

**City of Silver Lake  
Regular Session Minutes  
Monday, November 6, 2023**

The Governing Body of the City of Silver Lake met in regular session at City Hall on Monday evening November 6, 2023, with Mayor Mack Smith conducting the meeting and the following Councilmembers present: Brad Bryant, Jake Fisher, Steve Pegram, Heath Robinson, and Larry Ross (5). Absent: None(0). Also present were Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter, Police Chief Marc McCune, City Clerk Liz Steckel, and Assistant Clerk Marie Beam.

During public comment Amber Jackson from the Silver Lake Community Food Bank announced that their food bank is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. She mentioned that the Food Bank relies entirely on community contributions and expressed their willingness to accept ARPA Fund donations if the City is seeking places to allocate those funds. Mrs. Jackson informed the Council about her new Facebook Page, with aspirations of becoming a newspaper. She inquired about any existing ordinances regarding newspaper delivery within the city. City Attorney Luckman clarified that there are currently no such ordinances in place.

A motion was made by Councilmember Pegram to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bryant and carried.

Councilmember Bryant presented the monthly financial report.

Claim vouchers in the amount of 20375.35 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, Jake Fisher, Steve Pegram, Heath Robinson, and Larry Ross.(5) NAY: None. With no further discussion the Ordinance was declared passed and was given No. 2585.

Mayor Mack Smith presented the quarterly financial report to Council, which was prepared by City Clerk Steckel.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to pass an ordinance adopting the 2023 City of Silver Lake Code Book. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fisher and was then placed on final passage by a roll call vote: AYE: Brad Bryant, Jake Fisher, Steve Pegram, Heath Robinson, and Larry Ross. (5). NAY: None(0). With no further discussion the Ordinance was declared passed and was given No. 2586.

Cheryl Workman, residing at 304 Mercury, was present to express concerns about the increase in her sewer bill over the past 11 months. Mayor Smith clarified that rates were stable for an extended period, and last year's adjustment aimed to catch up for necessary revenue in the water department. City Clerk Steckel highlighted the current correlation between water and sewer usage. For example, if 2,000 gallons of water are used, the sewer bill reflects the same. Bob Pfannenstiel, owner of Silver Lake Car Wash requested a flow meter, emphasizing low water usage. City Attorney Luckman said the City would not have the resources to install flow meters, clarifying that water consumption determines the sewer rate.

Water and sewer rates for 2024 were discussed. Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter, a lifelong resident, expressed his personal opinion that it might not be advisable to raise rates at this time, considering public sentiment. Councilmember Fisher motioned to table the 2024 Rate Discussion until the next meeting. He highlighted the upcoming vote on the 1% local sales tax in Silver Lake and encouraged residents to consider this when casting their ballots. Fisher emphasized that this is an opportunity for residents to share some of the burden of expenses with visitors. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried.

Public Works Superintendent Deiter reiterated the need for a Utility Vehicle (UTV). Heritage Tractor has revised their trade-in offer for the City's Backhoe to 12,000.00 dollars from the previous 14,000.00 dollars. Deiter mentioned receiving offers from the public, but none matching Heritage Tractor's offer. The backhoe's current condition includes rust on the bucket, and various leaks, with the positive aspect being low motor hours. The City has allocated funds for the UTV purchase in 2024. City Attorney Luckman suggested exploring non-binding wording to facilitate an earlier purchase. Deiter emphasized the urgency, expressing a desire to order the UTV promptly due to uncertainties about stock availability. Mayor Smith advised caution. City Attorney Luckman was directed by the Council to communicate with Heritage Tractor to investigate the feasibility of using wording that would allow the purchase to proceed earlier than the initially budgeted 2024 timeframe.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher to purchase a new fire hydrant to replace one that was broken in an auto accident for an amount not to exceed 7,200.00 dollars. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pegram and carried.

Tanya Negonsott-Rodvelt, caregiver of a resident at 308 Chestnut, was present to raise concerns about a two-week period without heat and hot water at the apartments, attributing the issue to the property management company, PMI Management Group. Residents faced challenges during freezing temperatures, resorting to leaving for showers and meals. The management allegedly blamed the City for gas service issues. City Attorney Luckman clarified no official City action has been taken.

Mrs. Negonsott-Rodvelt reported notifying the property owner, who seemed concerned. As of Friday night, hot water was restored. Mr. Luckman recommended that she explore K.S.A. 58-2559 for landlord contract issues. Mrs. Negonsott-Rodvelt praised the City office staff's friendliness and compassion.

Police Chief McCune updated Council on police vehicle procurement, emphasizing the cost-effectiveness of acquiring retired vehicles from the Kansas Highway Patrol, with mileage never exceeding 50,000 miles. The Mayor's preference for a 3-year replacement cycle to prevent major mechanical issues was highlighted. The last two police vehicles were sold on Purple Wave, with Chief McCune personally taking charge of decal removal to avoid hiring external services. The Challenger was purchased due to Durango unavailability, enhancing public relations, especially with young residents. The 2024 budget includes funds for another Durango, and Chief McCune is open to Council's preferences guiding future vehicle decisions.

Police Chief McCune presented the monthly activity report, highlighting a specific incident on the evening of Tuesday, October 17th. The report involved a 14-year-old non-resident juvenile who sustained a gunshot wound from a 22-year-old resident. The individuals were known to each other.

City Attorney Luckman left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter updated the Council on the salt and sand situation, noting that there are no local suppliers. After reaching out to an acquaintance in Topeka, the City of Topeka generously donated 14 tons of salt to aid us through the winter. Looking ahead, Deiter suggested considering future orders from Lyons, KS, and exploring potential partnerships with Rossville for joint purchases.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to move the meeting scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM, to the Silver Lake Community Center, at 404 E. Lake Street. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pegram and carried.

City Clerk Steckel reminded Council and the public about the City's upcoming Annual Tree Lighting Celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the Silver Lake Police Station, 100 Beaubien. Festivities will run from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm. This year's celebration has expanded with additional sponsors, food vendors, and community organizations participating. Highlights include two carriage rides, photo opportunities with Santa Claus, and Mayor Mack Smith's final reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. A simultaneous Live Nativity, organized by the 1st Baptist Church, will take place at the Old Baptist Church. Hay Rack Rides will be available to transport attendees between the Nativity and the Police Station.

Mayor Mack Smith reported that USD #372 Superintendent Brad Womack has submitted a draft for a legal land swap.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2023. The following two meetings are schedule for Mondays, December 4, and December 18, 2023, both at 5:30 PM. The December 18, 2023 meeting will take place at the Silver Lake Community Center at 404 E. Lake Street.

Councilmember Ross made a motion that Council (along with Mayor Smith) recess into executive session for twenty (20) minutes, for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel matters, and reconvene the meeting at 7:02 PM in the conference room at City Hall located at 218 West Railroad in Silver Lake, Kansas. Councilmember Fisher seconded the motion and it was placed on final passage by a roll call of the following vote: AYE: Brad Bryant, Jake Fisher, Steve Pegram, Heath Robinson, and Larry Ross. (5) NAY: None. With no further discussion, motion carried. City Clerk Steckel and Assistant Clerk Beam were dismissed from the meeting at 6:42 PM

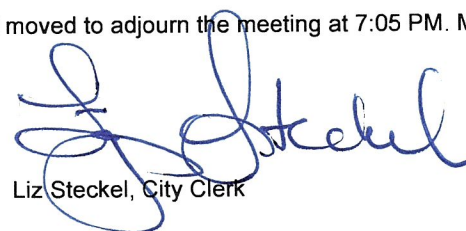
The public meeting reconvened at 7:02 PM.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fisher to approve year-end bonuses for City employees as recommended by Council. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and approved. Bonuses will be paid December 15, 2023.

Motion was made by Councilmember Pegram to approve salaries effective January 1, 2024 for City employees as recommended by Council. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fisher and approved.

Council directed City Offices to close on Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

With no other business to come before Council, Councilmember Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. Motion was approved by Councilmember Fisher and approved.



Liz Steckel, City Clerk