

**Call To Order:**

The regular meeting of the Lansing City Council was called to order by Mayor McNeill at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Mayor McNeill called the roll and indicated which Councilmembers were in attendance.

**Councilmembers Present:**

**Ward 1:** Kevin Gardner and Gene Kirby

**Ward 2:** Marcus Majure and Don Studnicka

**Ward 3:** Kerry Brungardt and Jesse Garvey

**Ward 4:** Dan Clemons and Gregg Buehler

**Councilmembers Absent:**

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Regular Meeting minutes of December 7, 2023, were provided for review.

**Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2023, as presented. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. No discussion took place.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: Councilmember Studnicka; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**Audience Participation:**

**Presentations:**

**COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Public Hearing on and Consideration of the Amended 2023 Budget**

The Capital Improvements Fund requires an amendment to increase budget authority for additional costs on the Valley Drive and Towne Centre projects. The Police Equipment Reserve Fund classification needs to change from non-budgeted to budgeted fund per the auditor's recommendation. The Mayor's Angel Tree Fund requires an increase in the budget authority to allow for an increase in the families participating in the program.

**Councilmember Buehler made a motion to open the public hearing for Amendments to the 2023 Budget. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion. No discussion took place.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

No public comments were made.

**Councilmember Studnicka made a motion to close the public hearing for Amendments to the 2023 Budget. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. No discussion took place.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to adopt the amendments to the 2023 Budget as presented. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. No discussion took place. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**Approval of Leavenworth Fire District No. 1 Board appointment application**

There is one open position on the Leavenworth County Fire District No. 1 Board. The position was advertised, and one person has applied.

**Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to appoint Becky Gordon to the Leavenworth County Fire District No. 1 Board for a 4-year term ending December 31, 2027.**

**Councilmember Majure seconded the motion. No discussion took place.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**Banking Services Agreement**

The City's current bank recently closed their Lansing office. Staff sent an RFP for banking services to all local banks with branch offices in Lansing. Staff evaluated the proposals, eliminating the two with the lowest interest rates, and personally met with officers from Country Club Bank and Citizens National Bank. Staff is recommending the City enter into a banking service agreement with Country Club Bank based on the ability for staff to initiate wire transfers, place ACH filters/blocks on the accounts, and the type of account available for the general checking account.

**Councilmember Kirby made a motion to authorize staff to execute an agreement with Country Club Bank for banking services. Councilmember Clemons seconded the motion. No discussion took place.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**Resolution B-6-2023 GAAP Waiver**

This resolution must be passed annually to exempt the city from complying with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). In Kansas it is permissible to prepare financial statements using cash basis of accounting.

**Councilmember Brungardt made a motion to approve Resolution B-6-2023 waiving the requirements of the K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) for the year ending December 31, 2023.**

**Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. No discussion took place.**

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**2023 Wastewater Master Plan Update**

George Butler and Associates has completed the flow study and updates to the City’s sanitary sewer master plan. A consultant from GBA presented the new information and updates to the City Council at the September work session.

**Councilmember Buehler made a motion to adopt the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Master Plan update from George Butler and Associates as presented. Councilmember Majure seconded the motion.** Councilmember Gardner and Waster Water Director Tony Zell discussed how the pipe size is determined. Councilmember Kirby asked Director Zell for clarification regarding whether section b on page 25 would be affected by our code.

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**MOU - Base Grant Administration**

The City and Leavenworth County jointly applied for a BASE Grant in 2022. Leavenworth County was the applying agency on the first application, and Lansing was the applying agency for the second application. The award paperwork listed Leavenworth County as the award winner but the City as the payee and point of contact. The State Department of Commerce wanted to clean up the application documents and requested an MOU between the two entities, outlining that the City of Lansing would be administering the project and paying the match and that the County would not be financially responsible for the project.

**Councilmember Clemons made a motion to approve the MOU as presented. Councilmember Majure seconded the motion.** No discussion took place.

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

**REPORTS:**

**Department Heads:** Nothing to report.

**City Attorney:** Nothing to report.

**City Administrator:** The Humane Society came in and spoke to the council. We referred them to a policy. They had filled those out directly and submitted them around budget time. For 2024 they did qualify for a \$5,000 contribution for that policy. That will take effect in early 2024. We spoke a little bit at a past meeting about trying to get a multi-use trail out to Lansing High School. The grant we applied for in 2023 was the same grant that we did the intersection project in front of QuikTrip. We applied and were unsuccessful on that. Our engineering firm told us about a Transportation Enhancement Program that’s the same program we used for the Angel Falls Trail. Unless told otherwise, the city will be applying for that grant to get a trail out to the high school. We would need to keep the lines of communication open with the school board to see if there is any type of desire to do some type of partnership.

Mayor McNeill: What’s the match on that?

City Administrator Vandall: At a minimum, I think we would have to pay 25%. What inflated the costs so much on our estimate was there is no curb and gutter, and it’s open ditch the entire way. It was just a lot more expensive than I think most people realized when we applied for that grant.

Councilmember Clemons: Is this the same thing we were discussing with our joint meeting with the School Board?

City Administrator Vandall: Same thing, but it's a different pot of money. This program is more specific to trails and things like that. Same project, different grant. When we applied the first time, we had letters from local legislators. The state suggested we get letters of support from lay people. People who have been challenged because they have to have their kids walk to school through the area. Or they show up to work late because they have to drive their kids to school. The state was really encouraging us to have people out in the community that are frustrated at the lack of sidewalks write letters. If residents reach out to you guys, that is something we could ask them to do. If they would be open to writing a letter of support to the state for that grant.

Councilmember Clemons: When you say coordinate with the School Board, my interpretation of that is we would ask them to cost share of monies that we have to match for state funds.

City Administrator Vandall: On a \$3 million dollar grant, even if the grant is 75% our share would still be hundreds of thousands of dollars. That would be something we could reach out to them about to see if they're open to it. We broached that topic at our joint meeting, but at that point we didn't know if we had received the grant. Everyone was waiting to see if we got it. That would always be a possibility that if we got that grant and say the city's match is \$800,000. If we got that grant, it's possible there wouldn't be a partnering agency. The city would have to budget for that.

Councilmember Brungardt: You said something about parents' reaching out to us about the inconvenience. What about us reaching out to them?

Mayor McNeill: The school and school administration and board have probably got more complaints than we've got. It's a safety issue for the school district in general.

City Administrator Vandall: I have mentioned it to the school superintendent if residents reach out to him. That's something we could tell people. Instead of just voicing frustration, if you could write a letter of support for this trail grant. It could help.

Mayor McNeill: We could do that on Facebook or something. Post something and give them a format on how they could write the letter. At least the intro part and have them say why they want it.

Councilmember Garvey: The school could have the kids write an essay on it.

City Administrator Vandall: One of the examples the state gave of a successful grant application had 40 letters of support.

Councilmember Majure: Are our representatives fighting hard for this too? Have you been engaging with them?

City Administrator Vandall: They wrote letters of support for it, and they were aware of it. I think I had thrown out to you guys the idea of doing another goal setting strategy and planning session potentially in early 2024. The last time we did this I think it was a Saturday morning. It's been maybe 5 years since we've done it. Be looking for that email. Once I get feedback from you guys, I can reach out to a facilitator for that. We'd spoken briefly about that sewer line near the creek we've had challenges with. If you guys recall that Town Centre Sewer Project that we wanted to tackle before we got the BASE Grant. That sewer line that we've had problems with for the last 3 or 4 months, that would have been replaced by that Town Centre Sewer Project that we had to put on hold for the BASE Grant. That's something we want to look at replacing sooner rather than later. We think that will alleviate some of the sewer smell issues we've had in that area. The plans for that are entirely done. We just had to put it on hold because we didn't want to do a \$900,000 project on top of a \$3-4 million dollar project. Again, that sewer project would probably alleviate some of the

problems we've had recently. Be thinking about that, and we'll probably bring maybe a financing game plan and a rough schedule to you guys in a meeting in late January maybe February.

**Governing Body:**

Councilmember Clemons: Want to acknowledge Councilmember Buehler's 12 years and thank him for his service. Secondly, acknowledge our volunteers. We all know our city wouldn't meet its goals without them. To our citizens, Happy Holidays and be safe during your travels.

Councilmember Brungardt: Councilmember Buehler, I'm going to miss, "On this day in history..." It's been a pleasure knowing and working with you. Thank you to Mrs. Buehler. Merry Christmas to everybody.

Councilmember Studnicka: Ditto to Councilmember Buehler. Thanks for your 12-year run. I'd like to wish everybody in Lansing a very Merry Christmas and be safe.

Councilmember Gardner: Councilmember Buehler, it's been an honor being on the council with you. Becky Gordon, thank you for volunteering. Happy Holidays to everybody.

Mayor McNeill: Thank you, Councilmember Buehler.

Councilmember Kirby: With everything that's been said, I agree. Councilmember Buehler and I came on the council together. I never saw anybody get so excited about the wastewater treatment plant like he did. It's been enjoyable. Proud to serve with you. Unfortunately, most citizens of this city will never realize the contributions that you've made.

Councilmember Majure: Another year's gone by, and I can't thank the city administration and staff enough. How far the city has come could not be done without all of you. Congratulations to Becky Gordon. Thanks for signing up. Councilmember Buehler, I can't thank you enough. You have been a part of a lot of great things that have happened in this city. Thank you so much for your participation as well, Mrs. Buehler. I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please have safe travels.

Councilmember Garvey: Councilmember Buehler, thanks for your service. It's been an honor serving with you. Becky Gordon, thank you for serving the city. We thank all of our volunteers. I'd like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Safe travels.

Councilmember Buehler: After 12 years, this is my last meeting. We've done a lot of great things in the 12 years that I've been on the city council. 5 mayors, we've actually had more mayor turnover than we've had city council turnover. We've expanded the parks. We are building a pool. Which from the day I took office, one of the biggest complaints I got was how come we don't have a pool. We have a city administrator now that leads the staff in a great way. I still believe that hiring Tim Vandall was one of the best things we did while I was here. We've brought in lots of businesses. We've kept business. We're working on getting new housing put in. It's been a great 12 years. To the residents of Ward 4, it has been an absolute honor serving as your representative on the city council. To my wife, Kim, thank you for all the support and understanding. I could not have done that without your support. The city staff, it has been an honor to get to know all of you and to work with you. And the dedication you show to the city and the residents is truly inspiring. Lansing is, in my mind, the best city in the state of Kansas to live in. It's because of the city staff and everything that you do and time that you give to making this such a great community. To the volunteers, from the parks and recreation department to the Fire Board to all of the volunteers that we have. The city

could not function without everything that you do. We truly appreciate everything you do. The City Council, for 12 years, we've done the right thing. We've made decisions to make Lansing a better place to live. Even though we have some political differences, we never let political party get in the way. We acted with common sense. You are a great group of people. The people that were on the council that are no longer on the council were a great group of people to work with. It has been an honor and a pleasure, and I'm glad to consider you all friends. I'd like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. One last time, on this day in 1913, Arthur Winn published the very first crossword puzzle in the New York World.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilmember Buehler made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion.** No discussion took place.

**Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Clemons, Brungardt, Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, and Buehler; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: none; The motion was approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
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City Clerk Tish Sims, CMC