

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 13, 2019**

PRESENT:

Mayor: John Battin

Council Members Present: Sam Guy, Ken Warner, Larry Velasquez,
John Duran, Jerry Jo Deckert, and Tim McCauley

Staff Present: Alan Olson, Melinda Manzano, and Dave Black

Visitors: Lara Tusten

Mayor John Battin called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor John Battin.

Council Member John Duran led the room in **Opening Prayer**.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Deckert to approve the consent agenda. Council Members McCauley, Duran, Warner, and Guy voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Visitors:

OLD BUSINESS

CMB Ordinance

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that at the last council meeting we tabled ordinance 1276 so the council could have some time to review it. Olson then stated that he and Dave Black City Attorney reviewed the ordinance and all the wording is correct.

Motion by Council Member Warner, seconded by Council Member Duran to approve ordinance 1276. Council Members McCauley, Velasquez, Deckert, and Guy voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

NEW BUSINESS

Economic Development Update

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale explained that in 2018 Economic Development completed a Business Revitalization Program where they awarded a \$25,000.00 grant to a business that was looking to grow, expand, or start up. The \$25,000.00 grant went to Ulysses Engine and Machine. Bob also stated that they ended up giving out two more grants one to Warner Automotive for \$15,000.00, and \$5,000.00 to Legends Barber Shop.

Bob stated the grocery store project is an ongoing project, and may continue to move forward.

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale explained to the council that they have spent some of the EIF (Economic Incentive Fund) because they now have a way of replenishing the fund. The operation funds provided by the city and the county together are \$140,000.00 a year, and it costs approximately \$130,000.00 to \$135,000.00 a year to operate. So with the city and county funds, and some rental property within their building it has allowed them to return approximately \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 back to the EIF fund over the last three years

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale stated they are currently working on updating their bylaws, and how the board members are chosen may be changing. Bob stated he will keep the council up to date when any decision are made.

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale stated that he was approached by Steve Strickler a Board Member of Dairy Farmers of America at the agriculture summit last year. Steve Strickler is a Dairy Farmer in South East Kansas who is interested in having a holstein slaughter plant in Grant County, because any male holstein within 1,000 miles of here is shipped to Green Bay Wisconsin for slaughtering. Which is the only location that slaughters holsteins.

Bob stated that he contacted the Department of Agriculture, and they thought it was the most fantastic idea that has been brought to them. Bob also spoke with some people in the dairy industry in the area, and they also loved the idea. Bob explained that he has spoke with the We Can Do organization, because he believes this is a regional idea, and We Can Do has agreed they would like to pursue it further.

Bob stated the number one question becomes nobody wants this slaughter facility in their back yard, and number two how do we provide the workforce. Bob explained for a slaughter plant to be a possibility they will need to be able to slaughter 750 to 1000 cattle a day. Bob stated that with We Can Dos ability to share tax revenue across county lines, if we find a location across county line we will still be able to share the tax revenue. Bob believes there is support for this business, and so they will continue to pursue this business.

STAFF COMMENTS

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that he has been working on the band shell, and he stated that he believes that it can be done, but he thinks the main priority at this time should be city hall for the employees safety. Olson asked for the councils permission to start looking in that direction. The council was in agreement with City Administrator Olson.

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that City Hall has received their new phone system.

COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Deckert stated that she is looking forward to summer, and the flowers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Deckert, seconded by Council Member Velasquez to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Mayor John Battin

Council Member Jerry Jo Deckert

Council Member Tim McCauley

Council Member Kenneth Warner

Council Member Larry Velasquez

Council Member John Duran

Council Member Sam Guy

Interim City Administrator Alan Olson

City Clerk Sarah Britton