

**The City of Towanda, Kansas
City Council Minutes**

**Towanda City Hall
110 S 3rd St.
July 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

Governing Body

Present

Mayor – Jennifer Shaults
Council President – Mike Hayes
Council Member – Kendall Pierce
Council Member – Nicole Vargo
Council Member – Darrell White
Council Member – Holly McAdoo

Staff

City Administrator – Chris Stanyer
City Attorney – Rob Lane
City Superintendent – Rick Kearney
Planning/Zoning Administrator – Lisa Long
Fire Chief – T.C. Pyle
City Treasurer – Andy Newbrey
Court Administrator – Rachel Cain

1. Call To Order

- Mayor Jennifer Shaults, 7:01pm

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes & Claims

- *Motion by Nicole Vargo to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2022 regular council meeting as presented. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (5-0).*
- *Motion by Holly McAdoo to approve Appropriations Ordinance 6-2022 for June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$205,249.76. Second by Nicole Vargo. Motion carried (4-1) with Darrell While opposing.*

4. Public Comment

- Towanda resident John Bardin addressed council about a drainage concern he raised last month, as well as an additional drainage issue with a ditch full of very tall grass, weeds, and tress. City Superintendent Rick Kearny will investigate whose responsibility the second location is and will work to fix both issues.
- Towanda resident Grant Smith addressed council about the water rate concerns and drainage issues he raised last month. The city is still working on the water rate concern, and the City Superintendent is awaiting response from the railroad for permission to work on property they own. The city will continue to resolve both matters.
- Towanda resident Jo Smith addressed the council regarding the responsibility and financial burden for improvements needed on Clay Hill Rd., if there was any progress toward live-streaming the

council meetings, and concerns she has of police patrol within the city. Ms. Smith questioned the multiple vehicles often stationed at the Towanda Sheriff building and if the Sheriff's Department is paying rent for the usage by the Career Criminal Unit (CCU). Mayor Shaults, Chis Stanyer, and two active Towanda deputies detailed the advantages of having the extra units within the city, even though the Sheriff's Department does not pay rent for the partial use of the building. Discussions ensued about the current coverage by Towanda deputies and the current contract with the Sheriff's Department.

- Towanda resident Kit Williams thanked council for their previous discussions of the usage of non-standard vehicles within city limits, as he has seen much less dangerous actions since last meeting.

5. Police & Court Reports

- Deputy Peniston appeared before council in reference to the monthly activity report for the Sheriff's Department. Kendall Pierce asked if Deputy Peniston feels he is located within Towanda an appropriate time of his shifts. Mike Hayes asked if Deputy Peniston has seen any specific safety concerns. No additional questions.
- Court Administrator Rachel Cain presented the monthly activity report for the Municipal Court. Mike Hayes inquired as to where code enforcement offences would be listed in the report. No additional questions.

6. Fire Department

- Fire Chief T.C. Pyle presented the monthly activity report for the Fire Department. Mr. Pyle noted that Alecia Pyle had resigned from her paid position with the department and he therefore has another position to fill.
- Guest Jeff Redmond presented information regarding project development for the fire station, a proposed \$10,000.00 consulting fee, and a three-month turn around time for the proposal. Holly McAdoo inquired as to if the proposal could move the fire department outside of city limits. City Attorney Rob Lane noted that he had recommended Mr. Redmond to the fire committee to help move the common discussions about a fire station forward. Towanda resident John Bardin questioned if the city could afford the proposed cost. Mike Hayes noted that other entities are vested in the fire department and share in the finances of the department. Dave Wohlgenuth of the Towanda Township requested Mr. Redmond attend the next Township meeting.
- Kendall Pierce inquired as to how the operation of the firework stand performed this year. Nicole Vargo recommended changing the schedule for the discharge of fireworks when July 4th falls on a day prior to a work day.

7. Planning/Zoning

- Planning and Zoning Administrator Lisa Long presented the monthly activity report for the Planning and Zoning Department.
- Mike Hayes noted the high volume of Pine Ridge addresses on the code enforcement list.
- Ms. Long and Rob Lane summarized the city's current code pertaining to breed-specific dogs, requesting council approve an ordinance to remove the breed-specific section from the city code. Mike Hayes questioned Mr. Lane about prosecuting vicious animal offenders with previous vicious animal charges or convictions in other jurisdictions.
- *Motion by Mike Hayes to approve Ordinance No. 701 as presented. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (5-0).*

8. Maintenance

- City Superintendent Rick Kearney presented the monthly activity report for the Maintenance Department. Mr. Kearney updated council on the status of the library playground, which is almost complete. Mr. Kearney informed council that recent work on the pool parking lot is almost complete. Mr. Kearney noted that maintenance will be patching sections of Clay Hill before school resumes, in order to improve the road while decisions are made for full renovations. Mr. Kearney noted that a pool pump is leaking but they are awaiting items to fix it.

9. Treasurer's Report

- City Treasurer Andy Newbrey presented the monthly treasurer's report, noting his continued investigation of the underlying funds for expenses and making changes where needed. Mr. Newbrey noted that there are shortcomings with the city's current software but that there doesn't seem to be a better option at this time. Mayor Shauls inquired into the status of Benton's payment for the Recreation Department. Mr. Newbrey noted the bulk payment was about \$7,000.00 short, but the city should receive that next year.

10. Administration

- City Administrator Chris Stanyer noted that he, Andy Newbrey, and Rob Lane were continuing progress with Rural Water District #5 on the new water contract. The city will speak with RWD #5 about an extension of the interim water rate, as the 60-day expiration date of that rate occurs before a new contract will be fully drafted. He expects no issue with that.

11. Executive Session

- *Motion by Nicole Vargo, to recess into executive session for a non-elected personnel matter for a length of thirty minutes. The session to include the Governing Body, City Attorney, City Administrator, and City Treasurer. Second by Holly McAdoo. Motion carried (5-0).*
- Entered into Executive Session at 8:46pm.
- Resumed open meeting at 9:23pm.
- *Motion by Mike Hayes, to resume the executive session for a non-elected personnel matter for a length of twenty minutes. The session to include the Governing Body, City Attorney, City Administrator, and City Treasurer. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (5-0).*
- Entered into Executive Session at 9:23pm.
- Resumed open meeting at 9:43pm.

12. Motions To Consider

- *Motion by Mike Hayes that upon mutual agreement, the contract with Chris Stanyer for City Administrator be terminated effective at midnight this night and at that same time, the contract for City Administrator be executed with Andy Newbrey for the remainder of the contract. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (5-0).*
- Discussions ensued about the mil levy increase.
- *Motion by Mike Hayes for the City Administrator to notify the county clerk's office of the city's intent to exceed the city neutral rate, to that of 50 mils. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (5-0).*
- *Motion by Mike Hayes to enter into a contract with Paul Erickson for the position of City Treasurer, for a length of time to not exceed one year, at the same rate of the vacating Treasurer, that of \$1,000.00/month. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (5-0).*

13. Adjourn

- *Motion by Nicole Vargo to adjourn at 9:52pm. Second by Kendall Pierce. Motion carried (4-0).*

Andy Newbrey
City Clerk

Approved the 10th day of August 2022 by the City Council, City of Towanda, Kansas.