

KECHI CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ashley Velazquez called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Council present: Ashley Velazquez, Todd Hedstrom, Matt Brewer, Brian Adams, Rachel Trumbull, and Richard Haddock.

City staff present: Kamme Sroufe, City Administrator; Andrew Kovar, City Attorney; Theresa Morlan, City Clerk; Jessie Woodrow, Chief of Police; Thomas Bevan, Director of Public Works; and Joseph Trumbull, Police Lieutenant.

Guests present: David & Sandra McConnaughay, Herschel West, David Messmore, Danny Smith, Karin Anderson, and Taylor Messick.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mayor Velazquez.

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

1. Council Meeting Minutes March 24, 2022
2. February Appropriations Report

Motion by Todd Hedstrom to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Rachel Trumbull and carried 5-0-0.

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Brian Adams to approve agenda with changing from Adjournment to Recess for workshop prior to next meeting. The motion was seconded by Matt Brewer and carried 5-0-0.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Civic Groups/Committees - None

B. Kechi Good News – Mayor Velazquez thanked the Kechi Fair Committee for the Easter Egg Hunt. It was very successful and well attended. Chief Woodrow reported on the donation of first aid kits and 3-D night goggles that the department received for US Deputies Association.

C. Public Forum

Sandra McConnaughay, 542 E Cheyenne Ct., has questions on how utility bills are figured, and pointed out that the bills do not show the unit rate or the base rate. She feels it should be transparent to residents. She also questioned why on the stone hill at the north side of the park the shrubs were torn out and replaced with artificial turf. City Administrator (CA) Sroufe responded that it is not part of the park plan, but it was also not being maintained. The shrubs were overgrown, the dirt was an erosion problem, and the stones were not secured in place. Mrs. McConnaughay witnessed three maintenance employees working on it and felt the money would be better spent on paying off the gas bill instead of the park. She was concerned with insurance covering injuries from children playing on it. She stated that nothing has come out as to what will happen to the park and said there needs to be transparency with tax dollars. In response, Councilmember Adams said the Park Board has been struggling to take care of the park and Public Works has had to step in. He added that there is a long-term park plan in the works.

III. OLD BUSINESS - None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Waste Connections Renewal

B. Resolution 22-739 – A resolution of the City of Kechi, Kansas establishing solid waste and recycling collection rates.

CA Sroufe introduced the 5-year contract renewal with Waste Connections to provide solid waste and recycle services. The city received two bids, and the third bid was not submitted. Waste Connections was the lowest bid. There has not been an increase in the recycling fee to the residents since 2010, and in the trash fee since 2016. Previously, the \$1.05 administrative fee was not tracked separately for each service but moving forward they will be tracked separately. The total will remain \$1.05 with \$0.50 for recycling and \$0.55 for trash. With the new contract, the amount charged to residents for recycling would increase to \$6.39 and for trash would be \$12.36, which would be a \$24 per year increase for both services and \$25.68 for recycle only. There would be no change in the charges for special bulk pickups.

Motion by Brian Adams to adopt resolution 22-739 with correcting the rate for curbside trash cart to \$11.81 per month and adding to bulky item pickup \$30 charge for each mattress or box spring. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0.

Motion by Matt Brewer to approve the contract with Waste Connections. The motion was seconded by Todd Hedstrom and carried 5-0-0.

C. Old School Taphouse Screening Plan – CA Sroufe introduced the item and asked for questions from the council. David Messmore presented the plan as having ivy covered lattice to prevent site lines to neighboring resident from people congregating on the patio and planting native grasses and pampas grass additionally along the north property line as to not impact mature trees and have low water use. When plants go dormant, they would be cut to 3' which would be about the same time that patrons would move inside due to temperatures. The council had concerns with movement of people, sounds and site across property lines.

Karin Anderson, 300 E Kechi Rd., addressed the concerns they are still having, specifically trash, traffic and trespassers. They have had several kids at the pond on the previous Sunday. She does not feel that the plants will be a deterrent to trespassers, and several "No Trespassing" signs have been posted. She also pointed out that there is no scale indicated, the number of plants is not given, and cutting back the plants does not screen for cars, and the red site lines on the map doesn't include their pool, pool house or patio area. She stated that they had allowed the taphouse to use their property during construction, but they have not been shown respect. She is concerned with safety as well as liability in case of drowning.

Discussion from council, applicant and neighbor centered around visual barriers, deterring trespassers using permanent fencing versus plants, cost to each party, and history of the issue for new councilmembers' benefit. Density of plants, types of plants and when they would reach maturity was also considered.

Motion by Matt Brewer to table the item until April 28, 2022 to give property owners opportunity resubmit a plan to scale and list of plant types and density. The motion was seconded by Richard Haddock and carried 5-0-0.

D. Boundary Description Resolution 22-736 – A Resolution declaring the entire boundary of the City of Kechi, Kansas. City Attorney, Andrew Kovar, presented the resolution with is the legal description of

the city boundaries as indicated by the boundary map that was provided by PEC.

Motion by Rachel Trumbull to approve Resolution 22-736. Seconded by Richard Haddock, the motion carried 5-0-0.

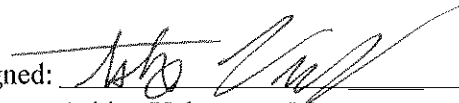
V. DISCUSSION

A. Public Works Update – Director of Public Works, Thomas Bevan, reported the results of the KDHE audit. They were happy with our backflow, gis and our handling of paperwork. We had no write-ups, but they did have a few suggestions regarding our water conservation plan. The federal government will be stricter on natural gas rules, especially concerning any released into the air, underground leaks and nuisance leaks. Council asked about the rebates that had been in place for high efficiency appliances. CA Sroufe would look into it, but typically if we honor those, we cover the funds.

B. Workshop for Kechi Road & Oliver Project and Community Survey – Due to scheduling conflicts with council members, the workshop will be held at 5:30pm on May 12th.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Richard Haddock to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Todd Hedstrom and carried 5-0-0. The time of recess was 8:44pm.

Signed: 
Ashley Velazquez, Mayor

Attest: 
Theresa Morlan, City Clerk