

# KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2021

## I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Speer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Council present:** John Speer, Brian Adams, Betty Washington, Matt Brewer, Richard Haddock, and Margaret McCormick.

**City staff present:** Kamme Sroufe, City Administrator; Andrew Kovar, City Attorney; Theresa Morlan, City Clerk; Thomas Bevan, Director of Public Works; and Joseph Trumbull, Police Lieutenant.

**Guests present:** Kirk Wagner and Taylor Messick.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Mayor Speer.

### B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion by Betty Washington to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Brian Adams. Motion carried 5-0-0.**

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes January 28, 2021 City Council Meeting
2. January 2021 Appropriation Report

### C. APPROVE AGENDA

**Motion by Betty Washington to approve agenda with 20 minutes for the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Margaret McCormick and carried 5-0-0.**

## II. COMMUNICATIONS

**A. Public Forum** – Kirk Wagner, 6332 N Hillside, addressed the council regarding de-annexation from the City. He stated that he believes in fairness and equality but does not feel that all residents are treated equally. He referred to a conversation with the Mayor and a councilmember, in which he says the Mayor said, “If you don’t like it, get out.” Mayor Speer went on record as stating that he disagrees with both Mr. Wagner’s quotation and the characterization of the conversation between them. Mr. Wagner reiterated that the city is not treating everybody the same and is requesting to leave the city.

**B. Kechi Civic Groups** – None

## III. OLD BUSINESS - None

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

**A. KDOT GRANT AWARD** – City Administrator (CA), Kamme Sroufe reported that the Police Department received a grant award for \$3000 from the Kansas Department of Transportation to participate in the STEP (Special Traffic Enforcement Program). Chief Woodrow can only participate with special exception to receive the overtime pay.

**Motion by Betty Washington to approve the acceptance of the grant award and authorize an exception to allow Chief Woodrow to participate in the program and receive overtime compensation reimbursed through the grant. Motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0.**

- B. KECHI BUSINESS PARK BOND RESOLUTION – Resolution No. 21-719 – A Resolution setting the date, time and place for a public hearing to receive and hear complaints and objections to the proposed special assessments for the construction of certain improvements in the city, as heretofore authorized by Resolution No. 19-694; directing publication of a notice of public hearing; and further directing the mailing of a notice of hearing an statement of costs proposed to be assessed to each and all of the property owners liable for such special assessments.**

City Attorney Andrew Kovar reported that the final costs of the project are known, and to go from temporary funding to the improvement bonds is to hold a public hearing to assess the costs as special assessments. The public hearing will be held on March 11, 2021.

**Motion by Richard Haddock to approve Resolution No. 21-719. Motion seconded by Betty Washington and carried 5-0-0.**

- C. DE-ANNEXATION RESOLUTION No. 21-720 - A Resolution fixing a time and place and providing notice of a public hearing before the Governing Body of the City of Kechi, Kansas at which all persons interested may appear and be heard regarding a petition to vacate and exclude certain property from the corporate limits of the city.**

City Attorney, Andrew Kovar addressed the Council that the resolution would allow the public hearing, to be held on March 11, 2021 at which time they can consider the request.

**Motion by Brian Adams to approve Resolution No. 21-720. Motion seconded by Matt Brewer and carried 5-0-0.**

## **V. INTERACTIVE DIALOG**

- A. EVERGY UTILITY POLE RELOCATION –** CA Sroufe reported that per our franchise agreement with Evergy, work being done in the utility easement requires City approval. PEC looked over the plans for conformance to intersection project. The new poles and lines will be place prior the removal of the current. All poles will be on one side of the street rather than both. Public Works Director, Thomas Bevan reported that this will help eliminate some of the outages by having better power lines, which will eventually be looped to the substation by Northeast Magnet school.
- B. SEWER & WATER RATE STUDY DISCUSSION -** CA Sroufe asked for feedback on the proposed rates. Director of Public Works, Thomas Bevan said that the financial issues have been going on for a while, and the study addresses them. It also addresses rising meter costs which fees have not kept up with. It also addresses replaced water pipes downtown in which costs weren't being fully covered by current utility rates. Equipment reserve schedule and personnel will be covered by new rate to cover growth and installation costs. Current fee structure covers the added cost of larger meters, but not always the associated cost of labor. Director Bevans also addressed problems discovered during the examination of sewer system. The collapsing line may be beyond repair, and he is waiting to see if it can be relined. The cave-in on the manhole was the pipe going into the manhole. He received the video from Mayer on the day before council meeting and has forwarded it to PEC as well. They are reworking a quote for analysis of the first phase of sewer repair and relining.
- C. PERSONNEL POLICY – COVID LEAVE –** CA Sroufe distributed Federal Benefit Leave information and employee rights. Although the benefits expired on December 31, 2020, there is possibility they will be extended. She recommends allowing our employees up to two weeks of leave for covid, having it expire on December 31, 2021, and re-evaluate at the end of the year. This will allow consistency in application to all employees. CA Sroufe will work on official policy to bring back to council.
- D. KECHI RD & OLIVER ST INTERSECTION PROJECT -** Due to the expense of the project, specifically moving the gas lines, CA Sroufe requested looking into possible redesign that would allow for use of more sustainable materials and other drainage possibilities that would save money in the long

run. The council feels beautification of the entrance of the city is important but wants an understanding of the cost of possible redesign. CA Sroufe wants to explore alternatives that will save money, possibly keeping gas line in current location by eliminating curb and gutter on one side, using pervious surface for sidewalks and paths allowing for drainage, and looking at creative and sustainable solutions.

- E. **CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP** – CA Sroufe will be looking dates to schedule a workshop to begin the annual budget process, strategic plan, and other related discussions.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion by Betty Washington to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Non-elected personnel. Meeting to resume at 7:59pm. Motion seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0.**

Meeting resumed at 8:02pm. There was no binding action taken.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Betty Washington and second by Richard Haddock to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Speer, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa Morlan, City Clerk