

## McFarland City Council Minutes July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Mayor Ron Nehring called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6 pm, with the following city council members present. Darrin Dillingham, Lori Senne and Spencer Parker. Council members Tom Dillingham and Joel Green were absent. Public attending the meeting were City Superintendent Jeff Osif, City Attorney Tim Liesmann, McFarland Fire District No. 7 representative Jeff Wimberly and Wabaunsee Co. Fire Dist. No. 7 representative Travis Poovey, citizens Ethan Senne, Avery Trecek, Ron & Kate Nolan, and John Walker. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Nehring announced there is a quorum present and proceeded to read a resignation letter from City Council Member Tom Dillingham. Council member Spencer Parker made a motion to accept the resignation letter from Tom Dillingham. Seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes. Mayor Nehring asked the city council about filling the position of City Council President, council member Lori Senne asked that it be tabled until next month when all members are present, city council agreed.

Mayor Nehring opened the meeting to comments or concerns from the public. Jo Nehring of TEAM McFarland gave an update concerning K-States “First Impressions” program, a sister city will come out to McFarland and look at our town and help with solutions to clean up blight. It was also reported good success with the fireworks display and in the fall TEAM would like to host a campout and make use of the RV park area, with permission from the city sometime in October, electricity would be needed. The Senior Center will host a breakfast then as well.

City Attorney Tim Liesmann reported there were a couple of legal actions in August concerning Chapter 17 on both houses on Main Street. Tim reported that there were no liens placed on the property located at 601 Main Street, despite information given from his family members.

City Superintendent Jeff Osif gave his monthly maintenance report:

**GAS:** Nothing to report. Had one locate this month.

**WATER:** All is well with the water plant, meet with Chris Kline of KRW (Kansas Rural Water) and discussed exercising water valves and fire hydrants.

**SEWER:** Nothing to report. There is some discharge from the lagoons due to high rain amounts; it should taper off in a day or so.

**RETENTION DAM:** Nothing to report.

**MISC.:** City-wide clean-up is done, the roll-off dumpsters will be picked up this week. Three roll-off of metal were collected as well as the same on refuse. KMU (Kansas

Municipal Utilities) has a Water Distribution classes on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, and a math class on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, all full days. Both classes will help in becoming certified in water and sewer.

**STREETS:** After finishing mowing this week, will finish crack sealing the remainder of the streets, should take about 3 days to complete.

**PARK:** The storm siren has been fixed, but did not go off today. Sentry Siren replaced the entire box on the pole. (Travis Poovey reported that the Maple Hill repeater tower is down not allowing the McFarland siren to go off).

**Equipment:** Concerning the ATV, city council asked for prices. I have price ranges from \$3,000 to \$12,000 for used ATV. A new one from Walmart with no tow bar can run around \$5,000. I would like to stay in the 5 to 6 thousand range. The small trailer the City has been using of Toms is for sale. Tom Dillingham said he would sell the trailer and lumber for \$400. It was reported that the 2 x 4 lumber was used in framing for sidewalks.

Council member Lori Senne made a motion to send Jeff Osif to the class water distribution academy in McPherson Seconded by Darrin Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes. Council Member Spencer Parker made a motion to spend \$400 on the purchase to Tom's trailer and boards. Seconded by Lori Senne, motion carried with all voting yes.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were read. Council Member Lori Senne made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Council Member Darrin Dillingham made a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Lori Senne, motion carried with all voting yes. The monthly bills were reviewed. Council Member Lori Senne made a motion to pay the monthly bills presented for payment. Seconded by Spencer Parker, motion carried with all voting yes.

In Old Business: Mayor Nehring asked that RV Park update and update on water well #5 be pulled from the agenda until further notice.

In New Business: Mayor Nehring reported to the city council that City Attorney Liesmann has the updated Fire Station Lease for signatures. Travis Poovey representing Fire District #7 and Mayor Nehring both signed a 10 year lease for a dollar a year. Poovey presented the City of McFarland checks for \$30 for annual leases in arrears, current lease and those leases 10 years out. City Council heard discussion on security cameras, Superintendent Jeff Osif presented the city council with a handout map with proposed areas where 13 security cameras are needed which is being submitted to ADT for pricing.

Mayor Nehring asked Wabaunsee Co. Detective Dalton Rorabaugh to address the city council concerning security cameras. Dalton upon hearing previous discussion by city council concerning placement of cameras in town, responded the he would suggest 24 / 7 cameras and not motion sensor cameras. He commented that most of the cameras in use by various cities in the county are with WTC (Wamego Tele

Communications). In his opinion, the cities of Alma and Maple Hill have the best setups. Superintendent Osif commented that he would reach out to those cities for more information on their systems.

Citizen Jo Nehring asked detective Dalton about “Neighborhood Watch” program if that would be something to consider in light of all the recent theft in town. City Council heard discussion on the rash of car burglaries and park vandalism and the cost of a part-time “shared” sheriff personnel for McFarland / Paxico. Detective Dalton encouraged the city to find funding to patrol the town on a part –time basis and offered some solutions that may need to be worked out, but stressed the need for a certified officer to help prevent being sued over violation of constitutional rights. Ethan Senne commented that he has seen funding and grants available for local governments to help off-set costs. Mayor Nehring commented that regarding public safety, the city could use the ARPA funding for security cameras. It was noted that more discussion would be had at the next work session on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, giving Superintendent Osif time to gather information on cameras. Discussion was heard about getting batteries for the speed sign on Main St., and the need for a key to recharge the batteries as needed.

Under Property Concerns; compliance officer Lori Senne reported three notices on tall grass and weeds and an inoperable vehicle notice were sent out, they have 30 days to comply. Citizen John Walker commented that he had sprayed “the jungle” and on his way to be in compliance with the city. Mayor Nehring discussed with the city council and Attorney Liesman about the length of time it takes to bring property concerns into compliance with the numerous weed and grass ordinances the city has.

City Clerk gave an overview of the General Fund Budget for 2025 to the city council and remarked that if there were any changes in spending now is the time. It was reported that the Ad Valorem Tax would remain slightly less than last year, not exceeding the RNR (revenue neutral rate) at this time. If more spending is needed by the city, the County Clerk would need to be notified by July 20<sup>th</sup>, the cities intent to exceed the RNR. City Clerk also reported the central AC unit stopped working this past week. Avery Trecek was called to repair the unit.

Avery Trecek reported to the city council that the unit was 20 years old + and was nearing its end and the city might want to start putting back money to replace it with a new AC unit. Avery commented that the furnace is working fine and there was no need to replace it and advised that there is a change in the type of refrigeration being used that occurs in 2025 and to wait until then. Mayor Nehring reported that the funding grant for ballfield lights had ran out before the paperwork could be completed, however the grant for \$250 for the scoreboard has paid for LED lightbulbs.

At 7:44 pm, council member Spencer Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Darring Dillingham, motion carried with all voting yes.

Larry Senne  
City Clerk