



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall – Bel Aire, Kansas
March 3, 2020 7:00 P.M.**



I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jim Benage

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Jeff Elshoff, Dr. Joel Schroeder, Diane Wynn and Justin Smith.

Also present were City Manager Ty Lasher, City Attorney Jaqueline Kelly and City Clerk Melissa Krehbiel.

III. OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Gary Green provided the opening prayer.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Benage led the pledge of allegiance.

V. DETERMINE AGENDA ADDITIONS – There were no additions.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of the February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting.**
- B. Fireworks Permit for Shocker Fireworks to be located at 4501 N Oliver.**
- C. Fireworks Permit for Wholesale Fireworks Enterprises, LLC to be located at 6334 E Crestmark.**

MOTION: Council Member Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as listed and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

- A. Consideration of Appropriations Ordinance 20-04 in the amount of \$319,102.18.**

MOTION: Council Member Schroeder moved to approve Appropriations Ordinance 20-04. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

VIII. CITY REQUESTED APPEARANCES: None

IX. PROCLAMATIONS:

- **Flood Awareness Week: March 18th – 22nd**
- **Severe Awareness Week: March 2nd – 6th**

Mayor Benage read and signed the proclamations.

X. CITIZEN CONCERNS

Gary O’Neal, 4967 N. Hillcrest, said that the City of Wichita recently announced a big land sale near the Sunflower Commerce Park. He wondered if anyone in Bel Aire was aware of the sale before it happened. He wonders why they would locate in Wichita instead of Bel Aire, and why we are not getting more inquiries.

Carolyn Gunzelman, 5029 E. 39th St N, said regarding the empty seat, she wanted to remind them of the will of the people. It should be a simple procedure for them to see who might be the person that the city would like to have in that place. She supported John Welch in the last election because she had an opportunity to hear his platform. She has not had that opportunity with the other applicants for the city council vacancy. If the council cannot appoint someone who the citizens have had a chance to hear, maybe there needs to be a special election.

Bill Cook, 4618 N Elk Creek, said regarding the empty seat, the will of the people seems obvious. The first nominee was next in the vote count, nominated by the mayor that was clearly selected by the people. He said an explanation will be due if the council does not select the clear choice of the people.

XI. REPORTS

A. Council Member Reports

Council Member Elshoff reported on the February 27th meeting of the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority (CCUA). At that meeting, the board reviewed a long-term maintenance project and installation of new computers with improved security features. An emergency water supply plan, water conservation plan, and a source water protection plan were adopted. They are being proactive in managing risk to the water supply. CCUA also approved repairs to a sewage treatment pump and the purchase of a variable drive for a well in Bel Aire. CCUA received engineering proposals from 4 engineering firms for the upcoming wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The board unanimously decided on one firm. The plans for the upgrade will be presented to each city in the near future.

B. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Benage reported that he visited Northeast Magnet on February 22nd. While there, he attended a Senior Government class and met many talented students. On Saturday, he attended a legislative public forum at the Wichita public library. One bill being discussed in this session would require more transparency from local governments

when they decide to raise taxes. He understands the intent but believes it places a high burden on city and county governments to mail notices to each property owner.

C. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Kelly reported that there has been a recent increase in dogs getting out of their yards. Invisible fences sometimes fail. She reminded dog owners to make sure that their dogs are contained in their yards. Code Enforcement is working to educate residents about parking limits for recreational vehicles, ATVs, jet skis, boats, etc. These are only allowed to be parked on the street for 24 hours, or in a driveway for 72 hours. Also, the police department has had recent complaints of improper parking, for cars parked over sidewalks that pass through driveways, blocking pedestrians.

D. City Manager Report

City Manager Lasher reported on property taxes in nearby suburban cities. Wichita has an economy of scale with its large population, which makes some things much cheaper there, so it is not included in the comparison. Augusta is on the high end with about 174 mills and Goddard is on the low end with about 139 mills. Bel Aire's mill levy, at 148.966, is near the middle. Other entities such as Sedgwick County, Sedgwick County Fire and USD 259 school district also get a portion of the mill levy, so if they decide to raise their taxes, it affects Bel Aire citizens as well.

XII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND FINAL ACTIONS

A. Consideration of confirming the Mayors Appointment of _____ to fill the Council seat vacated by Jim Benage. Appointment will be for two years and up for election in 2021.

The council discussed the nomination process so far, the council vacancy policy, possible alternative methods of filling the council seat, and feedback they had received from Bel Aire residents since the last council meeting.

After discussion, Mayor Benage requested a motion to reinstate the nomination of John Welch.

MOTION: Council Member Smith moved to reconsider the motion to confirm the appointment of John Welch to the vacant City Council seat. Council Member Elshoff seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

MOTION: Council Member Schroeder moved to confirm Mayor Benage's appointment of John Welch to the vacant City Council seat. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

B. Oath of Office for New City Council Member- No action was taken, as Mr. Welch was not present.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION- No executive session was held.

XIV. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE ISSUES

- City Council Workshop (Marketing Interviews) – March 5th at 6:30 pm.
- City Council Workshop – March 10th at 6:30 pm?

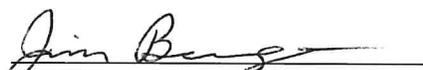
There was consensus to hold the workshops on March 5th and March 10th at 6:30 p.m. and the council briefly discussed the agenda for each meeting.

City Manager Lasher said the meeting regarding traffic concerns in Central Park neighborhood near Isely Elementary might be rescheduled and he would notify council members of the new date and time.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Smith moved to adjourn. Council Member Wynn seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Approved by the City Council this 17th day of March, 2020.


Jim Benage, Mayor

ATTEST:


Melissa Krehbiel, City Clerk

