



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7651 E. Central Park Ave, Bel Aire, KS
Video available at belaireks.gov
August 18, 2020 7:00 P.M.



I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jim Benage called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Present were Dr. Joel Schroeder, Justin Smith, John Welch, and Diane Wynn. Jeff Elshoff was absent.

Also present were City Manager Ty Lasher, City Attorney Jacqueline Kelly, City Engineer Anne Stephens, Finance Director Ted Henry and City Clerk Melissa Krehbiel.

III. **OPENING PRAYER** – Dr. Joel Schroeder provided the opening prayer.

IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Mayor Benage led the pledge of allegiance.

V. **DETERMINE AGENDA ADDITIONS – City Manager**

There were no additions.

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Minutes of the August 4, 2020 City Council Meeting.**

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

VII. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE**

A. **Consideration of Appropriations Ordinance 20-15 in the amount of \$275,565.01.**

Motion: Council Member Welch moved to approve Appropriations Ordinance 20-15. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

VIII. CITY REQUESTED APPEARANCES: Tara Laughlin with Allen, Gibbs & Houlik. Presentation of the 2019 City of Bel Aire Financial Audit.

Council Members asked Ms. Laughlin about how this audit compared to past years and about common accounting standards and practices in Kansas cities. Ms. Laughlin said an alternative practice for other organizations, such as school districts, is to file a GAAP waiver annually. The council may consider other accounting standards for the next fiscal year.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of the public hearing is to give property owners and other interested parties the opportunity to speak on the proposed 2021 City of Bel Aire Budget.

No one requested to speak.

Motion: Council Member Welch moved to close the public hearing. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

X. CITIZEN CONCERNS:

Bruce Roepke, 4300 N Rushwood Circle, stated that he read a post on the Next Door app about a month ago. The post said a neighbor talked to firefighters at the Bel Aire station, who said that many fire hydrants failed their fire hydrant tests. He asked what the city is doing about this.

XI. REPORTS

A. Council Member Reports

Council Member Wynn reported that the Utility Advisory Committee is evaluating the backflow prevention ordinance and they expect to have recommendations for council by next spring.

Council Member Schroeder reported that he attended the last Chamber of Commerce meeting.

B. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Benage spoke at the Chamber meeting last week about his vision for the city.
- Rock Road is now open after repairs by the City of Wichita, but will be closed again in October for final repairs.
- Mayor Benage attended the recent League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) meeting.

- The Bel Aire citizens' response to the US census has been 80 %, which is higher than national average. He encouraged citizens to respond. The computer in in the Senior Center is available for this use. Census data will determine important decisions such as Bel Aire's voting districts.
- Regarding backflow prevention, Bel Aire has only 54% compliance on certification of approximately 1,200 irrigation systems. He encouraged citizens to get their systems certified in order to protect the drinking water quality and avoid penalties from code enforcement.
- Mayor Benage attended the LKM public officers and employees policy committee meeting, where they discussed the improved funding of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs), and previewed LKM's legislative policy.
- Chief Atteberry reports a recent increase in auto break-ins, especially in unlocked cars parked in residential areas. Many gun thefts come from cars. Please lock your cars and remove valuables.
- The effectiveness of wearing masks has been shown by the recent drop in the COVID-19 positive test rate from 14% to 10% positive test rate. Mayor Benage encouraged citizens to continue wearing masks. The state currently does not have a shortage of ventilators or hospital beds.

C. City Attorney Report

- City Attorney Kelly reported that backflow preventers are required to be installed on all water systems that connect to the city's main water supply. The backflow preventer allows water to flow only in one direction, to prevent contamination of the water supply. Backflow preventers must be inspected annually by a Bel Aire licensed contractor and replaced every 5 years. The deadline has been extended this year in consideration of the pandemic.
- City Attorney Kelly reviewed recent cases with other cities regarding social media platforms being used as two-way communication for public comments. Cities that have used it in this way have run into difficulties regarding censorship. Bel Aire is not using it in this manner. The primary platform for public comments is in-person or through email or mail sent to the City Clerk.

D. City Manager Report

- City Manager Lasher reported the Central Park pool will now be open only on the weekends until September 6th. The city has received a lot of positive comments about extending the pool season.
- Sedgwick County received money from the CARES act for COVID-19 related expenses and has allotted about \$150,000 to City of Bel Aire. Bel

Aire has submitted about \$50,000 so far, for reimbursement, and will submit more soon.

- Congrats to Tristin Terhune, Director of Communication and Human Resources. She was recently recognized by the Wichita Business Journal as one of twenty “Women Who Lead in Marketing”.
- Thanks to Council Member Schroeder for researching and installing sound dampening boards to help with echo problems throughout City Hall. This should improve the sound quality at Council meetings.

XII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND FINAL ACTIONS

A. Consideration of adopting the 2021 City of Bel Aire Budget.

Motion: Council Member Welch moved to adopt the 2021 City of Bel Aire budget as presented and authorized the Governing Body to sign. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

B. Consideration of approving a quote to rehab sewer manholes in the Lawn Terrace, Bel Aire Village and Summit Hills Additions to Bel Aire. Two quotes were received as follows:

Mayer Specialty Services	\$76,479.50
Utility Maintenance Contractors	\$58,675.00

City Engineer Stephens stood for questions from council. The City is trying to systematically rehab sewer manholes. Rehabbing will prevent stormwater seepage into the sanitary sewer system and the resulting higher sewage treatment costs.

Motion: Council Member Welch moved to approve the quote from Utility Maintenance Contractors at a cost of \$58,675.00 for sewer manhole rehab and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

C. Consideration of approving a quote from South Central Sealing & Paving to repair, slurry seal, and re-stripe the Bel Aire Recreation Center parking lot at a cost of \$35,424.00.

Council members discussed seeking bids from alternative companies and the need for more information.

Motion: Council Member Welch moved to table the quote from South Central Sealing & Paving for repair of the Bel Aire Recreation Center parking lot. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

D. Consideration of A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Finding (Webb Road Gravity Sewer Main); And Amending, Restating And Repealing Resolution No. R-19-11).

Kevin Cowan of Gilmore and Bell, bond counsel for the city, stood for questions from council. The final estimates for this project came in higher than the original estimates after geo-technical reports came back.

City Engineer Stephens explained that this is still the optimal location for the project, in regards to costs, technical considerations, and service area.

Motion: Council Member Schroeder moved to approve A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Finding (Webb Road Gravity Sewer Main); And Amending, Restating And Repealing Resolution No. R-19-11 and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

E. Consideration of A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Finding (Webb Road Lift Station); And Amending, Restating And Repealing Resolution No. R-19-12).

Motion: Council Member Welch moved to approve A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Finding (Webb Road Lift Station); And Amending, Restating And Repealing Resolution No. R-19-12 and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Wynn seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

F. Consideration of A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Finding (Paving Improvements/Rock Spring Addition Phase 7).

Kevin Cowan of Gilmore and Bell, bond counsel for the city, stood for questions from council. Mr. Cowan explained the petition and resolution process.

Motion: Council Member Schroeder moved to approve A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Finding (Paving Improvements/Rock Spring Addition Phase 7) and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Welch seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

G. Consideration of A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire, Kansas; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Findings (Sanitary Sewer Improvements/Rock Spring Addition-Phase 7).

Motion: Council Member Smith moved to approve A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire, Kansas; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Findings (Sanitary Sewer Improvements/Rock Spring Addition-Phase 7) and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Wynn seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

H. Consideration of A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire, Kansas; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Findings (Water Distribution System Improvements/Rock Spring Addition-Phase 7).

Motion: Council Member Schroeder moved to approve A Resolution Determining The Advisability Of The Making Of Certain Internal Improvements In The City Of Bel Aire, Kansas; Making Certain Findings With Respect Thereto; And Authorizing And Providing For The Making Of The Improvements In Accordance With Such Findings (Water Distribution System Improvements/Rock Spring Addition-Phase 7) and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No executive session was held.

XIV. DISCUSSION AND FUTURE ISSUES – No other issues were discussed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

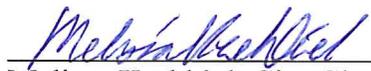
Motion: Council Member Smith moved to adjourn. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Approved by the City Council this 1st day of September, 2020.



Jim Benage, Mayor

ATTEST:



Melissa Krehbiel, City Clerk