asked if the city would sell lots out at the Jennings property and the Mayor said yes.

After further discussion, Mayor Fischer asked if any of the Council had any recommendations in regards to the budget. Councilmember Owens suggested eliminating the swimming pool transfer, the extra 2 mils in the General fund for the library, the salary increases and the future purchases transfers – with the caveat that if the three department heads could come up with a 3 mil savings elsewhere in the budget, the salary increase can remain.

Owens also suggested that the city try for a 1 cent sales tax increase at the November election. He suggested a 5 year sunset to the sales tax and that it be used to pay for the demolition of the downtown buildings grant match, paying down the water and sewer debt, and to fund Capital Improvement and Municipal Equipment Funds.

Councilmember Vance would like to see the swimming pool transfer remain in the budget. After further discussion, it was determined to hold another budget meeting. The meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Owens made a motion and Tynan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor Glenn Fischer

Attest:

City Clerk Carol Eddington