

City of Belleville  
City Council Meeting  
Monday, October 23, 2023  
Belleville City Council Room

The meeting of the City of Belleville Council was held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Belleville City Council room.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Adam Robertson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Jacob Rice provided the opening prayer and comments. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDENCE:

Council members present: Pam McGregor, Mike Nondorf, Doane Sells, James Doyle, Mike Palmquist and Nick Cox.

City Staff present: City Manager Adam Anderson, City Clerk Russ Piroutek and City Attorney Jason Brinegar.

Others present: Fred Arnold, Rick Snodgrass Jacob Rice, Travis Sanders, Chris Springer, Hattie Brzon and Camryn Reynolds.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND DISBURSEMENTS:

Mike Palmquist made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular Council Meeting. James Doyle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mike Palmquist made a motion to approve the appropriations and disbursements. James Doyle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

City Manager gave an update on a number of nuisance properties in town. Travis Sanders attended the meeting and addressed the Council regarding his property. He has a contractor lined up to start constructing a building in late November or December. When finished, he will be able to move a large amount of his stuff inside. The Council was pleased with this, and will have him keep in contact with the City Manager.

The Council viewed some examples of promotional videos from around North Central Kansas. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to look further into professional companies that could create three or four short videos, that could also be combined into one larger video, promoting Belleville and showcasing Belleville activities. The City Manager will continue to pursue quotes from different companies.

## NEW BUSINESS:

A proposal was presented to the Council regarding an incentive for new houses built in Belleville. The proposal included no charge for utility hook ups, sidewalks and a cash incentive to help with building cost. Many questions arose regarding time frame, deadlines, who is eligible and other criteria for the incentive. In the end, the Council felt the incentive should be closer to \$10,000 per home constructed, and lower the number of incentives given. This topic will be discussed at the next planning session to start formalizing the requirements.

Nick Cox made a motion to approve a parade permit for Christmas on the Square, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., around the Courthouse square. Mike Palmquist seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Examples of electric rate increases for different homes in Belleville were included in the packet. The effects of a 1% - 5% increase were shown both in monthly and yearly increases. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that an increase will not be considered until the cost of the new engine is known, and the City can see what is needed.

The Council had numerous questions regarding an underbilling on electric demand at the hospital. City staff discovered a billing error on the demand that began in October of 2020. The total underbilling by the City over the past three years was \$34,839. The City Manager was in contact with the hospital regarding the discrepancy, and offered to charge for the last 12 months of mis-billing, a total of \$11,809.80, similar to other billing issues in the past. The Council had many concerns on how the situation was handled and the lack of communication with the Governing Body. The Council directed staff to audit all large customer, looking for any other issues with billing. After more discussion, no other action was taken.

A request was made for the City to make life jackets available at Rocky Pond. The Council had concerns regarding upkeep and liability of having life jackets available to the public. In the end, the Council decided this was not something the City should proceed with, and no action was taken.

## COUNCIL MEMBER/MAYOR COMMENTS:

Pam McGregor was excited to see the new Dollar General Market opened.

Mike Nondorf heard good things about the overlay on north K Street.

Doane Sells reminded everyone of the Veterans Day Parade on November 11<sup>th</sup>. He was also happy to see the ditch along S Street had been mowed by the County and part of the ditch was completed along 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

James Doyle mentioned Rocky Pond Christmas was gearing up. He also reminded all dog owners to clean up after their dogs at the Dog Park.

Mike Palmquist also mentioned how well the ditch looks along 21<sup>st</sup> Street. He also wanted to reiterate that City staff continues with auditing the City's metering and billing, looking for any inaccuracies.

Nick Cox thanked all the City employees for their work.

Mayor Robertson commented on what a good time of year this is in Belleville, with the holidays coming up.

ADJOURNMENT:

James Doyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Palmquist seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Russ Piroutek  
City Clerk