

**City of Silver Lake  
Regular Session Minutes  
Thursday, January 4, 2024**

The new Governing Body of the City of Silver Lake met in regular session at City Hall on Thursday evening, January 4, 2024. City Clerk Steckel administered the Oath of Office to Jonah Bishop, at which point he sat in position to preside over the meeting as Mayor. Councilmembers present: Brad Bryant, Jake Fisher, and Larry Ross. Mrs. Steckel administered the Oath of Office to Michael Hamilton and Kenneth Wade, at which point Council sat at full membership (5). Absent: None (0). Also present was Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter, Police Chief Marc McCune, City Clerk Liz Steckel, and Assistant Clerk Marie Beam.

During the Public Comment period, Katrina Shepardson, a representative of the Silver Lake Meals on Wheels program expressed concerns regarding the condition of Parr Road, encompassing both the paved and gravel portions. Mayor Bishop thanked Ms. Shepardson for her feedback.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ross to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the December 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 \$5843.27 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, Michael Hamilton, Larry Ross, and Kenneth Wade. (5) NAY: None. With no further discussion the Ordinance was declared passed and was given No. 2593.

Mayor Bishop proposed that the veteran Councilmembers continue in their existing positions: Jake Fisher as Water Commissioner, Larry Ross as Law Commissioner, and Brad Bryant as Finance Commissioner. Additionally, Mayor Bishop suggested that Brad Bryant undergo cross-training to serve as Assistant Street Commissioner. Furthermore, Mayor Bishop recommended the appointment of Kenneth Wade as Street Commissioner and Assistant Law Commissioner, and Michael Hamilton as Parks Commissioner and Assistant Finance Commissioner. A motion was made by Councilmember Wade to approve the Mayor's proposed appointments, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and the motion carried.

Mayor Bishop recommended that Councilmember Kenneth Wade be appointed as Council President. Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve the presidential recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hamilton and carried.

For the official record, Mayor Bishop announced his plan to donate his Mayoral salary to the City, specifically for the new emergency notification system, as promised during his campaign. Councilmember Michael Hamilton also expressed his intention to contribute his salary back to the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ross to adopt Resolution 2024-02 that would allow for a transfer of 30000.00 dollars from the General Operating Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fisher and carried.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wade to adopt Resolution 2024-01 that would allow for a transfer of 15000.00 dollars, from the Waterworks Fund, into the Utility Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried.

Public Works Superintendent Cary Deiter presented three bids for a tractor rear blade suitable for snow removal and grading alleyways. Councilmember Ross made a motion to approve the purchase of the blade from Prairieland Partners for 1372.86 dollars. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fisher and carried.

Councilmember Fisher made a motion to reinvest a Certificate of Deposit that matures on January 8, 2024 at Silver Lake Bank, at Stockgrowers State Bank, for a forty-eight (48)-month term at a rate of 4.18%. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wade and carried. The interest earned from this CD is applied to the Waterworks Fund.

Police Chief McCune presented a spending request of \$42,000 to Council; the request included the purchase of a used 2021 Dodge Durango from Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) for \$32,025, with the remaining funds intended to be used for equipment removal and installation. Chief McCune recommended selling the old, unmarked 2020 Durango on Purple Wave based on past experiences selling vehicles with the company.

Chief McCune also requested to purchase a new radar, highlighting the cost benefits of piggybacking on the State of Kansas contract, securing a price of \$3,000 at Applied Concepts. The new radar is to replace the one that is currently beyond repair in Officer Ashcraft's vehicle. Another radar quote from an online source amounted to \$4,633.20, showcasing the advantage of the State Contract. Councilmember Ross inquired about the expected Purple Wave sale price for the unmarked Durango, to which Chief mentioned the uncertainty. Councilmember Bryant asked about equipment costs, and Chief assured Council it would be within budget. Councilmember Fisher inquired about the mileage of the proposed purchase, and Chief indicated it would be under 50,000. Councilmember Hamilton asked about the annual vehicle purchasing plan, and Chief explained that was what the previous Mayor wanted in order to avoid

spending so much money on maintenance. Mayor Bishop requested Chief McCune to revisit Council to discuss the disposal or future plans for the old vehicle.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to purchase the 2021 Dodge Durango from KHP and to remove equipment from the 2020 unmarked Durango, and install equipment in the new 2021 Durango, for an amount not to exceed \$42,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wade and carried.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to purchase the new radar from Applied Concepts for an amount not to exceed \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fisher and carried.

City Clerk Steckel introduced the monthly City Hall Report as a method for Council to comprehensively review many of the tasks completed by the City Clerk and the Assistant Clerk each month.

Public Works Superintendent presented the monthly Public Works Report.

Police Chief McCune presented the monthly Police Report. In response to the report, Mayor Bishop requested that future reports break down warnings into written and verbal categories.

City Clerk Steckel presented a budgeted salary request for the positions of City Clerk and Assistant Clerk. Councilmember Hamilton made a motion that the City Council (along with Mayor Bishop, City Clerk Steckel, Assistant Clerk Beam, and City Attorney Luckman) recess into executive session to discuss a non-elected personnel salary increase request pursuant to the nonelected personnel exemption, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume at City Hall at 6:12 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wade and carried.

The public meeting reconvened at 6:12 PM.

Councilmember Ross made a motion to adopt the salary recommendations for City Clerk Steckel, and Assistant Clerk Beam from the agenda report presented to Council in their packets. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hamilton and carried.

City Clerk Steckel updated Council on an upcoming webinar for newly elected officials, a training session in April, and Local Government Day on January 24th. She also announced the City's annual Tree Lighting event on December 7, 2024, at the Silver Lake Community Center.

Mrs. Steckel informed Council about a water line issue at 306 Theresa on the City's side. She requested approval to reduce the customer's bill to \$54.35 for two months, aligning with their average bill over the past year. Councilmember Fisher made a motion to make the billing correction, which was seconded by Councilmember Ross and carried.

City Clerk Steckel will update contact info on the website, League of Municipalities, and City rosters. New internal information is coming soon, and Council members can reach out if they need contact details in the meantime.

Mrs. Steckel reminded Council that the City has \$14,768.48 remaining in their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) account, and they have until the end of 2024 to allocate those funds, and until the end of 2026 to spend the funds.

City Attorney Todd Luckman presented a comprehensive background on a longstanding zoning issue within the City, initiated by a complaint. The previous Council instructed Luckman to pursue prosecution in Municipal Court on October 2, 2023. However, Mayor Bishop aims to reach an agreement with the defendant for the edification of both parties. While Luckman supports the Mayor's approach of informal discussion, the final decision on any resolution remains at Luckman's discretion.

Councilmember Ross inquired about the mural project being done by local Community Empowerment Organization, We Are Silver Lake. City Clerk Steckel shared that changes are being made to the mural, and the large flag has been removed. We Are Silver Lake has given new instructions to their contracted artist with a new completion date this spring and they have not publicly revealed what will be in place of the flag on the mural. When Councilmember Ross inquired, she shared with him that there is indeed a flag still on the mural, in front of the old school house.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2024, at 5:30PM.

With no other business to come before Council, Councilmember Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wade and approved.

  
Liz Steckel, City Clerk