

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall, practicing social distancing and conducting the meeting by live streaming with Zoom, on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 with Mayor Johnson presiding and Commissioners Moffatt and Nichol present.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of item 4B: Resolution Declaring a Financial Emergency due to SPP Energy Emergency and item 4F: Prochamps Property Registry Presentation: Tim Cox. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried.

Commission, Administrator and Community Development Director reports were heard.

Public Comments were invited and heard.

Commissioner Nichol moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes from the February 10, 2021 Commission Meeting and Appropriation (2021) 03. Seconded by Commissioner Moffatt. Motion carried.

Administrator Truelove addressed the Commission regarding a resolution that would amend the Personnel Policy Manual to add the Water Plant employees to the Standby Pay Policy, and to clarify the number of hours paid for standby pay. Discussion held

RESOLUTION NO. 21-06

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES FOR THE CITY OF NEODESHA, KANSAS, AS ADOPTED BY THE NEODESHA CITY COMMISSION BY RESOLUTION 18-13.

WHEREAS, the City finds it necessary to place certain employees in the Electrical, Gas Distribution and Water Plant Departments on Standby; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to create a fair and equitable process for remuneration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NEODESHA:

The City of Neodesha, Kansas amends and adopts the following Standby Pay Policy in Section 5.8 of the City's current Personnel Policies and Guidelines:

5.8 Electrical, Gas Distribution and Water Plant Employee Standby Pay

Employees working in the City of Neodesha Electrical Distribution, Gas Distribution and Water Plant Departments shall be required to be available for call out on a 24/7 basis and thus periodically scheduled to be on "Standby." Employees required to be on standby shall be compensated in the following manner:

- a. Electrical, Gas Distribution and Water Plant employees who are assigned to be on Standby after regular working hours shall be paid for two (2) hours salary per day based on their normal hourly pay rate during their regular work week, and, if called out, will additionally receive one and one-half (1.5) times normal hourly salary after completing the first one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes of call out time.
- b. Employees assigned to be on Standby during their normal days off (Saturday and Sunday) shall be paid for five (5) hours salary per day based on their normal hourly pay rate during their regular work week. If called out an employee on weekend standby will receive one and one-half (1.5) times normal salary after completing the first (4) four hours of call out time.
- c. Employees on Standby during a holiday shall be paid for five (5) hours regular time for such standby time based on their normal hourly pay rate during their regular work week. If called out an employee on standby during a holiday period will receive two (2) times normal salary after having worked two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes of call out time.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to approve Resolution 21-06 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried.

Administrator Truelove addressed the Commission regarding Resolution 21-07 declaring a Financial Emergency due to SPP Energy Emergency. Discussion held.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEODESHA, KANSAS DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY;

WHEREAS, over a two-week period in February, low temperatures with sub-zero wind chills over several days accompanied by snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the state have caused stress to the energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, communities across the state including the City saw an increase in the demand for natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cost to purchase electric energy exceeded 10 – 200 times the normal prices; and

WHEREAS, without emergency action, the increased prices required to purchase natural gas and/or electricity will result in significantly higher than normal utility bills for the citizens of the City threatening the financial health, and the physical welfare of the City's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Kansas declared a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation within the state on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Neodesha in response to the situation desires to place the public on notice that it is exploring every avenue of relief and is declaring an extraordinary local state of financial emergency.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NEODESHA:

As of February 24, 2021, the City of Neodesha is in an extraordinary financial emergency.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

This resolution shall be published at least once in the newspaper of general circulation in the City.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to approve Resolution No. 21-07 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried.

Administrator Truelove addressed the Commission regarding the appointment of Ross Jamison to Interim Fire Chief and Interim EMS Director following the retirement of Chief Duane Banzet. Discussion held.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to appoint Ross Jamison as the Interim Fire Chief and Interim EMS Director. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried.

Administrator Truelove addressed the Commission regarding the recent award of \$75,000 from the KDOT Transportation Alternative Program to the City of Neodesha. The grant is for preliminary engineering on the Safe Routes to School, Phase 2 Project. Administrator Truelove is asking the Commission to approve and sign the KDOT Non-Infrastructure Project Request. Discussion held.

Commissioner Nichol moved to approve the KDOT Non-Infrastructure Project Request form as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Moffatt. Motion carried.

Jeri Hammerschmidt, Community Development Director, addressed the Commission regarding the purchase of cemetery plots from the American Legion. Discussion held.

Commissioner Nichol moved to approve the purchase of cemetery plots from the American Legion at a cost of \$5 per plot. Seconded by Commissioner Moffatt. Motion carried.

The Commission welcomed Tim Cox, Prochamps, for a virtual presentation on their program of property registration as a means to control blight. Discussion and questions were entertained during the presentation with no action taken.

Administrator Truelove addressed the Commission regarding the recent energy emergency experienced in the Southwest Power Pool area of influence. Discussion held.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to direct Staff to prepare a Resolution to formalize a utility payment plan for the 2021 Energy Emergency. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to recess to an Executive Session including the Governing Body, City Administrator, Interim Fire Chief Ross Jamison and City Clerk in the Commission Room to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception KSA 75-4319(b)(1) because if this matter were discussed in open session it might invade the privacy of those discussed. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 4:10 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried. The live streamed Zoom meeting was then placed on hold with audio, video and recording ceasing.

At 4:10 p.m. the regular meeting of the Governing Body reconvened in the Commission Room at City Hall. No action taken. The live streamed Zoom meeting then resumed with audio, video and recording.

Commissioner Moffatt moved to recess to an Executive Session including the Governing Body, City Administrator and City Clerk in the Commission Room to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception KSA 75-4319(b)(1) because if this matter were discussed in open session it might invade the privacy of those discussed. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 4:20 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nichol. Motion carried. The live streamed Zoom meeting was then placed on hold with audio, video and recording ceasing.

At 4:20 p.m. the regular meeting of the Governing Body reconvened in the Commission Room at City Hall. No action taken. The live streamed Zoom meeting then resumed with audio, video and recording.

The next regular meeting of the Governing Body will be held in the Commission Room at City Hall on Wednesday, March 10 2021 at 2:00 p.m., practicing social distancing and conducting the meeting by live streaming with Zoom.

At 4:24 p.m. Commissioner Nichol moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Moffatt. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

/s/ Devin Johnson

Devin Johnson, Mayor

/s/ Stephanie Fyfe

Stephanie Fyfe, City Clerk