

**ELLIS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
January 3, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David McDaniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Council members Kellie Crnkovich, Devin Henderson (arrived at 7:39 p.m.), Martin LaBarge, Jolene Niernberger, Tricia Pritchett, and John Walz. Also present were Public Works Director John Leiker, City Clerk Amy Burton, Police Chief Avery Smith, and City Attorney Olavee Raub.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

Nickole Byers and Colin Pritchett

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 19, 2022, Bills Ordinance #2156, and the Manual Journal Entries for November. Council member Tricia Pritchett seconded the motion. The Council approved the consent agenda 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

**PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS
(HEARINGS)**

None

SPECIAL ORDER

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: City Code

Council member Martin LaBarge moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1485 changing the meeting time for regular City Council meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Council member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Council member Tricia Pritchett moved to approve Resolution No. 593 waiving Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for financial statement reporting for 2023. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

General Government: Policy

Annually, Council designates the official newspapers and official banks for the City to use. Council member Jolene Niernberger moved to designate the Hays Daily News and Ellis Review as official newspapers; Equity Bank and Golden Belt Bank as official banks within the City limits; and Emprise Bank and Commerce Bank as the official banks outside the City limits. Council member Tricia Pritchett seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Water: City Code

The City received the final loan documents from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Water Supply System Improvement Project. Council member John Walz moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1486 authorizing the execution of the loan agreement between the City of Ellis and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in order to finance water system improvements. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the

motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Sewer/Sanitation: Accounting/Billing

Jr. LaBarge has submitted an Application for Local Utility Incentives for the restaurant he is opening at 814 Washington. He hasn't decided the name of the restaurant yet, but plans to open in the next month or so. Council member John Walz moved to approve the Application for Local Incentives for Jr. LaBarge for his new restaurant at 814 Washington, contingent on Mr. LaBarge transferring utility services to the business account within 90 days. Council member Kellie Crnkovich seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with Council member Martin LaBarge abstaining due to perceived conflict of interest. The business incentives will take effect with the first billing after satisfying the contingency.

General Government: Financial

Council member Jolene Niernberger moved to approve Resolution No. 594 authorizing City employees to use the City credit cards. Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director John Leiker reported that the Department had over thirty calls of frozen meters with several needing replacement. Mr. Leiker reminded the public that to prevent freezing, insulation must be placed on top of the water meter, not below. The meter will actually freeze faster with insulation placed at the bottom of the meter because it doesn't allow the warm air to rise up.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Monthly Incident Report for December. Officer Peterson will graduate from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center on January 13th. Officer Pritchett will begin at KLETC February 13th with a scheduled May graduation.

City Clerk

City Clerk Amy Burton presented the November financial statements. The Board of Tax Appeals sent notice that the Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Ellis A&W have been properly filed. The Kansas Department of Agriculture has approved the City's request for extension of the Water Supply System Improvement Project. The extension is until December 31, 2024.

Attorney

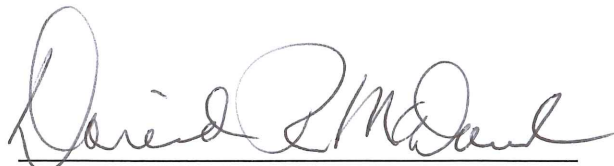
Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor David McDaniel announced a vacancy on the Ellis Housing Board and reminded Council that with the adoption of the ordinance, the meeting on January 16th will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Council member John Walz reported that the PRIDE Committee will discuss replacement of the Christmas decorations at their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Martin LaBarge moved and Council member Devin Henderson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



Mayor



City Clerk

Draft Copy Not Official Until Approved by Council

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Minutes
January 16, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David McDaniel called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council members Kellie Crnkovich, Devin Henderson, Martin LaBarge, Jolene Niernberger, Tricia Pritchett, and John Walz. Also present were Public Works Director John Leiker, City Clerk Amy Burton, Police Chief Avery Smith, Fire Chief Dustin Vine, and City Attorney Olavee Raub.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

Glen Keller, David Clingan, Swede Holmgren, Jenni Holmgren, Nickole Byers, and Michael Berges.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member Devin Henderson moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 3, 2023 and Bills Ordinance #2157. Council member Tricia Pritchett seconded the motion. The Council approved the consent agenda 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Swede Holmgren spoke on the potential annexation of a tract of land on the north side of 2nd Street. He expressed concerns that the planned extended street would end in the middle of his private approach to his garage.

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS (HEARINGS)

None

SPECIAL ORDER

Fire: Report

Fire Chief Dustin Vine presented his December/January Fire Department report. Firefighters assisted with several EMS calls and fires.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Special Project

Regarding the petition from Sarbjit Singh to annex a tract of land north of 2nd Street, Public Works Director John Leiker reported that he spoke with Mr. Singh regarding estimated utility installation costs and his plan for the property. Mr. Singh informed Mr. Leiker that he has no immediate plans for the property, he would just like it annexed. Mr. Leiker would like to see plans for development before annexing the property. City Attorney Olavee Raub questioned why Mr. Singh is petitioning Council for annexation at this time, with no plans in place. Ms. Raub added that it is a lot easier to annex if there is a purpose than to de-annex a tract. It was the consent of Council that they would like to see a purpose for the annexation. Ms. Raub stressed that it is not the Governing Body's duty to instruct Mr. Singh how to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Police: Petition

Police Chief Avery Smith explained a request to .Gov Domain Registration to set up the domain name cityofellisks.gov for the City. The domain registration will allow the Police Department to individualize their emails and facilitate serving legal process on companies that only accept email service from official .gov domain names. Council member John Walz moved to authorize Mayor David McDaniel to sign the request letter to .Gov Domain

Registration as presented. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Public Works: Petition

Public Works Director John Leiker presented the annual request letter to the Ellis County Commissioners for assistance with the City's annual street rehabilitation project. Council member Jolene Niernberger moved to authorize Mayor David McDaniel to sign the request letter to the Ellis County Commissioners as presented. Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Street: Event Request

Council member John Walz moved to approve the Traffic Control Application for the EHS Alumni parade on May 27, 2023. Council member John Walz moved to approve the Traffic Control Application from the Ellis High School Alumni as presented. Council member Tricia Pritchett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director John Leiker presented the Comparative Water Report for the period November 10th to December 10th. Mayor McDaniel requested the Department send a letter to Midwest Energy thanking them for their assistance with the Christmas stars. Council would like to consider bids for needed work on the south side of City Hall and also the Railroad Museum at the next meeting.

Police

Police Chief Avery Smith presented the Mid-Month Incident Report for January and a review of 2022 cases and events. Officer Peterson successfully graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center on January 13th.

City Clerk

City Clerk Amy Burton presented the December 2022 Catastrophic Sick Leave report and the 2022 Safety Committee report on employee accidents and worker's compensation claims. The Safety Committee will begin updating the City's Disaster Plan.

Ms. Burton also had a conversation with Brenda Spencer, a private historical preservation specialist, regarding the building located at 1024 Washington. Ms. Spencer stated that since the third floor of the building was removed, the building has little historical value and would not qualify as a declared historical site. The City could explore applying for a downtown historical district in order to increase the grants available for developers and property owners of the declared district. The two-step process would include an extensive historical survey to determine eligibility. If the regional director believes the district could be declared, the application moves onto the State level for review and determination. Ms. Spencer estimated the cost of the survey between \$18,000 - \$20,000 depending on the number of buildings in the potential historical district.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor David McDaniel reported that all three department heads recently had performance evaluations. Mr. McDaniel inquired if the City should pursue adding a City Administrator role. It was the consent of Council to look into the position.

Mayor McDaniel requested an update on the Water Supply System Improvement Project at the next Council meeting.

Council members are to present four goals for 2023 at the next Council meeting.

Committees: Entry

Mayor David McDaniel asked for Council consideration to appoint Karen Ashbaugh to the vacancy on the Ellis Housing Board. Council member John Walz moved and Council member

Martin LaBarge seconded a motion to appoint Karen Ashbaugh to the Ellis Housing Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Martin LaBarge moved to adjourn the meeting. Council member Devin Henderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk