

Special Meeting

July 31, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

City of Oswego, Kansas

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

Also present: Police Chief George Elliott, City Clerk Carol Eddington, City Superintendent Calvin Jurgensen, Joe Royer, Paula Kern, Brenda Richardson, Larry Richardson, Roger Vance and Bill Trotnic.

FEMA Appeal

Mayor Fischer and Clerk Eddington explained to the Council the conversation they had with the representative from the Kansas Dept. of Emergency Management (KDEM), Joe Wheeler and their staff attorney Ken Gully. Recently, FEMA sent the city a request for more information regarding the appeal. KDEM was also sent a copy and was assisting the city with the response to FEMA. Wheeler wondered about the questions from FEMA and asked Clerk Eddington if the city had received just loan money from Rural Development or grant and loan money when the city went back to RD for more funding. Eddington told him that the city had received grant/loan money. Wheeler did not realize the city had received any grant money from RD – he thought it was all loan. Wheeler said right then, the city's appeal hit a brick wall as FEMA has a hard and fast rule that there will be no duplicate funding – no more than one federal grant per project.

The only reason the city received a grant from FEMA as well as a grant from RD in the beginning is because the project was divided into different parts – FEMA funding was for part of the project only and the RD funding was for the other parts. There was no way to make that same case for the additional funding the city received from RD since the reason the city went after more funding was in part due to the fact that FEMA pulled their grant. Clerk Eddington contacted the Engineer and the Rural Development representative to see if there was any way that the loan portion of the money was for the FEMA part of the project and the grant portion was for the other part of the project but there is nothing in the records that would support that.

At this point, the decision the Council needs to make is whether to continue with the appeal or not. KDEM representatives Wheeler and Gully were hesitant to make any recommendations and yet were all but certain that it would be futile to continue with the appeal process. They also told the Mayor and City Clerk that FEMA would have to do a full blown close out process if the city continues with the appeal wherein they may make the determination that the funding they have already given the city (\$29,164) is duplicate funding and require the city pay that back. If the city drops the appeal, FEMA may just do an administrative close out and drop it without doing any further investigation into the project. KDEM said there were no guarantees as they could not predict what FEMA will do. After some discussion, Bringle made a motion and Brown seconded to send a letter to FEMA letting them know that the city withdraws the appeal. Motion carried.

FAA Grant – Land Purchase - Airport

The city has received the grant agreement for the land acquisition project at the airport. Attorney Tucker advised that the Council needs to make a formal motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement so it is part of the minutes. This is the grant that will reimburse the city for most of the land purchase expense. Rea made a motion and Bringle seconded to approve the grant agreement with the FAA for the airport land purchase from Middleswart and authorized the Mayor to sign it. Motion carried.

2015 Budget

After lengthy discussion on the different items the Council could cut in the budget in order to lower the proposed mil levy for 2015, Councilmember Brown suggested cutting out the 3% salary increase and the extra 2 mils for the library while keeping all of the Capital Improvement transfers and the Municipal Equipment transfers for the Police Dept., Fire Dept. and Parks Dept. Council asked Clerk Eddington to put the figures together and see what the exact effect is on the proposed mil levy. This information will be presented to the Governing Body at the August Council meeting.

Clerk Eddington said that after a decision is made at the August meeting, she can publish the public hearing notice for the budget in that week's paper. With the 10 day waiting period, the public hearing can be held during the week of August 25th. Consensus of the Council was to hold the hearing on Monday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Eddington will prepare the Notice to be approved at the August meeting.

Owens made a motion and Rea seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Glenn Fischer

Attest:

City Clerk Carol J. Eddington