

**CITY OF HESSTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES of January 8, 2024**

**Council Meeting No. 1**

The regular meeting of the Hesston City Council was held on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers / Municipal Court Building located at 110 E. Smith Street.

**PRESENT**

Council members Larry Fuqua, Michael Wallace, Brad Unruh, Susan Swartzendruber, and Clare Moore, City Administrator Gary Emry, City Attorney J.T. Klaus, and City Clerk Jason Thrasher with Mayor David Kauffman presiding. A quorum was present.

**ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Hesston Fire/EMS Director Russ Buller, Police Chief Chris Eilert, Library Director Jackie Nelson, and Adam Strunk with the Harvey County Now.

**SWEARING IN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Kauffman swore in re-elected Council Members Susan Swartzendruber, Larry Fuqua, and Clare Moore.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mayor Kauffman asked for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none he moved on to the next item of business.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Brad Unruh moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Michael Wallace seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSTITUENCY COMMENTS**

Mayor Kauffman opened the floor for constituency comments. The following attendees each had at least 5 minutes to address the Council.

- Hesston Public Library Director Jackie Nelson thanked the Council for their support in funding additional staff position and announced that Melissa Dryzmalla had been hired as the Program Director at the library.

The following residents each spoke in support of the protest petition related to Charter Ordinance No. 140-2023-041. The ordinance allows the City to select its website as the official city newspaper.

- John Waltner of 201 S. Main St.
- Paula Miller of 109 E. Pine St.
- Melissa Waltner-Krehbiel of 120 Kingsway
- Sally Mainquist of 1 Bluegrass Ct.
- Chris Miller of 109 E. Pine St.
- Jim Graber property owner at Windover Subdivision
- Todd Lehman of 337 S. Ridge

Mayor Kauffman asked if any other members of the audience had additional comments. Hearing none, he opened the floor to council / staff comments.

Council members Larry Fuqua, Michael Wallace, Mayor Kauffman, and City Administrator Gary Emry each made comments relating to the city's position regarding Charter Ordinance No. 140-2023-041 and the associated protest petition.

Council member Larry Fuqua made a motion to direct the city attorney to draft a resolution that would name the Newton Kansan as the official city newspaper of the City of Hesston and have it available at the February 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Michael Wallace seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1178 – G.A.A.P. WAIVER**

Michael Wallace moved to approve Resolution No. 1178, which authorizes the waiver of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (G.A.A.P.) reporting requirements for the 2024 budget year. The city would comply with the cash basis and budget laws of the State of Kansas. Brad Unruh seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**HARVEY COUNTY RSVP PROGRAM**

Mary Wilson from the Harvey County RVSP Program was present to address the council and ask for their support in filling a position on an advisory council that would build programs that would benefit older adults.

At 7:10 p.m. Council Member Michael Wallace left the meeting.

**2023 AUDIT CONTRACT**

Clare Moore moved to accept the 2023 Audit Services Contract with Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris. Brad Unruh seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

At 7:11 p.m. Council Member Michael Wallace returned to the meeting.

**EMS WRITE OFFS - 2023**

Brad Unruh moved to approve the following EMS non-collectible write-offs:

- Uncollectible Debt Write-off: \$9,080
- Kansas Set-off / CBK Write-off: \$718
- BCBS Contractual Write-off: \$9,777
- Medicare / Medicaid Required Write-off: \$134,423

Clare Moore seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**COURT WRITE OFFS - 2023**

Michael Wallace moved to approve the Municipal Court non-collectible write-offs in the amount of \$3,190. Susan Swartzendruber seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**POLICE STAFFING REQUEST**

Brad Unruh moved to approve the plan proposed by Chief Eilert that would allow for the immediate hiring of a patrol officer for a position that would be open in 18 months when a current officer who is completing his education leaves the force. The added position would be funded through the delay of replacing patrol vehicles in 2024 and 2025, payroll savings related to an officer’s guard duty service, a reduction in overtime and part-time hours, and other budgetary savings realized by the department. Clare Moore seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**2023 HESSTON LAND BANK REPORT**

It was the consensus of the Council to acknowledge receipt of the 2023 Hesston Land Bank Report.

**RECESS MEETING**

At 8:00 p.m. Clare Moore moved to recess the meeting to reconvene Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Hesston Middle School Library. Brad Unruh seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorded by  
Jason Thrasher  
City Clerk