

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
October 10, 2012**

PRESENT:

Mayor:	John Battin
Council Members Present:	Larry Velasquez, John Duran, Tim McCauley, Dan Widder, Warren Devore
Council Members Absent:	Janet Stewart
Staff Present:	Alan Olson, Margaret Perez, Dave Black
Visitors:	John Alig, Kellie Euliss, Jen Hittle, Lacie McCarter, Janet Hernandez

Mayor John Battin called the meeting to order a 5:00 p.m.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Battin.

Reverend Mary Hernandez led the room in **Opening Prayer**.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Council member Dan Widder, seconded by Council member Warren Devore, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Visitors:

Jen Hittle with Communities in Schools requested Nebraska Street south of Sullivan School to be blocked until 8am to Noon on October 24th for the Annual Career on Wheels for the 4th graders. The Council granted permission.

Business Agenda:

New Business

Police Dog

Police Chief Alan Olson stated Officer Hampton has expressed interest in having a police dog. We have the opportunity to attend a training which will be held in Dodge City beginning in January. This particular training, which is the first of its kind nationwide, provides a great opportunity for our officer to receive a college certificate rather than just a handler's certificate. Police Chief stated that a typical dog ranges from \$3,000 to \$6,000 in addition to the college costs, therefore, he is looking for a Labrador Retriever through the animal shelter that will be trained to detect: drugs, evidence and tracking. The training can be paid through asset forfeitures which is money we have inherited from siezing vehicles and money from various drug raids we have done.

Council Member Devore inquired about the safety of the prospective dog and how can we prevent the same mishap which killed our previous dog. Police Chief Olson stated that this dog will be a part of the family and will most likely be in the house which is contrary to bite dogs. Police Chief Olson added that we cannot prevent the unfortunate from happening.

There was a consensus to allow Police Chief to move forward with a police dog.

Update of Dog Pound Construction

City Administrator Alan Olson provided a cost estimate spreadsheet and reported the 2012 budget allotted \$65,000 to build an animal shelter. As the project progresses, the new projected cost is \$100,511 which includes the concrete, 32 x 56 metal building with wall insulation, plumbing, electrical, heating & air conditioning, exhaust vent system, nitrate system and stainless steel pens. Not to include the cost to install walls and the pouring of the concrete which the City employees will be completing and any unforeseen costs.

City Administrator Olson explained the Police Department has \$20,000 budgeted and \$45,000 is available in the bond money which the City received for the street improvement project. As a result of lower bids for the street improvements, the \$45,000 bond funds were allocated to build an animal shelter. In regards to the bond money, there is an additional \$100,000 which can be put toward the animal shelter. Council members commented that if we are already paying interest on this bond money, then we can just utilize it to complete this project. The City must have a bond attorney to change the purpose of the money.

Motion by Council member Tim McCauley, seconded by Council member Larry Velasquez, to allow the bond attorney to allow the animal shelter be built with the \$145,000 bond money. Motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development

John Alig, executive director of Grant County Economic Development, provided a report on working with the County on obtaining additional land, working with a small business, and working with a HMM Roofing who is currently installing a new roof. John Alig stressed that the community must help foster our local businesses by shopping locally. He provided a letter requesting \$25,000 to be issued to the Grant County Economic Development from the City of Ulysses.

Council Member Widder commented that he is not completely satisfied with the oversight of a situation which happened several weeks ago, although not John Alig's responsibility. If there is no improvement within the next year, he will push for Grant County Economic Development to not get additional funding from the City. John Alig informed the Council that anyone is welcome to attend the monthly meetings. Mayor Battin addressed Council Member Widder that he is one member of the Council and be cautious of the how he states his messages. Council Member Duran addressed John Alig that he is a good asset for Economic Development which needed a change and he has faith in him.

Motion by Council member Duran, seconded by Council member McCauley, for \$25,000 be issued to Grant County Economic Development. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Comments

None

Council Member's Comments

Council Member Widder stated that when lawsuits occur, the Council must be informed. City Attorney Black responded that the recent lawsuit was through the courts and updates must be in executive session.

Council Member Duran inquired the Patterson/Colorado, going back to the west, does not allow ample space for trucks to turn onto, especially when cars are parked on both sides of the street. He would like to see "No Parking" signs posted and extended further back than what is currently designated. Also, he requested the Safety Committee require street employees wear vests which are visible and big enough to wear throughout the year.

Mayor Battin commented that the 2012 League of Municipalities Annual Conference was great and they had good sessions.

Adjournment

At 5:36 p.m. Council Member McCauley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Duran. Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor John Battin

Council Member Larry Velasquez

Council Member Tim McCauley

Council Member Dan Widder

Council Member Janet Stewart

Council Member John Duran

Council Member Warren Devore

Interim City Administrator Alan Olson

City Clerk Margaret Perez