

City of Leoti Governing Body met in regular session Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at the City Hall Meeting Room.

Mayor Charlie Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Hughes asked City Clerk Jeannine Hassell for Roll Call; Councilors Kelma Burch, Derek Meyer, Tyrrell Tankersly and Tammie Meyer-Givens. City Attorney Charles Moser, City Superintendent Blaine Medina and Deputy City Clerk Cendy Morcillo were also present. Also in attendance were Carol Roberts and Aron White. Council President Greg Graff was absent.

Tankersley moved Burch seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda items included: a. November 6, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, b. November 14, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, c. Payroll warrants \$16,261.09 and d. Accounts Payable warrants \$37,465.84. Motion carried unanimously. (The warrants were available for review).

Givens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda a – d. Burch seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Hughes welcomed Carol Roberts, Leoti Housing Authority. Roberts gave a 4th quarter update.

Council reviewed a written 4th quarter update from Judith Lemus, Wichita County Park and Recreation.

Mayor Hughes opened the floor to public comments. No public comments.

Givens moved Tankersley seconded to approve a five percent cost of living adjustment for all full time employees, to take effect the first payroll in January 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Givens moved Tankersley seconded for the removal of Greg Graff as City Council President and removal from bank signature cards. Motion carried unanimously.

Tankersley moved Givens seconded to approve Derek Meyer as City Council President and to add him to the bank signature cards. Roll call vote taken: Givens-yes, Burch-yes, Tankersley-yes, Meyer-abstained. Motion carried 3-0. Graff-absent

City Superintendent Medina shared an update on the Highway 96 project. The 12.5 foot section should be done this week. Next week if weather permits they will work on curbing. The plan at this point is to get the driving lanes open by Christmas. The flat work (entrances and sidewalks) won't get started until a crew from Nebraska can come. This work may not get started until next year.

Council reviewed the written treasurer's report provided by City Treasurer Gould.

City Superintendent Medina reported he has ordered parts for a 10 inch line that needs repaired. The street sweeper has been out picking up leaves and with the nice weather the Christmas decorations were put up on Highway 25. The decorations cannot be placed on Highway 96 due to the project.

City Clerk Hassell reported she attend the CCMFOA Fall Conference in Wichita. Lisa Axman with Lewis, Hooper and Dick Certified Public Accountants will be here tomorrow to start audit field work. Hassell shared City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lawrence Higgins entered the meeting at 7:06 pm

Mayor Hughes called the Public Hearing open at 7:10 pm. The hearing was requested by Lawrence Higgins for properties 905 N 6th St., 908 N 7th St. and 910 N 7th St. Three properties are believed to be in violation of city codes for maintaining a nuisance. City Attorney Moser explained to council that code violation letters for said properties had been sent to Mr. Higgins on August 8, 2023 with 30 days to comply. A second set of code violation letters were sent to Higgins on October 20, 2023 with 10 days to comply and right to request a public hearing before the council. On October 30, 2023 Higgins requested a public hearing. City Council set the public hearing for November 20, 2023 at 7:15 pm. City Attorney Moser stated that, there has been progress made on his properties but a nuisance condition remains on all three properties. Acting Code Enforcement Officer Cendy Morcillo shared with council the violations that still need to be addressed on all three properties. Mr. Higgins was then given time to address the council with questions. Council requested Mr. Higgins to have a written plan by the next City Council meeting on December 4, 2023 for abatement of the nuisance conditions on what the next steps are to meet the requirements of the violations. Givens moved to recess the public hearing until December 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Meyers seconded. Motion carried.

Givens made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to the nonelected personnel matters exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6), for preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property with Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Superintendent and City Clerk for 5 minutes. The open meeting will resume in the council room at 7:48 p.m. Meyers seconded. Motion carried.

Meyers made a motion to approve the water rights purchase agreement to purchase the water rights and easement from Mark Berning for \$125,000 as presented with the authority given to the Mayor Hughes to sign the agreement on behalf of the city. 10% will be paid in 2023 and the remaining amount in 2024. Tankersley seconded. Motion carried.

There being no further business Givens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Burch seconded. Motion carried.


Mayor Charlie Hughes


Jeannine Hassell, City Clerk

