

KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ashley Velazquez called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Council present: Ashley Velazquez, Todd Hedstrom, Matt Brewer, Brian Adams, Rachel Trumbull, and Richard Haddock.

City staff present: Kamme Sroufe, City Administrator; Andrew Kovar, City Attorney; Theresa Morlan, City Clerk; Jessie Woodrow, Chief of Police; Thomas Bevan, Director of Public Works; Joseph Trumbull, Police Lieutenant; Chris Morlan, Zoning Administrator; Kris Brown, Deputy City Clerk; Tom Oldenettel, Police Officer; and Victor Heiar, Police Sergeant.

Guests present: Michael Velazquez, Kylee Kahmeyer, Terry Brown, Mary Brewer, Clint and April Owens, Officer Tyler Langford, Officer Mason Schell, and Shawn Davis.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mayor Velazquez.

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Brian Adams to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Matt Brewer, the motion carried 5-0-0.

Consent Agenda

1. Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2021

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Brian Adams to approve agenda with a 20-minute Executive Session for non-elected personnel, and removal of item IV.C until next meeting. The motion was seconded by Rachel Trumbull and carried 5-0-0.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Police Officer Recognition – Officer Victor Heiar was sworn in as Sergeant, and Mayor Velazquez presented him with a certificate of promotion. City Administrator (CA), Kamme Sroufe, spoke about his dedication to the community and professionalism.

B. 10-year Public Service Recognition – Mayor Velazquez presented certificates of appreciation to Brian Adams, Theresa Morlan and Jessie Woodrow. CA Sroufe thanked each for their service, commending them for the qualities that each has that makes the Kechi better. She noted that Councilmember Adams' recognition was overdue, and that he started his first term on May 27, 2020. City Clerk Morlan began working for Kechi December 16, 2011, and Chief Woodrow joined our police department January 1, 2012.

C. Kechi Civic Groups – None

D. Public Forum -

CA Sroufe addressed the miscommunication that occurred regarding stop signs being removed, her appreciation for citizen engagement and concern for public safety. She said that human error was involved and asked for a little grace.

Clint Owns, 602 Prairie Creek Dr., had concerns with the feedback he received after the removal of stop signs on Prairie Creek Dr. He had been showed a map of which signs locations and objected to the potential for permanent removal. He stated that the stop signs are necessary for speed control.

Kylee Kahmeyer, 351 E Cheyenne St, stated that she was upset by the removal of the stop sign. When out walking with her 3-year-old, he ran ahead and crossed the street. She is scared of what could happen if the stop sign is removed. There is heavy traffic in the area with large delivery trucks. She objects to the removal.

Theresa Morlan, 501 N Shawnee Dr., informed the council of positive things that have happened in the community. Her neighbor notified her that her garage door was up while she was at work and offered to close it. During the holidays, several community groups and residents contacted the city offering to help families in need with utility bills or other donations. Most recently, a resident informed Deputy City Clerk Kris Brown that they would have difficulty paying their utility bill due to both having been hospitalized for covid for an extended period. Ms. Brown reached out to Kechi United Methodist Church (KUMC), who offered assistance in the past. KUMC put out a request for donations, and one member paid the amount in full, and other donations received would be given to the family to help cover other associated cost.

Councilmember Adams recommended that the stop signs on Prairie Creek Dr. not be removed.

III. OLD BUSINESS - None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Council President Nominations** – CA Kamme Sroufe highlighted the responsibilities of the council president.

Motion by Richard Haddock and seconded by Todd Hedstrom to nominate Matt Brewer as City Council President. Matt Brewer accepted the nomination, and the motion carried 5-0-0.

- B. **2022 Health & Dental Benefits** – CA Sroufe presented the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Grandfathered Plan renewal. The premiums have reduced by 3%. There was a budgeted increase of 15%, so there will be substantial savings.

Motion by Richard Haddock to approve the BCBS proposal for health and dental benefits and authorize City Clerk sign. Seconded by Matt Brewer, the motion carried 5-0-0.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Brian Adams to go into Executive Session for non-elected personnel for 20-minutes and the meeting to resume at 7:50pm. Seconded by Richard Haddock, the motion carried 5-0-0.

The meeting resumed at 7:51pm.

Motion by Brian Adams to re-enter into Executive Session for non-elected personnel for 20-minutes and the meeting to resume at 8:51pm. Seconded by Todd Hedstrom, the motion carried 5-0-0.

The meeting resumed at 8:14pm, and no binding action was taken while in Executive Session.

VI. DISCUSSION

CA Sroufe gave information about community groups and civic organizations that the city maintains membership. There is a need to have greater participation and information sharing with the council. Councilmember Brewer suggested to discuss them further at the workshop on January 29th.

Councilmember Brewer had general questions regarding building permits. City Clerk Morlan

reported about recent permits, 27 duplexes, and the issues arising from having so many at one time. We are having MABCD do the inspections on these, while Public Works Director Thomas Bevan is continuing to do others with assistance from Bel Aire Inspector. Council asked staff to do a cost analysis of MABCD vs. staff being responsible for permits and inspections, including stress on staff, loss of revenue, cost of subcontracting, potential missed opportunity and need to have contracted out.

CA Sroufe and City Clerk Morlan gave an update on conversion to Tyler Technologies. The training and conversion have been very time consuming, but we are already seeing benefits.

V. RECESS

Motion made by Matt Brewer to recess until Saturday, January 29th at 9am for an orientation workshop. The motion was seconded by Rachel Trumbull and carried 5-0-0. The time of adjournment was 8:45pm.

Signed: 
Ashley Velazquez, Mayor

Attest: 
Theresa Morlan, City Clerk