

The Oakley City Council met in regular session on July 3, 2023, in the meeting room at the Oakley City Office, 415 W. 2nd Street, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Shane Stephenson presided.

Council members present. Leasa Huddle, Russ Kahle, and Kile Zerr were present; Cheryl Stewart was present by phone and Trevor Mader was absent.

City staff present. City Administrator Brock Sloan, Police Chief Daniel Cooper, and City Clerk Leann Hughes.

Others present. Natalie Sibi and Aldo Sibi.

Call to order. Mayor Stephenson called the regular meeting to order at approximately 7:04 PM.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s). Zerr moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023, regular meeting, as presented. Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Action (#15206).

Approval of AP Payment Register(s). Zerr moved to approve the June 30, 2023, AP Payment Register for checks dated June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$83,907.35 (Check Nos. 512-515; 50293-50296; and 50298-50336). Huddle seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Action (#15207).

Approval of Time Entry Report. Zerr moved to approve the Time Entry Report for June 11, 2023, to June 24, 2023, dated June 27, 2023, for the June 30, 2023, payroll, in the amount of \$69,203.44 for 3,806.04 hours (Check Nos. 17609-17613; ACH Nos. 97968-98019; AP Check No. 50297; Wire Nos. 886-889). Kahle seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Action (#15208).

Citizen Request to Speak. Aldo Sibi addressed the Council to inquire how things are going at the Municipal Airport and to express an interest in renting an airport hangar for a maintenance business. Discussion followed and Mayor Stephenson noted these items need to be requested to be on the agenda. Sibi stated he did submit an email requesting to be on the agenda but did not receive a response. Clerk Hughes inquired what email was used and Sibi's explained it was a form submission on the City's website. Clerk Hughes stated she would check to see if there are issues on the website. Sibi also noted he would like to explain himself at a future meeting in regard to some things that were previously stated that he feels are untrue. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have Administrator Sloan contact Sibi to see if he can help resolve some questions and/or place some items on a future meeting agenda to be discussed with the Council.

Department Head Reports. None.

NEW DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

ACH Payments to Vendors. Administrator Sloan reported two payments to vendors have been lost in the mail this year so the City Office would like to start paying vendors electronically when they can. Clerk Hughes noted she contacted the Oakley Postmaster to let her know about the lost items and she was very accommodating, noting she will report it so it will be investigated. Kahle moved to approve the use of electronic payments to pay vendors. Zerr seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Action (#15209).

EMC Refund. Administrator Sloan reported Bruce Campbell with Campbell Insurance delivered a safety dividend check to the City from EMC for \$22,129.58. The City has received a dividend check for the last three years. Sloan also noted that Campbell expressed his appreciation for the business and for keeping it local.

Preliminary Budget Information. Administrator Sloan reported he is working on the 2024 budget and the County Clerk has determined the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) is 77.900 mills. He noted the City's

current mill levy is 83.412, so the Council will likely need to pass a resolution to exceed the RNR at the next meeting, depending on the final proposed mill levy. Discussion followed concerning equipment and vehicle needs, wages, and health insurance costs for next year.

UNFINISHED DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

Offer of Just Compensation – Airport Tract. Administrator Sloan reminded the Council they consented to selling a tract of land to Farmers State Bank to the west of the Sonic Drive-In approximately one year ago. The surveys and appraisals have been completed on this 1.21-acre tract and the recommended value was just over \$48,000.00. Farmers State Bank has submitted an Offer of Just Compensation. Mayor Stephenson inquired if the City received FAA approval for the sale of the property; Sloan confirmed the FAA has approved the sale of this tract. Zerr moved to accept the Offer of Just Compensation from Farmers State Bank, in the amount of \$50,000.00, for a 1.21-acre tract at the Oakley Airport, which is located west of the Sonic Drive-In, and for Administrator Sloan to follow-up with the paperwork to complete the transaction. Kahle seconded. Motion carried. Kahle, Stewart and Zerr voting yes; Huddle abstaining. Action (#15210).

Application – 721 Cornell Avenue. Administrator Sloan reported he received an application to purchase vacant lots owned by the City, at 721 Cornell Avenue, to construct a house with a garage. Sloan recommended this item be tabled for discussion at the next meeting since part of the application was not completed. Mayor Stephenson inquired if the intent to sell these lots was advertised; Sloan replied it was not. Stephenson suggested the intent to accept applications to purchase these lots be advertised and the matter be addressed next month; the Council was in agreement.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/DISCUSSION:

Brock Sloan, City Administrator. Administrator Sloan reported on several items, including:

- S&T Communications would like to sponsor an appreciation day at the swimming pool and they will pay for everyone's admission.
- EBH Engineering has begun preliminary surveying for the South Freeman project.
- The lead and copper surveys are slowly being returned. Mayor Stephenson inquired if there has been an article in the newspaper. Sloan stated there was an article some time back that this was going to happen, but he will follow-up to see if another article can be done.

Leann Hughes, City Clerk. No report.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/DISCUSSION:

Council Member Kahle thanked the Fire Department in advance for the fireworks display scheduled for July 4, 2023, noting they always do a great job. Administrator Sloan noted the weather forecast is showing the possibility of severe weather tomorrow evening. Mayor Stephenson noted he had also seen the forecast and suggested an extension through 11:30 PM on July 5, 2023, to allow for the display to be postponed, if necessary. Kahle moved to extend the deadline to allow the discharge of fireworks through 11:30 PM, July 5, 2023, if severe weather postpones activities on July 4, 2023. Zerr seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Action (#15211).

Council Member Zerr reported he had recently been to the golf course and was surprised at how bad the condition of the cart paths is, noting that some time back a committee was working on funding to repair/replace them. Zerr asked what the City could do help with this, suggesting assistance again with a grant application. Discussion followed and it was agreed everyone will continue to look into available options.

Council Member Stewart reported she had poled several residents concerning chickens in the city limits and of those she spoke with, 65 were in favor and 2 were against. Mayor Stephenson stated the Council decided not to pursue allowing chickens in the city limits at the last meeting, but encouraged Stewart to keep her information because the topic may come up for discussion again in the future.

Adjourn. Kahle moved to adjourn the meeting. Zerr seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Action (#15212). Mayor Stephenson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:27 P.M.

Leann M. Hughes, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The members of the Council acknowledged receipt of a copy of the minutes; said minutes were approved as presented at the July 17, 2023, regular meeting.