

RNR Hearing, Budget Hearing,
And Regular Council Meeting
September 9, 2024

1. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) Hearing to order at 7:00.** Present were Council members Larry Finley, Kale Dankenbring, Robert Erskin, and Justin Lohr. Also present were City Superintendent Dan Blair, City Clerk Leann Lee, City Attorney Lauren Reyelts, and City Treasurer Jennifer Blair. Council member Dara Carmichael was absent.
 - **Public Comment:** Visitor's – Scott Schultz, Tim Burr, and Jacque Hayes.
 - Tim Burr requested clarification of the Revenue Neutral Rate and what it means. Amanda explained that RNR is the mill levy amount that would generate the same amount of revenue from taxes as the previous year.
 - Tim requested confirmation that the maximum cap for imposing taxes was no longer used as a factor for the budget. Amanda confirmed that the tax lid was replaced with the RNR for transparency and that it is an estimate and may not be the accurate rate used to compute tax amounts.
 - Amanda informed Tim that the City does try to be mindful of the increase in taxes from the City side and that the City does not heavily rely on taxes from properties as the City generates its own revenue.
 - Tim inquired about the 1% Sales Tax that has been in effect. Although a confirmed amount for the 2024 fiscal year could not be confirmed, the Council did confirm that the sales tax is used for infrastructure repairs around the City such as the electrical upgrades that have been being completed by Ward Electric and the street work that was just completed.
 - A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kale to adopt Resolution 2024-5: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS, KANSAS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE. Robert – yes; Kale – yes; Larry – yes; Dara – absent; Justin – yes. Motion passed.
 - Mayor Amanda Milne closed the Budget Hearing with no objections from the public or the Council.
 - ❖ Tim Burr left the meeting.

2. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the Budget Hearing to order.**
 - a.) Public Comment – None
 - b.) A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Larry to adopt the official budget for 2023. Robert – yes; Kale – yes; Larry – yes; Dara – absent; Justin – yes. Motion passed.
 - Mayor Amanda Milne closed the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing with no objections from the public or the Council.
3. **Mayor Amanda Milne called the regular council meeting to order at 7:13pm.**
4. **Minutes** from the August 26th Council meeting were distributed and read. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Kale to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
5. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Justin to approve the following **consent agenda**: Permission for Clerk to pay insurance at time of billing; Permission for Clerk to pay utilities at time of billing; Permission for Clerk to pay utility incentives before the 25th of the month; Permission for Clerk to pay theater bills when due; Permission for Clerk to pay Payment Service Network bills when due; Permission for Clerk to pay City Attorney bills when due. Motion passed.
6. **New Business:**
 - Dan presented the Council with a building permit for 515 W. Spencer to replace the fence that separates the property's backyard and the alley. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Larry to approve the building permit. Motion passed.
 - The Council was presented with the Saint Francis High School Yearbook advertisement application. An 11th grade student had requested the form be passed to the Council for consideration of purchasing an ad space for support. The Council discussed the topic and decided that purchasing an ad space would not meet the public purpose for utilization of public funds. The application has been rejected.
7. **Old Business:**

a.) Items from Previous Meetings

- Leann shared information regarding what she had located regarding the City's requirements for sidewalks. Lauren has asked to review and discuss during the attorney report.

b.) Property Cleanup - None

c.) Projects Pending

- Dan informed the Council that there have been contractors reviewing the scope of work for the Cheyenne Theater renovation project. No proposals or bids have been received.

d.) Streets Project

- B&H Paving has tentatively scheduled to complete the additional chip sealing for September 16th-18th. After further review of the streets, East Spencer and Webster Streets will not be included in the chip sealing at this time. The City is still planning on completing Benton and River and has added South Scott Street. The chip sealing is currently waiting on rock to be delivered which is scheduled for the same time.

8. Visitors –

- Scott Schultz was present before the Council to give an update on the Tri-Angle Park project. The group has secured the new light poles and will be obtaining the fencing on Friday. The project is being completed in phases which the pickleball court is the 1st phase along with the volleyball court that they are looking to have completed by November. Martin Deetz will be installing underground electrical materials for the park. The T.A.P. committee met earlier in the day and would like permission from the Council to paint the old pool house since the existing brick is stained. On behalf of T.A. P., Scott has asked for the City to purchase the required paint for the pool house and has stated that the committee and volunteers will provide the labor of painting it. The Council has agreed to acquire the paint necessary to make the building look nicer.
- Scott Schultz was also present before the Council regarding his special event application for Biketember Fest, scheduled for September 21st. The special event will not have a beer garden or live music this year, but they are looking to block Washington Street from Benton to Scott. A motion was made by Robert and seconded by Kale to approve the special event application for Biketember Fest. Motion passed.
 - ❖ Scott Schultz left the meeting.
- Jacque Hayes was present before the Council to see if there was any update as to the disability access to Crave that she previously inquired about. Jacque had received the Council minutes from the November 27th, 2023, Council meeting when the Council had originally approved Crave's request to install a sign. The property owner would be responsible for purchasing and installing the sign. There was a brief discussion regarding ADA compliancy that would fall to the owners to research and comply with if they chose to have a disability placard sign.
 - ❖ Jacque Hayes left the meeting.

9. Pool Report – None

10. Superintendent Report

- Dan informed the Council that Travis Jensen still has personal belongings on the property that he deeded back to the City. The Council has directed Leann to send a letter requesting the items be removed.
- Dan informed the Council that the City would be generating electricity on Tuesday, September 9th while Sunflower Electric finishes swapping out their switch.
- The City crews have been out filling in potholes. Dan asked if the Council wanted to purchase an additional load of cold patch for approximately \$4,500.00. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to purchase an additional load of cold patch. Motion passed.
- Dan informed the Council that the street sweeper has stopped working again and will need to be hauled to Berry Tractor in Garden City to be diagnosed and repaired if possible. The City can utilize the sweeper attachment on the skidster for some of the streets; however, it will pick up the chip seal that was just done if on those streets. The Council discussed the options available for the repair of the sweeper or to start looking for a replacement. Dan will check on transporting the sweeper to Garden City and let the Council know.

- Justin inquired if the City had received any more employment applications. Dan has received one; however, he will review the applicant after he returns from vacation.
- Justin inquired if there was an update on the loader at the grass pile and if it could be hauled at the same time as the sweeper. Dan is still working on how to remove it from the grass pile to have it diagnosed.
- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Robert to accept and file the Superintendent report. Motion passed.

11. Attorney Report

- Lauren was asked to review the sidewalk ordinances that were given to the Council. The Council spoke briefly on the issue and have tabled the topic until the next meeting. Amanda will contact a past City Clerk, Glorianne Milne, and the former Mayor, Scott Schultz, to inquire if they have any knowledge on the topic or of where the sidewalk plan may be located.
- Lauren had mailed to all clients a notice regarding the Corporate Transparency Act. She explained that the notice went to all clients and does not affect the City as they are exempt due to the City being a government entity.
- Lauren met with Sheriff Beeson regarding a court case that will be seen in municipal court soon. Amanda briefly explained what the Council had discussed with Sheriff Beeson regarding the types of court cases that municipal court could prosecute. Larry mentioned that he would like the Council to have a say in the court cases that are seen. Lauren explained the types of cases, how traffic is handled with Bird City, and will ask Bird City for their fine schedule. Lauren will have additional information at the next meeting.
- A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Robert to accept and file the Attorney report. Motion passed.

12. Clerk Report

- Leann did not have any items; however, the City Treasurer, Jennifer Blair brought the Council's attention to an invoice for the City's advertisement in the 2025 Northwest Ultimate Guide for \$1,700.00. The advertisement is paid for in advance, so a check was written out of cycle, and is needing the Council's approval. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Larry to approve the payment of the 2025 Northwest Ultimate Guide advertisement invoice of \$1,700.00 out of cycle. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Justin to accept and file the Clerk report. Motion passed.

13. Council Comments:

- **Robert** – CCDC has met and has started to issue the US Hwy 36 Treasure Hunt Markers.
- **Kale** – Pointed out that dogs are an issue, and he has been contacted about them numerous times. Lauren informed the Council that the community members have not been calling dispatch to report the problems but have been posting the issues on Facebook.
- **Larry** – Thanked the City crew for their help with the Concert in the Park and Dan for fixing an electrical problem at the Bandshell during his off time.
- **Dara** – Absent
- **Justin** – None

14. Mayor Comments – None

15. All bills on **Ordinance #1090** were reviewed. A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Kale to approve paying of the bills on Ordinance #1090. Motion passed.

16. Adjournment: It was moved by Larry and seconded by Kale to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.