

KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Council present: Todd Hedstrom; Richard Haddock, Brian Adams, Kendra Baldrige, and Mayor Ashley Velazquez.

City staff present: Andrew Kovar, City Attorney; Kamme Sroufe, City Administrator (CA); Theresa Morlan, Finance/HR Director; Debra Creekmore, City Clerk; Police Chief Braden Moore; Lt. Amanda Smith; Police Officer, Andrew Allen and Thomas Bevan, Public Works Director.

Guests present: Blaine & Joanie Harris; Josh, Kathy, Austin & Kristy Shupp; Tami Dugan; Rusty Leeds; County Commissioner Ryan Batey, Emily Hephner, Madelynn Butler, and Taylor Messick.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE – Led by Mayor Ashley Velazquez.

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

1. City Council Workshop Minutes of July 13, 2023
2. City Council Meeting Minutes August 3, 2023
3. July 2023 Appropriations Report

Motion by Richard Haddock to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Todd Hedstrom. Motion carried 4-0-0.

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Brian Adams to approve the agenda adding of the topic for Executive Session to be Attorney/Client privilege for 15 minutes. Motion seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 4-0-0.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Kechi Civic Groups/Committees

Emily Hephner spoke on behalf of the fair committee. “Shellebrate Fall” will be held on October 7th from 5-9:00 pm at South Kechi Park on Anderson Street. There will be live entertainment with local bands, food trucks, pumpkin decorating, inflatable laser tag, a dance, and fireworks.

B. Kechi Good News

Theresa Morlan won a 2-night trip to NYC for a Disturbed Concert. Commissioner Batey announced that on August 7th Sedgwick County was named a Purple Heart County based on the number of wounded or killed veterans. Karg delivered five large sculptures to Colorado. Kechi UMC youth completed six mission projects.

C. Public Forum

Joanie Harris, 109 Chippewa Street, spoke regarding the budget. She asked the council not to rush to a decision about the water/sewer. She doesn't feel there is enough information. She questions why the residents should have to pay for the infrastructure. Moving forward, residents cannot continue to keep up with these costs. She asks how the council plans to protect the taxpayer's money. She also stated that the city needs to get personnel under control. She feels that adding a communication position is not feasible at

this time. She also asked for the clarification of the word “rural”.

Kathy Shupp, 327 W. Cherokee, spoke about concerns with the mill levy increase. Her family is small and on a single income. They can’t afford new “stuff” although more police and public works employees would be good and needed. They can’t afford to move and do not want to, but they might have to.

Rusty Leeds, 1239 E. 101st N., spoke about the budget. He has been a resident of Sunnydale since 1999. He knows the council is in a hard spot. He also realizes that “cities that don’t grow will stagnate and die.” Kechi has shown growth and is well situated for more growth and the city needs to accommodate that growth. He doesn’t mind paying his fair share but raising the mill to 48 would make Kechi the second highest in the county behind Bentley. Again, he states he doesn’t mind paying his fair share but feels that the full amount of the infrastructure will never make it to North Kechi. He foresees the need to increase the mill levy but feels it should be incremental and not 12 mills.

Tami Dugan, 1999 N. Amidon spoke about the GOTCHA Project, (Get off the Couch and Heal America.), a Patriot Day. This will be October 7, 2023, from 2 – 6:00 pm. A parade of bikers, fire trucks and police cars will gather and parade into the city. A raffle will be held for a Sound of Freedom 2023 H-D Road Glide. There will be wristbands, live bands, and kids’ activities. All proceeds will benefit charities working for the elimination of Human Trafficking. Community members are encouraged to watch The Sound of Freedom at a movie theater to increase the awareness of Human Trafficking. Public Forum closed at 7:35 pm.

D. SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET PRESENTATION

District IV Sedgwick County Commissioner, Ryan Batey, gave an update on the county budget. He stated that the budget process begins in February by looking at the priorities of the constituents. Some budget goals were staffing for ComCare, Police Department and EMS. Staff stability is needed to provide good community services. To retain employees, there must be competitive wages, and a good working culture. Sedgwick County has not had a mill levy increase for 17 years.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. FAIR FALL EVENT PERMIT

The entire event area will be fenced with only one entrance and one exit. There will be no BYOB allowed as lower alcohol content beverages will be for sale. This is a family event and overindulgence will not be encouraged. Chief Moore is confident that his staff can handle anything that might arise.

Motion made by Brian Adams to approve the Shellebrate Fall Fair Permit, seconded by Richard Haddock. Carried 4-0-0.

B. WATER TOWER PAINTING

The tower needs sandblasted and coated. The paint scheme will be legs-orange, bottom of bowl & bowl-turquoise, top of bowl-white. The Kechi turtle will be on two opposite sides and the name KECHI will be on the remaining sides. We are requesting top of the line paint to extend the life cycle. Cell phone companies that currently have equipment on the tower will be asked to remove it. We would like to have the work scheduled for the fall pending contract approval of Attorney Kovar. Estimate will be for sandblast, painting, cage/safety harness on top of the bowl and repairs to existing ladder. VIKING submitted the winning bid of \$211,500 clean/coat and \$15,900 safety features. Total estimated cost is \$227,400. No lighting is included and the warranty for the paint is 15 years, and the service is 3 years. VIKING will also provide a timeline and daily pictures of progress.

Motion made by Brian Adams to approve the contract with VIKING to paint the city water tower for \$227,000, seconded by Richard Haddock. Carried 4-0-0.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - None

Administrator Sroufe formally resigned her position. She wishes the council and community well going forward and will remain through the completion of the 2024 budget and assist in a smooth transition of projects. She asked the council to listen and trust the leadership of Finance Director, Theresa Morlan; Public Works Director, Thomas Bevan; and Police Chief Moore.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Brian Adams to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Attorney/Client Privilege. The meeting is to resume at 8:25 pm in the Council Chambers. Seconded by Richard Haddock. Carried 4-0-0.

The meeting resumed at 8:27 pm. No binding action was taken while in Executive Session.

VI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Todd Hedstrom, seconded by Kendra Baldrige. Carried 4-0-0.

The meeting closed at 8:28 pm.

Signed: _____

Mayor Ashley Velazquez

Attest: _____

Debra Creekmore
Debra Creekmore, City Clerk



KECHI BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

August 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

City Administrator, Kamme Sroufe called the workshop to order at 5:32 PM. She asked for dialogue and questions. She also asked for the direction the council intended to go with planning.

Council present: Todd Hedstrom, Brian Adams, Kendra Baldrige, Richard Haddock, and Mayor Ashley Velazquez.

City staff present: Kamme Sroufe, City Administrator (CA); Theresa Morlan, Finance/HR Director; Debra Creekmore, City Clerk; Police Chief Braden Moore; Thomas Bevan, Public Works Director; Lt. Amanda Smith; and Officer Josh Meyer.

Guests present: Blaine and Joanie Harris, Joshua, Kathryn, Austin and Kristy Shupp, and Rusty Leeds.

Administrator Sroufe noted that the city will need land for the Sewer Treatment Facility. She raised the question where this land will be located and where will the funding for the purchase come from? Monies can be reallocated if the city decides not to move forward with the facility. It is possible to reserve a certain mill for a particular fund so that staff can track the amount spent each year to know when the cap has been reached. Adding the 69th & Oliver addition, with approximately 200 new homes, will bring the city to capacity on water and sewer infrastructure. There is a one-mile gap between existing infrastructure and this new development. When developers come into the city to build, they assume utilities are in place but that may not be the case, including on property located in the middle of the city if the cap has been reached.

Richard Haddock suggested Administrator Sroufe design a new budget for the status quo. He would like to see how much mill levy for everything the city would like added. He then suggested these items could be prioritized.

Chief Moore was asked his opinion on police staffing. He stated that with Park City's casino, night club and aquarium coming there would be more traffic and officer involvement incurred. He says his department will be strained from responding to these additional incidents. For 24-hour police coverage, Chief Moore suggested 2 additional officers per shift. Administrator Sroufe figured it would cost \$100,000 -\$130,000 per officer with labor and benefits. She stressed the importance of keeping the health benefits to retain good employees. We are not getting job applications because no one wants to work and many of the Public Works employees' duties must be certified. No one is even applying for positions offering a certification sign-on bonus. We need to have good incentives to keep our employees here.


Council stated that they would like to see budgeting for reallocating Public Works employees, a Communications employee, a Police Officer, and savings amount for Capital Improvement using a mill levy per \$100,000.

Motion by Richard Haddock to adjourn the workshop. Seconded by Brian Adams. Carried 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

Signed: 

Mayor, Ashley Velazquez

Attest: 

Debra Creekmore, City Clerk

