

**City of Silver Lake
Regular Session Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024**

The Governing Body of the City of Silver Lake met in regular session at City Hall on Monday evening March 18, 2024, with Mayor Jonah Bishop conducting the meeting and the following Councilmembers present: Brad Bryant, Michael Hamilton, Larry Ross, and Kenneth Wade (4). Absent: Jake Fisher (1). Also present were Police Chief Marc McCune, City Clerk Liz Steckel, and Assistant Clerk Marie Beam.

During public comment, local business owner Jeff Wooster addressed the Council regarding his concerns about zoning regulations and their impact on the community. He emphasized the importance of defining 'Commercial Property' clearly and presented examples to illustrate his point, including the case of a pig farm downtown. Mr. Wooster highlighted the need for zoning rules that protect residents and attract businesses to enhance the town's development, such as improving Main Street and infrastructure like sidewalks. He also suggested considering adopting regulations from nearby areas like Shawnee County or Topeka if necessary. Mr. Wooster provided the Council with a list of suggestions for refining the City's zoning code and expressed his advocacy for special use permits with City stipulations. His remarks underscored the potential implications of industrial use on local businesses, including his own.

Also present for public comment, local resident Tiffani Fisher, residing at 205 Theresa, expressed concerns regarding the potential migration of homeless individuals to Silver Lake. She referenced nearby efforts in Topeka to address homeless camps and inquired about the measures Silver Lake has in place to ensure the safety of our residents in light of this situation.

Also during public comment, Mrs. Amber Jackson requested a donation for the Silver Lake Ball Association, citing financial challenges due to losses last year. However, she was unable to provide specific financial details about the organization's expenses during the meeting. In light of this and to allow time for Mrs. Jackson to gather the necessary information and for City Clerk Steckel to prepare, Council decided to table the discussion to the April 1, 2024 agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ross to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wade and carried.

Claim vouchers in the amount of \$28,568.23 were submitted to the Council for appropriation. An Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating Money to Pay Certain Claims" was introduced. These expenditures include Emergency expenditures from February 8, 2024, due to an emergency sewer problem at Pump Station #2, with the emergency expenditures which were over staff spending limit approved by Mayor Bishop in the amount of \$2,700.00. Additionally, there were two expenditures that exceeded the staff spending limit of \$1,000, but both were approved by Mayor Bishop: one for meter boxes and parts for \$1,127.60, and the other for annual sewer maintenance cleaning in the amount of \$13,116.57. A motion was made by Councilmember Ross and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton that said Ordinance be accepted as read and was then placed on final passage by a roll call vote: AYE: Brad Bryant, Michael Hamilton, Larry Ross, and Kenneth Wade. (4) NAY: None. With no further discussion the Ordinance was declared passed and was given No. 2600.

City Clerk Steckel presented three bids for the City's annual liability insurance. The governing body and City Attorney Luckman discussed options. Mayor Bishop requested an EMC policy with a \$10,000 wind/hail deductible and asked for all policies to be sent to all Council members for review before the next meeting. The item was tabled to the April 1, 2024 meeting.

City Attorney Todd Luckman presented a sample ordinance to Council proposing an amendment to the City's Zoning Code. He requested that any desired changes to the draft ordinance be emailed to him or City Clerk Steckel. It was noted that any proposed changes shall first be submitted to the City's Planning Commission for recommendation and report.

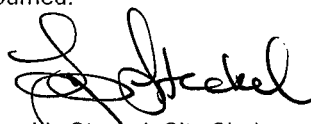
Councilmember Bryant echoed Mrs. Fisher's question regarding the handling of a migrating homeless population. City Attorney Luckman responded that the City has an ordinance in place restricting camping on public property.

Police Chief McCune reported to Council that the City's unmarked Durango has sold on Purple Wave for \$17,000. He also reported that the City's new Durango is currently undergoing equipment installation and graphics application in Junction City.

Councilmember Ross thanked the Lions Club for hosting the representative and the state senator at the legislative quorum this month. Mr. Wayne Kellner from the Lions Club also expressed gratitude to the Council for the use of the Community Center.

The next two meetings are scheduled for Mondays, April 1, 2024, and April 15, 2024, both at 5:30 PM.

With no other business to come before Council, Councilmember Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hamilton and the meeting was adjourned.


Liz Steckel, City Clerk