

SPECIAL MEETING

City Hall, Marysville, Kansas, September 16, 2024

Members of the Governing Body of the City of Marysville were called to order in a special meeting at 6:30 p.m., on the date and at the place listed above with Mayor Frye opening the meeting. City Administrator Haverkamp and City Clerk Holle were also present.

Council members answering present to roll call were Snellings, Ferris, Behrens, Keating, Schrater, Throm and Goracke. A quorum was present. CM Beikman was absent.

The call, signed by seven of the seven council members present, read as follows:

We, the undersigned councilmembers of the City of Marysville hereby respectfully request that you call a special council meeting of the members of the governing body of said City to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday September 16, 2024, at the Marysville City Hall for the following purpose:

- a) Hear presentations and discuss RFPs for the Charles J. D. Koester House Commercial Properties.***

Gloria Smith Ex-Officio member, and members of the Koester House Museum Foundation as follows spoke about their proposal to acquire the Charles J.D. Koester house and the Santa House and park: Kim Houtz Hiller, Vickie Phillipi, Sharon Kessinger, Pam Schroller, Elizabeth Stewart, Sharon Phillips and Scott Kneifl. The Foundation would like to change the Koester House into a bed and breakfast facility containing four rentable rooms with the possibility of making classrooms for education. This space could be rented separately or as a whole. The cost to rehabilitate the house would be more than \$350,000.00, which the Foundation would need to find by fund-raising and applying for grants. They would hire a manager for the bed and breakfast and if the basement were opened as a bar a manager would be hired for that as well. The entire operation would be managed by the Foundation Board. In addition to acquiring the Koester House they would also like the City to give them the Santa Park on the west side of the property. The Foundation would like the Museum, the House, and the Park to be one cohesive area. Their goal is to make a profit to help sustain the Koester House Museum. The group does not have a date to open the new business but would be able to open sooner if it is completed in phases.

At 7:18 p.m. CM Snellings moved; CM Throm seconded to recess until 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

Laura Butler and Woody Walstrom presented a business plan for their goal for the Charles J. D. Koester House. They would create a daytime eatery at the Gathering House. Laura and her business partner Danielle Donald have run a similar business previously in South Dakota. Their plan for the Charles J.D. Koester House would include a restaurant that makes food from scratch and would also have a production kitchen. They intend to source most ingredients locally. The Gathering House would hire a minimum of eight staff members (if available). The space upstairs could be used for client meetings and workspaces. They would begin immediately upon approval to acquire the necessary licenses, loans, and grants to fund the business and begin rehabilitation of the building. They hope to open by spring. Laura said she realizes the Museum will be their long-term neighbor and they will work with them to preserve the area.

Both groups would like to use the outdoor spaces and the porch.

At 7:53 p.m., CM Keating moved, CM Throm seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CINDY HOLLE
City Clerk