

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF NIXA, MISSOURI

**NIXA CITY HALL**

**June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Nixa City Council was called to order by Mayor Jarad Giddens. Attending were Council Members Kelly Morris, Shawn Lucas, Aron Peterson, Darlene Graham and Zern Vess. Matt Ogden was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

## **Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Giddens called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vess made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, items a through b, with Morris seconding and Vess, Peterson, Graham, Morris, and Lucas voting aye on roll call vote.

## **Service Award:**

Mayor Giddens recognized Matt Sloan for his 20 years of service to the City. Joe Campbell, Police Chief, stated that Sloan was not in attendance. Campbell told Council that this service award was unique for him to present because he field-trained Sloan. Campbell said that Sloan is in the Investigations Unit as a Detective. Campbell discussed the previous positions within the department that Sloan has held. Campbell told Council that Sloan focuses on the department's mental health and is an asset as a detective.

Mayor Giddens recognized Jerron Pursifull for his five (5) years of service to the City. Brian Denney, Electric Superintendent, stated that Pursifull was not in attendance. Denney said that Pursifull started in the Tree Department and is now in his fourth (4th) year as an Electrical Apprentice. Denney stated that Pursifull is a natural leader. Denney told Council that Pursifull helps with mutual aid calls. Denney said that Pursifull will make a good lineman.

## **Visitors:**

Dave Lofton, 1516 S. Gregg Rd., told Council he was in attendance to speak on behalf of the Bees Alive Club. Lofton said he is a member of the Missouri State Beekeeper Association. Lofton discussed bee parasites. Lofton stated that Nixa Hardware is the largest beekeeping supplies seller in the area, and Tractor Supply also sells beekeeping supplies. Lofton told Council that the Bees Alive Club has partnered with Nixa Hardware to provide a beekeeping class. Lofton said the city is a good bee habitat and provided information on swarming and colonies. Lofton discussed the City's code on bees and asked for bees to be allowed in backyards and what the possible requirements are for beekeeping in the City. Mayor Giddens responded to Lofton's comments. Council held a discussion.

Ron Sanders, 976 Glen Oaks Dr., discussed civility and elections.

**Ordinance (First Reading and Public Hearing; Comments Limited to 5 Minutes; No Council Vote Anticipated):**

**Council Bill #2024-18** Amending the 2024 Annual Budget in the Amount of \$151,472.00 for the Purpose of Funding the Two Additional Positions Within the Police Department. Campbell said in April 2023 the citizens of Nixa approved a ¾ cent tax to fund public safety. Campbell stated this tax will be used for new officers and a new police building. Campbell told Council that during the 2024 budget process, it was decided that the department would look at the tax revenue numbers mid-year to determine if there was enough revenue generated to fund the additional officers. Campbell said that as of mid-year, \$1.3 million in revenue had been collected and that staff was comfortable with the additional officers and promotions. Campbell stated that he is confident they can add the two (2) additional officers because the department is always recruiting. Campbell stated that the budget amendment would be for \$151,472.00. Mayor Giddens opened the public hearing for comments, with no comments made, the public hearing was closed.

**Council Bill #2024-19** Approving the Preliminary Plat of the Subdivision Known as Century Heights Which is Generally Located in the 1500 Block of North Owen Road and Authorizing Certain City Officials to Take Certain Actions Upon the Filing of a Final Plat. Scott Godbey, Planning and Development Director, told Council that a portion of this property was rezoned in 2023 and that rezoning allowed for 27 single-family homes, 12 duplexes, and three (3) common areas. Godbey stated that the property is north of the bowling alley and Tracker Road, west of the property are single-family homes in the County, south of the property is a radio tower, and to the east of the property is an undeveloped commercial highway zoned piece of land. Godbey said the only access to this property is on Owen Road. Godbey discussed the three (3) common areas for this property. Godbey said all lots have access to Nixa Utilities and conform to lot standards. Godbey discussed the sinkholes on the property and specifically the road that will go over the top of one of the sinkholes. Godbey provided information on the floodplain for this property. Godbey discussed the ingress and egress of the property. Godbey said that North Owen Road is a collector-level street and that no offside improvements would be needed. Godbey discussed the traffic impact study that was required for the lot. Godbey stated that no one approached the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Commission voted unanimously to approve. Godbey said that staff also recommends approval. Council asked questions, with Godbey responding. Godbey said that if a secondary emergency access road can't be installed, the homes must have a sprinkler system installed. Godbey stated this property was originally annexed into the City in 2003. Council asked additional questions with Godbey responding. Mayor Giddens opened the public hearing for comments.

Rob Staab, 909 Strawberry Ct., discussed the sinkholes on the property. Staab presented his concerns about the road overtop a sinkhole and emergency access roads.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

### **Ordinances (Second Reading and Public Hearing; Comments Limited to 5 Minutes; Council Vote Anticipated):**

**Council Bill #2024-17** Amending the 2024 Annual Budget in the Amount of \$22,000.00 for the Purpose of Funding the Installation of an Outdoor Utility Billing Payment Kiosk. Justin Orf, Project Facilitator, stated that this council bill is to approve a utility billing kiosk at the library.

Orf said that in December of 2023, a budget amendment for \$12,000.00 was approved for this project; however, due to the needed covering for the kiosk, an additional \$22,000.00 is needed. Orf told Council that Sterling would provide the cover for the kiosk, and Hambey Construction would install it. Orf said the Water Fund will pay for this kiosk budget amendment. Orf stated that staff recommends approval. Mayor Giddens opened the public hearing for comments, with no comments made, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Giddens called for a motion to approve the council bill. Peterson made a motion to approve Council bill #2024-17 with Morris seconding and Morris, Lucas, Peterson, Vess, and Graham voting aye on roll call vote.

### **Resolutions (Public Hearing; Comments Limited to 5 Minutes: Council Vote Anticipated):**

Graham recused herself from Resolutions #2024-38 and #2024-39.

**Resolution #2024-38** Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Contract with the Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce in the Amount of \$10,000.00 for the City's Sponsorship of the Sky-High Fireworks Celebration 2024. Cindy Robbins, Assistant City Administrator, stated this resolution is to approve the City's sponsorship of the Sky-High Celebration. Robbins said the Sky-High Celebration will be June 29th, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. at Eagle Stadium. Robbins told Council that the \$10,000.00 was budgeted. Robbins stated that staff recommends approval. Mayor Giddens opened the public hearing for comments, with no comments made, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Giddens called for a motion to approve the resolution. Lucas made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-38, with Peterson seconding and all Council Members voting aye.

**Resolution #2024-39** Granting a Permit to the Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce to Authorize the Display of Fireworks for the 2024 Sky-High Fireworks Celebration. Godbey said the Sky-High Celebration will be June 29th. Godbey stated that Encore Fireworks will be performing the fireworks show. Godbey said that City Code 16-198 requires Council to approve fireworks shows. Godbey told Council that all insurance requirements were met. Godbey said staff recommends approval. Mayor Giddens opened the public hearing for comments, with no comments made, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Giddens called for a motion to approve the resolution. Vess made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-39, with Morris seconding and all Council Members voting aye.

Graham returned to the meeting.

**Resolution #2024-40** Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Contract in the Amount of \$28,000.00 with Hambey Construction, LLC, for the Installation of a Certain Utility Billing Kiosk. Orf told Council this resolution was an extension of the budget amendment that had just been approved. Orf said that this resolution approves the contract for purchasing and installing the Utility Billing Kiosk. Orf stated that Hambey is being utilized via a co-op agreement. Orf said that Hambey's installation of the kiosk will not exceed \$28,000.00. Orf told Council that staff recommends approval. Mayor Giddens opened the public hearing for comments, with no comments made, the public hearing was closed. Mayor Giddens called for a motion to approve

the Resolution. Morris made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-40 with Lucas seconding and all Council members voting aye.

### **Liaison Report:**

Graham presented her liaison report on the Police Department. Graham discussed the department's structure and staffing. Graham stated there are 42 commissioned officers, one (1) part-time officer, and six (6) civilian personnel. Graham said the department needs nine (9) additional officers. Graham provided information on the Operations Bureau. Graham stated that in 2023 the department had 40,001 calls for service and 300 crashes. Graham provided information on the Investigations Unit. Graham said that in 2023 there were 586 cases were investigated. Graham stated that in 2023 the department had six (6) officers in field training. Graham said that there are 34 vehicles in the Police Department's fleet. Graham told Council that the D.A.R.E officer, Brent Forgey, had 1,440 students participate in the 2022-2023 school year. Graham discussed crime prevention and animal control. Graham discussed the SWAT team callouts for 2023. Graham told Council that the K9 Unit had 60 deployments in 2023. Graham said that a DEA officer is coming in 2024. Graham discussed employee recognition for 2024. Graham stated a new Police Department is coming soon. Graham said new technology was installed in the vehicles. Graham told Council that the new range is open, and the Citizen Police Academy Alumni are considering offering an external police vest scholarship. Graham discussed police officer retention.

### **Mayor and Council Member Reports:**

Mayor Giddens stated that the Sky-High Fireworks Celebration would be Saturday, June 29th, at Eagles Stadium, and the One Nixa One Read Movies in the Park would be Friday, June 28th.

Lucas discussed a \$8,797.00 mural grant that the Downtown Revitalization Committee received and its possible uses.

Liles reminded Council that City Offices would be closed on July 4th and 5th.

### **Adjournment:**

With no further business Mayor Giddens adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.