

CITY OF VALLEY FALLS

Open Meeting

February 7, 2018

Public Turn Out: City Hall started to fill and the meeting was moved to Kendall State Bank Community room due to the public turn out for tonight's meeting.

Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lucille Thomas. Council members present were Tony Trower, Mike Hahn, Betsy Doughramaji, Salih Doughramaji, and Mike Glissman.

Others present were Bill Klatt, Brenda Klatt, Melvin Lockhart, Jody Lockhart, Charles Stutesman, Rod Strole, Lori Glissman, Sharon Sweeney, Julie Trower, Nancy Gatzemeyer, Linda Stansell, Joyce Brown, Gary McKnight, Andy Dinger, Connie Fridley, Bill McCoy, Camille Jones, Donna McEachern, Jan McKnight, Tracy Streeter, John Thomas, Kelly Gatzemeyer, Dawson Gatzemeyer, Sherry Kearney, Kevin Seals, Jeannette Shipley, Rick Johnson, Salley Meyer, Megan Turner, and Clarke Davis.

The minutes from the January 17, 2018 meeting were presented. Mike G moves to approve the minutes as corrected. Salih seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

Petitions, Proclamations, Request, Complaints, Visitors, Etc.:

Public Comments:

There were several members of the public present for tonight's meeting as a follow-up from the January 17th meeting. There were several public members here just wanting reasons behind the non-appointment of Chief Bronson Campbell. The mayor opened the floor for comments and everyone was given a chance to come forward to address the Council directly.

The opening conversation covered concerns of serial meetings being had. There were also expressed concerns of a violation of the Open Meeting Act in regards to the second executive session that took place last meeting. This person felt that this needed to be discussed openly. Lucy and the other Council members had no problem disclosing the information from that executive session because there was nothing to disclose. The members that were nay votes sat with arms crossed and gave no explanation or had no plan of replacement during that executive session.

Other members expressed concern and disappointment because they had noticed vast improvement on the drug activity in this town and felt Bronson had done a very good job of cleaning up this town since he has been here.

Safety was another big concern and a citizen just wanted to express some caution to these decisions and felt without the police coverage there could be potential concern of conceal and carry for protection.

This individual also touched on K4 Hwy and stated it was noticed that drivers are slowing down along that stretch of highway and didn't care what others thought about the revenue it was bringing but cared more about the safety there.

Other questions asked were if any of the new members made contact with his direct supervisor on his evaluation status before making their decision. The question was asked because his most recent evaluation on 12/20/17 was good.

A letter was read by a member from the public regarding the report Tony Trower had read at the 1/17/18 meeting on a reported conversation had at Petro. It was stated that this conversation did not happen and this person felt that a call to discuss this directly should have taken place to resolve this instead of a discussion at an open meeting.

Others felt that rumors play a big part in all of this and expressed disappointment in the way people have been acting.

Some others felt that the damage has already been done and wanted to know if anyone has asked Bronson if he even wanted to stay.

Salih explained his view and tried to answer to some of this. He stated his decision was based on wanting a change in direction for the Police Department. It was a philosophical change in mind and stated he wanted to see less of the “heavy handed way” of policing. He accepts that Bronson is still our Chief of police and wants to keep things moving forward. He does not want this to affect other City business and wants to keep things moving. He stated that if Bronson could present a short synopsis each meeting that would help give him a better understanding of things that are going on with our Police Department.

Mike G. stated that his decision was based, and has always been based, on whether we were getting our money’s worth or not.

Betsy stated that if there was a vote tonight that her vote would still be the same. She says she has been approached by 10 times the amount of people present here tonight and they were thanking her for her nay vote.

It was reported that our Police department handled 1,593 calls for service in 2017. The Mayor states that these guys are working really hard and strongly stated that the agenda item to reappoint Bronson will be on every agenda until it gets resolved.

Jo Tichenor Public Comment: Jo was here on concerns with our Trash Company Waste Management and a letter she had received on some overage charges with her trash. These letters are in relation to all Commercial accounts and items that exceed the size of the container. The letter showed pictures of each incident that occurred and a \$90 charge that was assessed for each incident. A solution to avoid these charges in the future and recommended by Waste Management is to up size to a bigger container or add an additional 96gal tote. This was an amendment to our contract. Denise suggested getting Ammon Taylor, our Waste Management contact, here to discuss this topic with the Council directly. Denise will make contact and set up a time for him to come.

*Jo also touched on the trash and debris at the Barnes Addition. She has been picking up items including pieces of insulation and old face mask out of the ditch there.

*One final subject Jo brought to the Council was the dissatisfaction of the chip and seal work the County completed this last summer on their roads they service here in town. It seemed to be more dusty then normal and made a mess of things here in town. She felt there wasn’t a great response when calling to the County for solutions to correct the problem of the dust.

Committee Reports:

Administrative: Written report presented.

Water/Sewer: The annual water loss report shows a 13% loss this year. This is within the acceptable limits with KDHE.

*There was a water leak repaired at 506 Linn St.

Street/Alley: Salt has been ordered.

*The dump truck goes into Bill Heinen’s shop tomorrow for the injector to be replaced. Paul reports it should be in the shop about 1 ½ days for the repairs.

Parks/Pool:

Fire board:

Police:

Health Code:

VFEDC: Salih reports that the VFEDC has met with Pam Anderson. She continues to update the businesses listings and the County web site. Pam continues work on a strategic plan for the County. A short discussion was had about the Business District sign and refinishing that sign. Lucy reports it has been addressed at Chamber and Paul Burghart will get the sign taken down because Megan Turner is going to repaint the sign.

Swimming Pool: The committee got together and did a walkthrough of supplies on items needed for the new pool. It looks like a new deep freezer and refrigerator will

need to be purchased. They also discussed to start looking into some lockers for the pool staff.

Old Business: Code Enforcement: Will reschedule to meet on this topic at a later date.

Real Estate-RFP-Barnes Addition No. 3: It was decided to reschedule this meeting with Andy Conser for Tuesday February 13th at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Police Chief Appointment: Mike G requested to the Mayor to table this vote until the next meeting so that he could have more time to do some research and think things over. This was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: 2018 New Pool Manager: Reid Bunde is our pool manager this season. He has already started recruiting life guards and is working on setting up training. It was decided to set Reid up as a salary employee at \$8,000 for the season. Betsy moves to approve Reid and his salary amount. Tony seconds the motion. Motion carried 5-0. There was a short discussion on the City covering the training cost for the guards. Denise will get a City credit card set up in Reid name for purchases.

Auditor Contract: Tony moves to approve Agler and Gaddert's contract for the 2017 Audit in the amount of \$5,300. Mike G. seconds the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

Additions: Review of the Opens Meetings Act—next meeting.

Kansas Broadband Tower Mount: Betsy was just wondering the status on the magnetic equipment request made several months back. Paul has not notice any new equipment placed on the tower.

Hydralynk: Paul was instructed to disconnect power on both towers. There has been no returned signed contract with the City and there has been no payments made for use of the towers.

List of questions for the Police Dept: Betsy presented a list of questions she had for the Police Department. She will get these questions to Bronson so he has time to review and answer appropriately.

YouTube Video: Betsy was wondering the status of the investigation on the release of the video in relation to a DUI stop and the fake Facebook page it was posted on. Lucy and Tony made contact with YouTube immediately and worked to get that video removed. YouTube then in turn told Tony that it would take a court order to get it down. After consulting with the County Sheriff's office and City Attorney Rick Johnson it was discovered that no laws were broken. This was not a criminal matter but an internal policy matter. A policy is being drafted and will be presented to the Police Committee for review when completed. Betsy still was not satisfied with this conclusion and asked if she could pursue the investigation herself. There was no objection and she was given a budget of \$200.

VOUCHERS

The Vouchers were presented. Tony moved to approve. Mike H. seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Tony moves to adjourn the meeting. Mike G. seconds the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

APPROVED: _____
LUCILLE THOMAS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
APRIL HERBSTER, CITY CLERK