

**City of Silver Lake  
Regular Session Minutes  
Monday, October 2, 2023**

The Governing Body of the City of Silver Lake met in regular session at City Hall on Monday evening October 2, 2023, with Mayor Mack Smith conducting the meeting and the following Councilmembers present: Brad Bryant, Steve Pegram, Heath Robinson, and Larry Ross (4). Absent: Jake Fisher (1). Also present were Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter, Police Chief Marc McCune, City Clerk Liz Steckel, and Assistant Clerk Marie Beam.

During public comment, Mr. Jeff Wooster, owner of several properties within Silver Lake, revisited a concern he initially raised two years ago. He highlighted the state of Bahm Demolitions' property situated at the eastern part of town, close to Chilson. Mr. Wooster raised questions about the property's alignment with its designated zoning, observing the presence of four trailers and multiple dumpsters. Expressing concern for the visual appeal of the area and its potential impact on the value of nearby properties, Mr. Wooster emphasized the importance of maintaining an aesthetic that would be inviting to prospective tenants of his apartment complexes.

City Attorney Todd Luckman, acknowledged Mr. Wooster's concerns. He verified that the equipment and trailers being stored on Bahm Demolitions' property do not conform with the C-2 zoning limitations. Reflecting on the history of the issue, Mr. Luckman noted that when this matter was previously addressed in November 2021, corrective actions were taken, which met the Council's standards at that time. However, he affirmed that the current state of Bahm's property appears to deviate from the C-2 zoning regulations. Council directed City Attorney Luckman to proceed in municipal court regarding the zoning non-compliance.

Also present in public comment, Mr. Gary McDaniel of 203 Aquarius presented to Council a drainage concern near his residence, specifically located between Aquarius and Sage streets. To provide a clearer picture of his concern, Mr. McDaniel provided several photographs for reference.

Upon review, Public Works Superintendent Deiter acknowledged the situation, noting its significance and the need for potential improvement. City Attorney Luckman confirmed that the drainage concern falls within the scope of maintenance responsibilities pertaining to the City's easement. Mr. Deiter plans to collaborate with Mr. McDaniel to devise an effective plan to address the drainage issues.

A motion was made by Councilmember Pegram to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bryant and carried.

Councilmember Bryant presented the monthly financial report.

Claim vouchers in the amount of 9230.78 dollars were submitted to the Council for appropriation. An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating Money to Pay Certain Claims" was introduced. A motion was made by Councilmember Ross and seconded by Councilmember Bryant that said Ordinance be accepted as read and was then placed on final passage by a roll call vote: AYE: Brad Bryant, Steve Pegram, Heath Robinson, and Larry Ross.(4) NAY: None. With no further discussion the Ordinance was declared passed and was given No. 2582.

Proposed Council and Court dates for 2024 were approved by Council.

City Clerk Liz Steckel presented quotes and a request to purchase two new computers for City Hall. Councilmember Pegram made a motion to purchase two new computers for City Hall with the total expenditure not to exceed 4500.00 dollars. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and passed.

Ashley Hanson, representing the Silver Lake Library Board, revisited the Council to request support for the library's after-school "Snag-a-Snack" Program. Previously, Councilmember Pegram had committed to exploring Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) for further funding opportunities for the library. Pegram informed the Council that based on Silver Lake's demographic profile, no assistance programs are currently available from the KSDE. Councilmember Pegram then suggested that a donation for the library program might be sourced from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. Councilmember Robinson asked if it was common practice for cities to financially support library-based food programs. In response, Mrs. Hanson emphasized the heightened grocery costs resulting from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to increased food insecurity among families. She highlighted an added benefit the "Snag-a-Snack" Program offers is its promotion of increased library patronage. Mrs. Hanson conveyed the value of the program in strengthening community ties and supporting Silver Lake families during challenging times. Councilmember Ross made a motion to donate 2000.00 dollars from the ARPA Fund to benefit the library's "Snag-a-Snack" Program. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Robinson and carried.

Councilmember Pegram introduced a proposal for an emergency notification system from CivicPlus, based in Manhattan, Kansas. This system offers comprehensive notifications across phone, text, email, and social media platforms. At a cost of 2850.00 dollars for the first year and an annual cost of 2500.00 dollars thereafter, it addresses the City's need for effective communication, especially during events like water shutoffs. Councilmember Bryant noted that he would like to see this system used for more than simply emergencies. Councilmember Pegram motioned to adopt CivicPlus using the ARPA fund for payment. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and was approved.

Before departing at 6:33 PM, City Attorney Luckman endorsed the idea of using incentives to boost participation in the upcoming Lead & Copper Resident Survey. He stressed the survey's completion deadline as October 16, 2024, and suggested that incentives might prevent City staff from needing to conduct door-to-door reminders.

Public Works Superintendent Deiter reported that he and Police Chief Marc McCune had discussed issues concerning speeding on Hamilton Parkway, especially with children playing nearby. Both officials recommend either installing "Kids at Play" signs or designating the road as one-way. The Council requested Superintendent Deiter consult with local business, Moore Tire, about the issue and report back to Council.

Public Works Superintendent Deiter expects substantial paperwork for the upcoming Lead & Copper Resident Survey. City Clerk Steckel consulted peers and presented some incentive ideas to boost survey participation. The Council requested a preview of the survey and asked Superintendent Deiter to present it at the upcoming meeting to assist them in selecting incentives.

Superintendent Deiter would like to trade in the City's Backhoe for 14000 dollars and purchase a 2024 UTV from Heritage Tractor. In it's current condition, the backhoe would cost 8000.00 dollars to be used safely. The Council instructed City Clerk Steckel to consult with City Attorney Luckman on the appropriate wording for a motion to purchase in 2024.

Police Chief Marc McCune presented the September Activity Report.

Mayor Smith commended Chief McCune for his preparedness for the upcoming Homecoming Parade scheduled for Friday, October 6, 2023.

Public Works Superintendent Deiter presented the monthly Public Works Report. He updated the Council on the removal of the fence surrounding the shelter house and the tilling performed along the fence line and around the pickle ball court to optimize seed usage in the future. He expressed a desire to remove dead trees from the park and rent a stump grinder for their roots. On a separate note, Deiter informed the Council of an incident where a fire hydrant was damaged last Sunday. Chief McCune confirmed that the responsible party had insurance. Deiter is in the process of obtaining a quote for a replacement hydrant.

City Clerk Steckel requested a combined \$4,305 for water bill postage: 440.00 dollars for the remainder of 2023 and 3865.00 dollars for 2024. Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve a postage expenditure not to exceed 4500.00 dollars. Councilmember Pegram seconded the motion, which was then approved.

Councilmember Ross had the privilege of attending the Silver Lake Housing Authority meeting and reported that he suggested that they contact Hayden Tower to remove a TV Tower.

Councilmember Pegram extended an invitation to the Council to assist at the City District Homecoming Hotdog Roast, commencing at 4:00 PM. The meal is scheduled from 5:00-6:15 PM, followed by an acknowledgment of Past State Championships.

Mayor Mack Smith reported that there has been no update in the status of the City's Water Contract Operator application with KDHE.

Mayor Smith announced that the Homecoming Parade will be at 1:45 PM on Friday afternoon, October 6, 2023, and Chief McCune has the parade under control.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2023. The following two meetings are schedule for Mondays, November 6, and November 20, 2023, both at 5:30 PM.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion and with nothing further to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.



Liz Steckel, City Clerk