

CITY OF KEISER

Council Meeting

August 19, 2024

The Keiser City Council met in regular session Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6 pm at Keiser City Hall. In attendance were Mayor Rick Creecy; Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars; and Councilmembers Donna Bell and Joey Jackson. Absent council members were Laura Smith and Lynn Skaggs. Mayor Creecy used his legislative privilege to provide a quorum, and the meeting was called to order.

Minutes from the July council meeting were read and approved with a motion from Bell, followed by a second from Jackson; and all said aye.

Financial reports were reviewed and approved with a motion from Bell, followed by a second from Jackson; and all said aye.

Representing the Special Events Committee, Bell informed the council that she would provide a list of activities planned by the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Police Chief – Michael Shively
 - i. Jackson made the motion to accept Michael Shiveley as Keiser Chief of Police; followed by a second from Bell; and all said aye.
 - ii. The City of Keiser now has 1 full-time, 1 part-time, and 1 auxiliary officer with plans to hire another full-time officer.
- b. Proposed Sewer Rates
 - i. The city's new sewer loan will require approximately \$4,800 per month for payment on the \$550,000 loan.
 - ii. Water/Sewer revenue does not currently generate enough revenue to cover this payment.
 - iii. Mayor Creecy presented 3 options to the council to review for a rate increase.
 - 1. Option 1 raises residential sewer rates to \$35 and increases metered rates. This is an average 33% increase. This option generates an additional \$6,800 in monthly revenue.
 - 2. Option 2 raises sewer rates to \$30 and increases metered rate on higher water users. This option reduces users of 3000 gallons and less to an average of 24% from 33% in option 1, which is the majority of retirees. This option generates an additional \$7,000 in monthly revenue.
 - 3. Option 3 raises sewer rates to \$30 and increases metered rate on higher water users. This option reduces users of 3000 gallons and less to an average of 24% from 33% and lowers the rate users over 5000 gallons will pay. This option generates an additional \$6,100 in monthly revenue.

- iv. These are estimated numbers based on past usage and does not include disconnect fees or late fees.
- v. Rural and commercial rates are raised the same percentage as residential customers for each option.
- vi. The meter deposit will also need to be raised from \$125 in the event the deposit will need to be used to cover water bills left if a customer moves owing a bill. The average water bill now is \$66. With a rate increase that will be around \$94.
- c. Ordinance 2024-05
 - i. Jackson motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-05, followed by a second from Bell; and all said aye.
 - ii. Jackson motioned to dispense with the 3 readings and read the ordinance once in entirety and twice by title only. Bell seconded the motion; and all said aye.
 - 1. 1st reading in entirety – Jackson, motion; Bell, second; all said aye.
 - 2. 2nd reading title only – Bell, motion; Jackson, second; all said aye.
 - 3. 3rd reading title only – Bell, motion; Jackson, second; all said aye
 - 4. Emergency Clause – Jackson motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-05 with an emergency clause. Bell provided a second to Jackson’s motion; all said aye.
 - iii. Ordinance 2024-05 was adopted and will go into effect August 19, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mayor Creecy paused the council meeting at 6:50 pm and convened a public meeting of citizens to discuss the possibility of applying for a Great Strides/Trails for Life Grant for a parking lot at the city park.
 - i. Mayor Creecy informed the citizens that this would be a \$250,000 grant and would cover the cost of the 50 x 250 ft. parking area plus 20 park benches.
 - ii. After discussions concerning the location and parameters of the parking area, the public meeting was closed after receiving positive input from the citizens in attendance.
- b. Resolution 2024-09 (Great Strides/Trails for Life Grant)
 - i. Bell motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-09, followed by a second from Jackson; and all said aye.
 - ii. Resolution 2024-09 was approved by citizens attending and a vote by the Keiser City Council.
- c. Resolution 2024-10(Hazard Mitigation Plan)
 - i. In conjunction with the Mississippi County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City of Keiser joined forces with other cities in the county in adopting Resolution 2024-10. With a motion from Jackson, a second from Bell all said aye and the resolution was adopted.
- d. DOJ Community Policing Grant Extension
 - i. Due to the loss of our Chief of Police and full-time officer, an extension has been requested and granted until 3/31/2025.
- e. DOJ Full-time Officer Grant Extension

- i. A request for an extension will be filed due to the loss of our officers.
- f. Grants
 - i. Public Safety Equipment Grant (PSEG)
 - 1. A \$40,700 grant for a new police truck has been submitted. This is a 100% grant.
 - ii. Arkansas Community Foundation Giving Tree Grant
 - 1. A \$2,500 grant for trees and landscaping in the park has been submitted. This is a 100% grant.
 - iii. Rural Community Grant
 - 1. A \$16,000 grant to renovate the park bathrooms has been submitted. This is a 50/50 grant.
- g. Financial Director Salary
 - i. Water/City Hall Coordinator is \$26645.
 - ii. Recorder/Treasurer salary is \$17,823.
 - iii. A salary for the Financial Director must be decided upon before budget Preparation.
 - iv. The salary for Recorder must be decided upon before budget preparation.
- h. Grant Policy & Procedure presented to the council.
- i. Social Media & Policy Procedure presented to the council.

Bell made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue and salaries. Jackson seconded the motion; and all said aye.

Upon returning to the council table, Mayor Creecy stated that no decisions had been made and no business had been conducted during the executive session.

With no further business to discuss Bell motioned to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Jackson; and all said aye.

The next regular meeting will be September 16, 2024 at 6 pm at Keiser City Hall.


Mayor Rick Creecy


Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars