

**City of Silver Lake
Regular Session Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2023**

The Governing Body of the City of Silver Lake met in regular session at City Hall on Monday evening September 18, 2023, with Mayor Mack Smith conducting the meeting and the following Councilmembers present: Brad Bryant, Jake Fisher, Steve Pegram, and Larry Ross (4). Absent: Heath Robinson (1). Also present were Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter, Police Chief Marc McCune, City Clerk Liz Steckel, and Assistant Clerk Marie Beam.

Local resident, Kent Hamilton, of 615 Walnut Street, addressed the Council during public comment with concerns regarding the traffic on Hamilton Parkway. He pointed out that there are no speed limits posted or any other relevant signage on the said parkway. Mr. Hamilton is informed of the City's intent to remove the fence surrounding the shelter house at Lions Park. Given this development, he earnestly requested the Council to think about introducing a speed limit, and perhaps installing "park area" or "children playing" signs. In response to the concerns presented, Police Chief McCune and Public Works Superintendent Deiter assured that they will inspect Hamilton Parkway and determine the necessary measures that can be implemented and enforced.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bryant to approve the regular meeting minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried.

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 Fisher 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, and Larry Ross.(4) NAY: None. With no further discussion the Ordinance was declared passed and was given No. 2574.

Superintendent Brad Womack of Silver Lake Schools USD 372 attended the Council meeting to provide an update regarding the Land Swap Proposal. Mr. Womack informed the Council that he has been in communication with the engineering firm and anticipates returning to the Council with legal documents later this fall. Mr. Womack also took the opportunity to address the upcoming USD 372 Bond Issue slated for the 2023 Ballot. Mr. Womack encourages anyone with questions or concerns about the Bond Issue to reach out to him either via email or phone. Furthermore, he announced that a community meeting has been scheduled to discuss the Bond Issue in detail. The meeting will take place on October 24th at 6 PM.

Ashley Hanson, a member of the Silver Lake Library Board, attended the Council meeting to seek funding for the library's after-school "Snag-a-Snack" Program. It was brought to the Council's attention that this program was initially supported by a grant which has now come to an end. In response to Mrs. Hanson's request, Councilmember Pegram proposed to explore potential assistance from the Kansas Department of Education. He expressed interest in identifying any programs or initiatives that might provide support to the library's cause. Councilmember Pegram committed to reporting back to the Council with his findings at the next meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Deiter, who also serves as the City's Public Officer, updated the Council on a recent discussion he had with Police Chief McCune concerning jurisdictional responsibilities. They have come to an agreement on how to address the issue of abandoned vehicles within the city. Superintendent Deiter will handle cases where vehicles are abandoned on private properties. Meanwhile, Police Chief McCune will intervene when the abandoned vehicle is on public streets or if any legal complications arise while Superintendent Deiter is carrying out his duties.

Councilmember Ross made a motion that Council (along with Mayor Smith, City Attorney Luckman, and Police Chief McCune) recess into executive session for fifteen (15) minutes, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and reconvene the meeting at 6:10 PM in the conference room at City Hall located at 218 West Railroad in Silver Lake, Kansas. Councilmember Bryant 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, and Larry Ross (4) NAY: None. With no further discussion, motion carried.

Regular session reconvened at 6:10 PM.

Chief McCune reported that Officer Ashcraft has requested a salary increase due to the part-time officers earning a higher hourly salary. Councilmember Fisher made a motion to table the salary discussion, which was seconded by Councilmember Pegram and carried.

Councilmember Fisher left the meeting at 6:12 PM.

Building on the public comment discussion about Hamilton Parkway, Public Works Superintendent Deiter proposed converting the parkway into a one-way street, running from Chilson to Walnut. Mayor Smith then tasked Chief McCune with examining the proposal. The topic will be revisited and discussed further in the next meeting's agenda.

City Clerk Steckel informed Council that Hook Farms has harvested the City's corn and it is currently in storage at Cargill. Councilmember Ross made a motion to sell the corn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pegram and passed.

City Clerk Steckel requested to attend the third year of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association Institute in November. Councilmember Bryant made a motion to approve the request not to exceed 1500 dollars. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried.

Councilmember Pegram reminded the Council of his upcoming attendance at the League of Municipalities Annual Conference next month as a vendor. He indicated his intention to seek out emergency communications vendors during the event.

Councilmember Pegram noted the library's updates to the building looked sharp.

Mayor Mack Smith provided an update on the status of the Water Operator application with KDHE. He mentioned that there haven't been any new developments and emphasized that the process tends to be slow.

Mayor Smith inquired about the outcome of the Fall Clean-up. Superintendent Deiter responded, noting that the event was successful and all three dumpsters were filled to capacity.

Councilmember Ross directed City Clerk Steckel to send a thank you with a little heart on it to Ashley Bahm for the dumpsters.

The next two meetings are scheduled for Mondays, October 2, 2023 and October 16, 2023, both at 5:30 PM.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Councilmember Bryant seconded the motion and with nothing further to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.



Liz Steckel, City Clerk