

**City of Kanopolis**  
**July 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Kanopolis Community Center**  
**217 W Ohio**  
**Kanopolis, KS 67454**

The council of the City of Kanopolis met in regular session on July 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Kanopolis Community Center.

**Present:** Council members Tom Wilkinson, Jim Zvolanek, Rebecca Tripp, and Greg Tripp  
**Presiding:** Anthony Hopkins  
**Absent:** Michelle Schwerdtfeger  
**Citizens:** Levi Schneider, Elena Gonzalez, Eli Hernandez, Mike Stroede, Gary & Ellen Russell, Gerry & Judy Gebhardt, Stacey Gustin, Meredith Vargo, Karen Bonar, Rusty Bunch, Janice Essick, Diana Vanek, LeAnn Ploutz, Laurie Donley, Joe & Teresa Schwartz, Gayle & Dan Schaefer, Dave Stroede, Barb Fleming, Miranda Fleming, Susan Hulse, Dawnae Bunch

**Approval of minutes:** Greg Tripp motioned to approve the minutes dated June 14, 2022, July 6, 2022, and Kune 20, 2022, Rebekah Tripp 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Jim Zvolanek motioned to approve the treasurer's report dated June 2022, and the revised treasurer's report for March 2022, April 2022, and May 2022, Tom Wilkinson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Citizens:**

- Dawnae Bunch asked the council about the fountain in the park. She said that kids urinate in it & then little kids want to play in it. She asked if the fountain could be removed or filled. Mayor Hopkins said we could do either one. Mike Bunch to fill the fountain with cement.
- Dawnae Bunch asked the council about the sign at the Library. It has flowerpots on both sides that she cleaned the weeds out of. This will be filled with cement also.

**Old Business:**

- Chicken Ordinance
  - Mayor Hopkins said if you would like to speak, please say your name before speaking to help with the minutes & the reporter. Mayor Hopkins does not intend to engage everyone & there will be a two-minute time limit for each.

- Levi Schneider is against having chickens in town. The council is trying to clean up the town & he would like to keep the town moving forward. Some people keep their yards up & if they had chickens, they would still keep their yards up, but he feels most will not.
- Gary Russell said he has lived in Kanopolis since 1953. He helped organize getting rid of the barnyard animals. Gary would like to know who will enforce the ordinance. He said that there are vehicles that should be removed but are not. Gary said he is ashamed to have people come through our town.
- Gerry Gebhardt said he feels the same as Gary Russell. Judy Gebhardt questioned the proposed ordinance that reads within fifty foot & she thought it was 750 feet. She also questioned vaccinations for the chickens not being included in the proposed ordinance.
- Ellen Russell thinks it is a bad idea to have chickens & it will not really save anyone money having them. Ellen believes the majority of people will not take care of them.
- Miranda Fleming is for chickens for several reasons & she agrees with several of the comments made thus far. She has had visitors & they all love the town. The ability to provide your own food is a major concern. Miranda said that it was hard for her to come to the meeting at 5:30. The survey that was sent out had more yes's than no's. She knows one family that is close to retirement & wants chickens. Miranda said that people already do not take care of their yards.
- Eli Hernandez was born in Kanopolis & he moved back to his hometown. He believes that there is a lot of negativity. He said this is a farming community. He compared the chickens to guns. Some people have guns & not all people like guns so he believes he should be able to have chickens.
- Teresa Schwartz is for chickens. She said there are a variety of ways to ease the cost. Having animals also helps with depression issues. She said having a couple of chickens does not produce much refuse.
- Joe Schwartz is new to town. He moved here because of the community. He was a city boy but loves the country here. He agreed that the ordinance would need to be enforced. He wants chickens because of the convenience of not always having to run to the store.
- Elena Gonzalez asked the attendees how many would have chickens. Several people raised their hands. She said she does not want chickens, but you are only looking at a few people & it would be nice to have for those that want it.

- Dave Stroede asked about the survey. Mayor Hopkins said that it was not a binding survey so technically not useable. Council might use the results to help with the decision. Mayor Hopkins said the proposed ordinance would need to be revised & that the chickens will need to be licensed.
  - Diana Vanek is very compassionate about having chickens. She does not want chickens in town. There are already ordinances that are not enforced, and she is concerned about people living in buildings that are about to fall down. She said if they approve the chickens, next year it will be goats and then maybe a Shetland pony.
  - Mayor Hopkins said his biggest worry is enforcement. Lindsborg, Salina & Clay Center all allow chickens, but they have a full-time police department. Mayor Hopkins is torn on the issue.
  - LeAnn Ploutz said that there were chickens in her backyard years ago & the council worked hard to get the ordinance enforced so that all chickens were gone. LeAnn said that she knew that Miranda & Dave would take care of their yards but feels as if the town is going backwards.
  - Janice Essick said her grandson lives in Kansas City & they allow chickens. He got rid of them when they started digging up flower beds & that was before they laid any eggs. If a chicken comes into her yard, who should she call?
  - Tom Wilkinson thanked everyone for coming. He said that people need their voice heard & that is all part of government. He said that most people did not come because they are worried about keeping friends with their neighbors. He said there are people that will take care of them & people that will not. That leaves the burden on the city council. His big issue is can the city afford to enforce it. He believes that the city has more pressing issues to deal with. Tom is not in favor of chickens.
  - Rebecca Tripp said if the issue requires more police presence, there are more pressing issues.
  - Jim Zvolanek said he has been here 11 years & has seen the town grow. He is afraid if the council chooses to pass the proposed ordinance, there will be unsightly chicken coops around town.
  - Greg Tripp is worried about enforcement as well. He is not against having chickens but does not know how it will be enforced.
  - Mayor Hopkins asked the council if they want to move forward with the proposed ordinance. Tom Wilkinson motioned to not move forward with drafting an ordinance, Jim Zvolanek 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried
- Water Project – no updates.
  - Abatements - Demolition can begin at 304 S Colorado. A hearing is scheduled for the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for the property at 420 S Iowa.

- Drinking Water Protection Plan – A meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2022, at city hall to go over proposed changes.
- Street Sealing – Debbie Kralik received another change in quote from South Central Sealing & Paving indicating that with rising oil prices, they had to increase their bid again by \$2,995.20. The letter indicated that they could raise the bid or decrease the amount of sealing that was needed. Greg Tripp said they may have to cut back on the # of streets to be sealed. The current proposal is good for 30 days & will discuss at next month's meeting.
- New City attorney – Mayor Hopkins said he talked with Patrick Hoffman & he feels he can still serve as the city attorney or we can go with Sherman, Hoffman & Miller. Tom Wilkinson said he prefers to stay local. Tom Wilkinson motioned to retain Sherman, Hoffman & Miller as the city attorney, Greg Tripp 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**New business:**

- Budget – Debbie Kralik received the proposed budget from Craig Dassow at Long & Associates. Craig said that we will need to raise the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR), but it will not affect the mill levy. Mayor Hopkins said he does want to exceed the RNR & possibly see about lowering the mill levy. Jim Zvolanek motioned to not exceed the RNR for 2023, Rebecca Tripp 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2022-R-09 GAAP waiver – Debbie Kralik said that this resolution needs to be passed to allow the auditors to complete the audit. Greg Tripp motioned to approved Resolution 2022-R-09 – GAAP waiver, Jim Zvolanek 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

- City Employees – Mike Bunch – Nothing to report.
- Municipal Judge – Absent.
- City Properties – Rebekah Tripp asked about the building on main street being added to the list for abatements. Debbie Kralik said that a letter had been sent to the owners.
- Sewer & Cemetery – Jim Zvolanek – Asked about the septic ponds. Said they need to be sprayed for weeds & the trees need to be cut.
- Streets & Alleys – Greg Tripp – Curb & guttering around town has a lot of weeds that need to spray to kill. Greg asked about the patching of the streets before the street sealing begins. Mike Bunch said that Aaron Burwell has been working on them.
- Water – Tom Wilkinson – Tom is waiting on feedback from the engineering company,
- Mayor – Mayor Hopkins – Would like to thank the Fort Harker Days Committee & the fire department for a successful Fort Harker Days.
- President of Council – Michelle Schwerdtfeger – Absent.

- City Clerk - Debbie Kralik – Nothing to report.
- Chief of Police – Jeff Weigel – Absent

**Payment of Bills:** Greg Tripp motioned to pay the bills, Tom Wilkinson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Greg Tripp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 PM, Jim Zvolanek 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Anthony Hopkins  
Tom Wilkinson  
Jim Zvolanek  
Rebekah Tripp  
Greg Tripp

ATTEST

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Debra S. Stroede-Kralik  
City Clerk