

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
June 10, 2020**

PRESENT:

Mayor: Tim McCauley

Council Members Present: John Duran, Tolan Seger, Ken Warner
Jerry Jo Deckert, Caleb Woods, and Sam Guy

Staff Present: Alan Olson, Sarah Britton, and Dave Black

Visitors: Jantz Becker, Bob Dale, Don Button, Jen Hittle
Josh Freeman, Thaxton Freeman, Marieta Hauser,
and Lara Varela

Mayor Tim McCauley called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Tim McCauley.

Pastor Gustavo Perez led the room in **Opening Prayer**.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Visitors:

Citizen Laura Varela asked the council for permission to have her wedding in her back yard on July 4, 2020 7:00pm to 10:00pm at 901 N Sullivan. Laura stated that she has asked her neighbors for permission, and has their signatures stating that they are fine with the wedding. She also stated she will have approximately 25 families in attendance.

City Administrator Olson stated there are a couple of concerns one being that it is on July 4th, and the other concern is parking.

Laura stated that there is an open lot on Colorado Street that might let her park cars, this lot is also in the 900 Block of Colorado.

City Administrator Olson asked Laura if she would be able to get a hold of the gentleman that owns the lot to get permission.

Mayor McCauley stated that he thinks it is great that you want to have your wedding at your residence, but there are some concerns with it being on July 4th. McCauley also stated he would hate for there to be an accident.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appoint Economic Development Board Member

Mayor McCauley stated the city has an open position on the Economic Development Board, and I would like to appoint Josh Freeman who has turned in an application.

Motion by Council Member Deckert, seconded by Council Member Duran to appoint Josh Freeman to the Economic Development Board. Council Members Seger, Woods, Warner, and Guy, voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none

Tigers In action Budget Request

Director of Tigers In Action Jen Hittle stated that Tigers In Action is requesting \$3,000.00 for their 2021, budget, and that she is sad to announce that they will be closing their doors after 20 years of supporting the kids at the end of the 2021 school year. The next year will be a transition year, for establishing partnerships to help continue the programs. Hittle explained that all the funds for Tigers In Action are used for students and families in Grant County from Pre-School through 12th grade. Tigers In Action's mission to assist students in achieving their goals through the community wide support. Hittle thanked the city for their continued support.

The council will take this into consideration during the budget process.

Chamber of Commerce Budget Request

Marieta Hauser Director of Grant County Chamber of Commerce asked the council to consider helping fund their organization again this year. Marieta stated that the \$14,500 contribution to their budget last year was greatly appreciated. This year they would like you to consider the same contribution. We would appreciate your financial support of the Chamber of Commerce. The electronic signs are now in place and bringing in some much needed revenue for the Chamber. We thank you for allowing us to administer the ads.

Covid-19 has affected us with slower than normal dues income. We are working with our members to try to be flexible as we know many of them are struggling too. The bed tax is also going to be lower than normal this year due to the virus. There were fewer travelers staying in our local lodging due to the shutdown. A portion of our budget comes as an administrative fee for our tourism work and that money is a percentage of the collected bed tax. We have also been unable to host our carnival and Spring Fling which both bring in income for the Chamber. We do hope to host the carnival but at this point, we don't know what to expect for attendance.

Marieta stated the Grant County Chamber serves not only our member businesses but also the whole community through some quality of life events that make Grant County a great place to live, work and play. Some of those include: Home Products Dinner, Miss Southwest Kansas Pageant, Spring Fling, Christmas Parade of Lights, Carnival, Fireworks display donations, Fall Fest, Holiday Promotions, Summer Concert Series, Legislative Coffees, and Weekly Chamber Coffees.

The Grant County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is an organization that is of benefit to the citizens of Grant County and we would very much appreciate your financial support again in 2020.

The council will take this into consideration during the budget process.

Economic Development Budget Request

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale stated that Grant County Economic Development would like to request our annual funding from the City of Ulysses in the amount of \$50,000.00 for 2021.

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale stated that Galen Pelton, Josh Freeman, and Kasey Kruger are Economic Development Board Members that are appointed by the city. Bob also stated that if the council ever has any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact any of these board members.

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale explained that Economic Development has two different funds. First is the economic incentive fund or the EIF this money is used strictly on projects to benefit the community, and the balance in this fund is \$483,377.83. The second fund is the

operational fund which is used for everyday business, and this is the fund that we are asking the city to contribute to.

End of 2019 EIF

Outstanding Loans-----\$92,136.83
EIF Balance-----\$483,377.83
Business Revitalization Plan-----\$4,066.88
Mural-----\$2,000.00
Bad Debt-----\$30,000.00

EIF 2020 Activity

Loans-----\$75,000.00
Covid Recovery Grant Program-----\$51,000.00
Business Revitalization Plan-----\$5,000.00

Bob explained to the council that Genesis Family Health was needing to combine all of their offices into one building, so they will be moving the health clinic into the Economic Development building. This will be additional \$3,000.00 in revenue making the total rental income from all agencies for 2021 close to \$49,000.00. Bob stated making the goal of \$50,000.00 to move into the EIF Fund.

Bob also asked the council if Economical Development could receive \$25,000.00 the other half of the \$50,000.00 for the 2020 budget.

The council will take this into consideration during the budget process.

Resolution No 2020-3 Region C Hazard Mitigation Plan

Director of Emergency Management Don Button stated that five years ago the State of Kansas decided to go to Regional Mitigation Plans. Don explained what this plan does is if there is a Federal Disaster in the State, and at the end of the disaster sometimes the state will receive mitigation funding. To apply for the mitigation funding the city has to have a mitigation plan in place.

Motion by Council Member Warner, seconded by Council Member Woods to approve resolution 2020-3 Region C Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Members Seger, Duran, Deckert, and Guy, voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none

CMB License Family Dollar

Motion by Council Member Deckert, seconded by Council Member Duran to approve CMB license for Family Dollar. Council Members Seger, Warner, Woods, and Guy, voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none

Executive Session

Mayor McCauley stated that we will be going into executive session for the discussion of the acquisition of real property.

Motion by Council Member Warner, seconded by Council Member Deckert to go into executive session for 5 minutes for the preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property, and will return to regular session at 6:19p.m.. Council Members Duran, Woods, Seger, and Guy, voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none

Mayor called the meeting back to order at 6:19p.m.

Mayor stated that he needs a motion for acquisition of real property.

Motion by Council Member Warner, seconded by Council Member Deckert to accept the real estate contract for the purchase of Lots One (1) through Twelve (12), Block Five (5) in the Helen Coffey Addition to the City of Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas as shown by the recorded plat thereof; for the total purchase price of \$80,000.00. Council Members Seger, Duran, Woods, and Guy, voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none

STAFF COMMENTS

Attorney Black stated city court has started back up.

City Administrator Olson stated that we are moving into budget season, and it has been a little slow because of the restrictions that have been in place. Olson also stated that the auditors will be at the council meeting on June 24, 2020 to present the 2019 audit, and we should be ready to present the budget at the July 8, 2020 meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Deckert stated that Sherrie and her helpers are doing a great job on the parks.

Council Member Woods thanked the organizations that came to the meeting tonight, and all that they do for the community.

Council Member Warner stated that he has received compliments on the new signs on Main street, and thanked the Chamber for their help. Warner also thanked the organizations for coming, because it helps the city understand what they do, and how the funding helps their organization.

Mayor McCauley stated that everything is looking great in the city, and that it is exciting to see the community getting back to the new normal. Mayor thanked Josh Freeman for stepping up to be a part of the Economic Development Board, and also thanked his son Thaxton Freeman for coming to the meeting tonight for Boy Scouts.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Deckert, seconded by Council Member Guy to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Mayor Tim McCauley

Council Member Jerry Jo Deckert

Council Member Tolan Seger

Council Member Kenneth Warner

Council Member Sam Guy

Council Member John Duran

Council Member Caleb Woods

City Administrator Alan Olson

City Clerk Sarah Britton