

KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

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; and Thomas Bevan, Director of Public Works.

Guests present: David Messmore, Danny Smith, Karin Anderson, Sonya Johnson, Carla & Quincy Adams, Carlos Ramos, Meagan Furrow, Bobbie Downey, Seth Gunter, and Taylor Messick.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mayor Velazquez.

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

1. Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2022

Motion by Rachel Trumbull to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Todd Hedstrom and carried 5-0-0.

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Matt Brewer to approve agenda. The motion was seconded by Brian Adams and carried 5-0-0.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Civic Groups/Committees - None

B. Kechi Good News – Chief Woodrow mentioned that the Police Department would be getting the new vehicle in the next week. Mayor Velazquez thanked the Park Board for planting a tree on the north side of the park for Arbor Day.

C. Public Forum

Sonya Johnson from Valley Floral informed the council of a “Plant Swap” to be held on May 15th from 11am to 3pm. Currently, they have 31 vendors signed up and food trucks. They have invited local shops to participate in a raffle encouraging attendees to visit the local businesses. The event they hosted last year had over 1000 visitors. City Administrator (CA) Sroufe said that she had a meeting with Ms. Johnson and Chief Woodrow regarding parking and other issues that may impact the city, and Ms. Johnson had a lot of them already worked out.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fair Event Permit Application – Carla Adams, Fair Committee Chairman, stated that they are planning to consolidate events to Saturday evening at the park, starting at 4pm. Events would include the fishing derby, ice cream social, and end with the dance. The committee is requesting to allow alcohol at the park on the evening of June 25th from 7 to 11pm. Chief Woodrow expressed concerns with the inability to secure the area, public intoxication with a family-oriented event with children, glass bottles at the park, clean-up impact and only having 3 officers available to work the event. Council questioned if glass bottles could be banned, and if there were vendors. There will be food vendors. Andrew Kovar stated there may be procedural issues, and state restrictions on city/public property. There is a process for temporary alcohol permits, and the city could then enforce their own restrictions as well. Council directed staff to investigate the possibility and procedures to allow alcohol.

Motion by Rachel Trumbull to approve the Special Events Application for the Fair on June 25th at the park. Motion was seconded by Todd Hedstrom and carried 5-0-0.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Old School Taphouse Screening Plan** – CA Sroufe presented the revised plans which defined pants, maturity time and spacing. Karin Anderson addressed the council stating that she does not feel it addresses her concerns. She also consulted with a master gardener at Tree Top Nursery, who said the proposed grasses are not native and are invasive, and the plants maturity is typically 5-6 years rather than the 1-2 years given on the plan. She stated that the bar owners did put up a privacy fence around the residence on the same property and feels her property should be given the same consideration. She stated she has concerns about the maturity time and possible plant failure and asked the council to keep the recommendation for the fence from the planning commission. David Messmore, Old School Taphouse owner reiterated his frustration with the city's error in original zoning and processes, and doesn't feel it is his legal burden, and would not erect a fence.

Motion by Brian Adams to follow the original recommendation of the Planning Commission and require an 8' privacy fence. The motion was seconded by Rachel Trumbull and failed 1-4-0 with Brian Adams voting aye, and Richard Haddock, Rachel Trumbull, Matt Brewer and Todd Hedstrom voting nay.

Motion by Matt Brewer to approve the screening plan. The motion was seconded by Todd Hedstrom and carried 4-1-0 with Richard Haddock, Rachel Trumbull, Matt Brewer and Todd Hedstrom voting aye, and Brian Adams voting nay.

V. DISCUSSION

- A. Police Department Position Update** – The department will have a part-time police officer until a full-time officer is hired.

Motion by Matt Brewer to approve filling positions up to the previous budgeted amount approved by council. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0.

- B. Update Water and Sewer Funds** – CA Sroufe reported on the fund balances of each utility fund. Although the fee resolution had a 2% annual increase on sewer rates, based on the revenue and expenses, CA Sroufe recommended that there not be an increase at this time for either sewer or water rates.
- C. City Hall Hours** – CA Sroufe is planning on closing City Hall on the last Friday of each month to allow for concentrated work without interruption for the purpose of cleaning, organizing and staff development. Phones will be answered, but business will not be conducted. Council asked that if that fell on a holiday weekend, the closure should be rescheduled to the Friday before to not cause four days of closure.

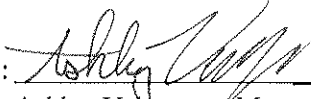
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

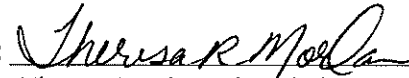
Motion by Brian Adams to enter into Executive Session for Attorney-Client Privilege for 15-minutes with the meeting to resume at 8:21pm. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0.

The meeting reconvened at 8:22pm, and no binding action was taken.

VII. RECESS

Motion made by Matt Brewer to recess until May 12, 2022 at 5:30pm for a workshop on Kechi Rd & Oliver Intersection Project and Community Survey. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0. The time of recess was 8:24pm.

Signed:  _____
Ashley Velazquez, Mayor

Attest:  _____
Theresa Morlan, City Clerk