

KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ashley Velazquez called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

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

City staff present: Andrew Kovar, City Attorney; Kamme Sroufe, City Administrator; Theresa Morlan, City Clerk; Thomas Bevan, Director of Public Works; Lt. Amanda Smith; and Officer Kate Watson.

Guests present: Joanie Harris, Christi Dalman, Mary Brewer, Sandy Walling, Deb Leep, Noah Taylor, and Taylor Messick.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mayor Velazquez.

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

1. Council Meeting Minutes February 23, 2023

2. February 2023 Appropriations Report

Motion by Matt Brewer to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Richard Haddock.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Brian Adams to approve agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 4-0-0.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Civic Groups/Committees – None

B. Kechi Good News – Mayor Velazquez asked the council to say something about Kechi that had brought them joy. She reported that Elderslie Farms had opened a café in Wichita Art Museum. She had heard from her new coworkers that Kechi represented fun and unique shops. Kamme reported that the park concept design is being reviewed, and she is very excited, as it will improve experiences in the city. Mayor Velazquez added that residents had commented on facebook that they are pleased that the port-a-pot is back at the park.

C. Public Forum

Christie Dalman, 541 E Cheyenne Ct, had questions regarding her gas bill. She felt there were inconsistencies with unit price not matching with what her neighbors had been charged, the rate being more than what Kansas Gas Service is charging, and had questions about distribution. City Administrator (CA) Sroufe explained base rate and usage rate, which has both fixed and variable costs as well as \$2 per unit to repay the gas loan. She also said that she plans to provide information and explanation to residents regarding gas rates that can be distributed with gas bills or included with media.

Deb Leep, 132 S Oliver, also questioned if she was on a residential rate even though she is in a commercial zoning. She questioned the usage for her property. Staff added additional explanation of how gas is purchased, futures, the lawsuit filed against companies involved with price gouging in February 2021 and rebate we have received on transportation costs, that have been passed onto customers.

Public forum closed at 7:28pm

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 23-749 – A Resolution of the City of Kechi, Kansas approving submission of the application to become a participating employer in the Kansas Police and Firemen’s Retirement System.**

CA Sroufe presented the item including the schedule of submissions needed to move the police department from KPERS to KP&F. The city’s contribution would increase from 9.43% under KPERS to 22.9% under KP&F. This would be a retention and recruitment tool and was included in the 2023 budget. There is a 60 day protest period, in which if a protest petition representing 10% of the electorate were received by the City Clerk, a public vote would be required.

Motion by Matt Brewer to adopt Resolution 23-749. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 4-0-0.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Gas Pre-pay Agreement - Ordinance 1810-23 – An Ordinance authorizing execution of the Natural Gas Prepay Participation Agreement with the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency and all other necessary documents with respect thereto and providing for the pledge of the revenues of the Natural Gas Utility System of the City to secure such agreement.**

CA Sroufe reintroduced the agreement through KMGA with a third-party vendor which would provide a discount of \$0.25 to \$0.40 per unit of pre-paid gas. We would have to elect what percent of our gas usage we would want to purchase at the discounted rate, based on average per day usage, which CA Sroufe recommends 50%. The conservative estimated savings would be \$9,000 per year. Although it is unknown how many cities are participating, KMGA said that 4 have declared they are not, and in the previous program 21 out of 30 cities did participate.

Motion by Todd Hedstrom to adopt Ordinance 1810-23. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 4-0-0.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION


Motion by Brian Adams to enter into Executive Session for 30 minutes for Non-Elected Personnel with the meeting to resume at 8:12pm. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 4-0-0.

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Richard Haddock to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Brian Adams and carried 4-0-0. The time of adjournment was 8:15pm.

Signed: 
Mayor Ashley Velazquez

Attest: 
Theresa Morlan, City Clerk