

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 23, 2012**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor:	John Battin
Councilmembers Present:	John Duran, Janet Stewart, Dan Widder, Warren Devore
Councilmembers Absent:	Tim McCauley, Larry Velasquez
Staff Present:	Alan Olson, Margaret Perez, Dave Black, Ruben Flores, Sheila Maxfield
Visitors:	Craig Hurt, Laci McCarter, Kellie Euliss, Peggy Alford, Richard Sanders and Dan Pasternak with Datamatic, Ltd.

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

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

Preacher Gary Gregory led the room in an **Opening Prayer**.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Councilmember John Duran, seconded by Councilmember Janet Stewart, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Visitors:** None

**Department Reports:** None

**Business Agenda:**

**New Business**

**Datamatic, Ltd. Radio Read**

Richard Sanders, V.P. Sales and Business Development, and Dan Pasternak, Regional Sales Manager, and Craig who is the local distribution representative, presented Datamatic radio read product which is the most advance meter reading technology system in the world. It is compatible with the meters currently in place and with the City's billing software and has the capacity to collect better, more detailed and insightful data which is all web based. Currently, four employees are working two days per month reading meters manually. This asset management will allow the City employees to be better utilized to work on projects that have been put on hold. In addition, the remote shutoff

capability will increase the safety of the employees by avoiding opposition with customers during disconnect/shut off occurrences.

Richard Sanders informed that Datamatic can finance for the first three years as it would be more cost efficient. This City will see a return on investment and we will not foresee cost increase if the City decides to install this system in one time versus spreading it out over six years/payment plan.

Mayor Battin requested Datamatic to create a proposal showing the cost for one year of installation and informed Richard and Dan the council will vote during the June 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

### **Bi-Monthly Report**

Interim City Administrator Alan Olson explained report provided funds budgeted for 2012, expenses year to date with the percent used so far this year. As of April 2012, the City expended 21% of budgeted General Fund and received 33.23% of Revenues. There was a transfer of Water funds of \$149,078 to Public Works for health insurance purposes.

### **Old Business**

#### **Purchasing Policy**

Interim City Administrator Olson provided the City of Ulysses Personnel Policy Manual: Purchasing Policy 8.3.8, pointing out the statement "All vendors shall be treated in a fair and businesslike manner with preference given to area vendors when all other factors are substantially equal." In addition, a percentage reference guide was supplied for the councilmembers which shows 7.50%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% and 1% per dollar amount shown.

Councilmember Widder scaled out a stair step across the guide. The percentage decreases as the dollar amount increases. Interim City Administrator Olson pointed out in doing the stair stepper bracket, the tail end of the bracket will be a bigger dollar amount than the start of the next bracket percentage.

Mayor Battin liked Councilmember Widder's drafted bracket however, with two councilmembers absent, further discussion and voting will be postponed until the June 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

#### **Community Garden**

Councilmember Dan Widder and City Clerk Margaret Perez provided information of the Community Garden. Beautifying the lot, plan on growing pumpkins to children at Hickok School and if there is enough, to Home Products Dinner, planting trees. Mayor Battin stated his concern of not all community citizens have access to the garden. Councilmembers discussed the possibility of providing water for one full year. Following City Attorney Dave Black stating the City has a no donations policy, the topic ended.

#### **Court Fees**

Interim City Administrator Olson reviewed the current Court Costs: 10-108 as stated in the City of Ulysses Code book. Ordinance No. 2011 was drafted to raise the court cost to \$98.00. This is an increase from the current court cost and will be consistent with the District Court. Additionally, the

ordinance will be reviewed in July and implemented August 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. Interim City Administrator Olson omitted the \$1.00 taken out and given to Crime Stoppers as the program has not been in effect for years.

Judge Alford stated she learned that a majority of courts across Kansas charge the same fines and fees as District Court for consistency purposes and bring additional revenue to the City of Ulysses. Adding, the Council may need to approve for the City to use a collection agency, if unpaid costs have not been collected. City Attorney Black stated it would be beneficial for the City to have a collection agency as we are currently using the State Set-Off program which the City submits unpaid court costs to the state and if the individual is expecting income tax refund, it will be taken from their refund.

Mayor Battin and Councilmember Duran vocalized that they agreed to increase the court costs and be consistent with District Court. Councilmember Widder stated he did not understand why the City has to be consistent with the District Court. He does not want to raise the costs if there is no reason and he was never asked by individuals about the cost in the 14 years as an officer. Judge Alford reiterated the purpose of consistency the increase of costs and Councilmember Duran stated if officers are not asked about the costs now, they will never be asked if the costs increase, they will pay what they are supposed to pay.

City Attorney Black encouraged the consistency of costs and added that the disparity is if an individual gets ticketed for a violation, the cost will vary by which particular law enforcement officer tickets the individual, no matter where the stop occurs.

Motion by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Duran, to adopt Ordinance No. 1211 to equalize the fees across the board and review them annually for consistency. Motion carried unanimously.

**Staff Comments:**

Interim City Administrator Olson shared that Pioneer Electric is donating a three horse power with lights fountain for the lake will pay the City to hire a certified electrician.

City Clerk Perez and Public Works Superintendent, Ruben Flores, invited the Councilmembers to Manual Ochoa's retirement gathering on Friday, May 25. Manual has worked with the City of Ulysses for twelve years.

**Council Members' Comments:**

Councilmember Widder stated if the City moves forward on spending approximately \$330,000 on the new radio read, he would like the Councilmembers to think about the possibility of eliminating one position through attrition over the next one to six years. If the City is able to do without the four employees twice per month, then maybe we can do without at least one of those positions. Councilmember Widder estimated a possibility of saving \$100,000.00 which includes salary, work vehicle and benefit cost. Public Work Superintendent Flores informed Councilmember Widder the savings would not be near \$100,000.00 of savings and the employee is still needed as there are many projects which have been postponed due to the time employees have spent in the city reading meters

each month. Overall, it will fix the City's infrastructure. Councilmember Widder stated because of his uncertainty, he would like Public Work Superintendent Flores to provide a plan and see figures to see the need of the four employees. The group needs to discuss this before spending \$330,000 and save the tax payers some dollars as well.

Councilmember Stewart informed she will not be present for June 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting, and if the money is right and at all possible, she would to look at Datamatic, Ltd. financing and move forward. The purpose of her vote, it would save the City money and the possibility of future councilmembers facing the current council's decisions. Councilmembers Warren Devore and Duran agreed. The City would be locking in the cost and interest which will save the City money if installed in one year rather than six years.

In regards to the meter reads, Councilmember Duran stated he is in favor of Datamatic, Ltd. as it will free time, make jobs easier and be more efficient for the City Shop. The City will always have jobs and this will allow the City to build infrastructure. In addition, he inquired about the Liberal Area Rape Crisis Center which is located in Ulysses staffed two days per week, afternoon only. Interim City Administrator Olson shared the Ulysses Police Department utilizes the center and they have been helpful.

Mayor Battin wished City Attorney Black's daughter good luck during the State Track.

**Adjournment:**

At 6:40p.m. Councilmember Stewart made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Devore. Mayor Battin called for the vote, motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.

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John Battin, Mayor

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Larry Velasquez, Councilmember

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Tim McCauley, Councilmember

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Dan Widder, Councilmember

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Janet Stewart, Councilmember

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John Duran, Councilmember

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Warren Devore, Councilmember

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Alan Olson, Interim City Administrator

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Margaret Perez, City Clerk