

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
June 14, 2017**

PRESENT:

Mayor: Absent

Council Members Present: Jerry Jo Deckert, Tim McCauley, Larry Velasquez,
Warren Devore, Ken Warner, and John Duran

Staff Present: Alan Olson, Sarah Britton, and Dave Black

Visitors: Bene Garcia, Jen Hittle, Mal Crane, Marieta Hauser,
and Bob Dale

Council President Tim McCauley called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Council President Tim McCauley.

Council Member John Duran led the room in **Opening Prayer**.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Duran to approve the consent agenda. Council Members Warner, Deckert, McCauley and Devore voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Visitors:

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Tigers In Action Jen Hittle

Executive Director of Tigers In Action Jen Hittle explained to the council the yearend report, and thanked the community and the city for all support. Jen stated that Tigers In Action is again requesting \$10,000.00.

Chamber of Commerce Marieta Hauser

Director of Chamber of Commerce Marieta Hauser stated the Chamber would like to ask the council to consider helping fund our organization again this year. Your \$12,500.00 contribution to our budget last year was greatly appreciated. This year we would like to request an increase contribution in the amount of \$15,000.00. Due to the economic downturn, the Chamber board has decided not to burden our businesses with a dues increase this year. Our income has also taken a hit from a lower than normal bed tax collection, again that is likely an effect of the downturn in the

agriculture and oil and gas economy. A portion of our budget comes as administrative fee for our tourism work and that money is a percentage of the collected bed tax.

Our annual Silent Auction income which is our main fundraiser for the year has been down the past couple of years, mostly due to some high ticket items that used to be regularly donated and due to the economy are no longer being donated. The circus which had been a source of income in the past was a breakeven the past few times. The carnival remains a small but fairly steady source of income and we hope to continue offering that to the community.

We have not yet developed our budget for 2018, it will be done in the fall. I do expect it to be very similar to the 2017 budget with a slight increase in supply expense areas. We do have a committee that is meeting to brainstorm some non-dues revenue ideas.

Marieta also stated that the Grant County Chamber serves not only our member businesses but also the whole community through some quality of life events that make Grant County a great place to live, work and play. Some of those include: Home Products Dinner, Miss Southwest Kansas Pageant, Spring Fling, Christmas Parade of Lights, Carnival, Fireworks display donations, Fall Fest, Holiday Promotions, Carson & Barnes Circus, Legislative Coffees, and Weekly Chamber Coffees.

We work to keep our citizens aware of what is going on in the community through bulk emails, the Get Ulysses Facebook page and our website. We field calls for business referrals and for relocation packets for those contemplating a move to our community. We are often the first stop for people who are moving to Ulysses and looking for community information. We administer the Ulysses Bucks program which encourages shopping locally which benefits our community. We strive to stay informed of and involved in legislative issues that affect our community.

The Grant County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is an organization that is of benefit to the citizens of Grant County and we would very much appreciate your financial support again in 2018.

Economic Development Bob Dale

Director of Economic Development Bob Dale stated that Grant County Economic Development Corp. would like to request our annual funding from the City of Ulysses in the amount of \$50,000.00 for 2018.

Bob stated that they are doing a few things different at Grant County Economic Development that he wanted to make the council aware of that may have an effect on the budget. Bob explained to the council that GCED money falls under two categories, operating funds which we come here each year to request and the Economic Incentive Funds. Economic Incentive Funds cannot be used for operating or day to day expenses it is the money we use for loans and grants for businesses in the community.

Bob also explained that the for the last few years the city and county have contributed to the Economic Incentive Fund to grow a war chest, and then there came a point where everybody decided that the EIF fund had enough money and contributions stopped. So the great thing about the EIF fund is that we have money to use, but the bad thing is we have no way of replenishing the EIF fund if used. So how do we use money if we have no way to replenish it?

Bob stated that since he has been the director of Grant County Economic Development they have made a strong effort to be responsible with the tax payer money, and our expenses for operating run around \$10,000.00 a month. With the efforts to cut spending over the past four years we have built up a operational surplus. Grant County Economic has decided that they need to keep three months of operating expenses as a cushion for unseen circumstances, and the rest would then be transferred from the operational account to the EIF fund. Bob also stated that in January we made a deposit of \$85,000.00 into the EIF fund out of operations. The plan is to continue to make contributions to the EIF fund every year which shows on the 2018 budget.

Bob stated by having a way to replenish the money in the EIF fund the hope is to be able to assist more businesses new and existing. The emergency fund and the EIF fund contributions are the two new things that he wanted to explain. We have been requesting \$150,000.00 for the budget \$50,000.00 from the city and \$100,000.00 from the county. Bob also stated that we have cut the budget down so the \$150,000.00 is more than what we need to operate, but we thought it would be a great opportunity to try and replenish some of the funds we are spending out of the EIF fund.

Bob stated that now that we have a plan to put money back in the EIF fund we can be more flexible in the options that we give people, and help more people out. The continued growth of the EIF fund depends on the continued support and funding that we receive from the city and county.

Bob thanked the city for their support in the past and for their consideration this year. We feel our efforts in the community have been productive and fruitful and hope you share those feelings.

CMB License U-Pump It

U-Pump it is requesting a CMB license.

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Warner to approve U-Pump It for a CMB License. Council Members Duran, Deckert, McCauley and Devore voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

2018 Budget Review

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that he was hoping that the budget packet would be ready for review, but we did not receive all the information that we needed. Olson also stated that the only issue that he could for see is that if the city would decide to raise the mill levy over and above what the state will allow us for the cost of living. If the city would decide to raise the mill levy above what the state will allow it would have to go to a vote of the Ulysses citizens. This process has to be decided by July 1, 2017.

Interim City Administrator Olson asked the Council if they would be able to have a special meeting on June 20, 2017 at 5:00p.m., to help decide if we will have to have an election. The Council set a special meeting for June 20, 2017 at 5:00p.m.

STAFF COMMENTS

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that Police Officer Tony Cavasos had an incident in his patrol car. He has a dent in the back end from hitting a trash dumpster while pursuing a suspect.

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that we usually buy black top in conjunction with the county, and the county chose to do other things so the city did not purchase the black top. When the city buys it with the county we get it at a discount, and to buy it alone was going to be double the price per ton. So what we have chosen to do is focus on sealing the streets that have been affected by the water project.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Velasquez thanked the city crew for picking up the limbs.

Council Member Duran stated that the city crew is doing a great job.

Council Member Deckert stated that the parks look good, and she is going to be glad when we complete the water project. Deckert also stated that she appreciates the city crew for picking up the limbs.

Council Member McCauley stated that we need to thank the County for using their equipment and help. McCauley also stated that we should all keep the Parks Department superintendent Sherrie Olson and her family in our prayers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Deckert to adjourn the

meeting at 5:40 p.m. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Mayor John Battin

Council Member Jerry Jo Deckert

Council Member Tim McCauley

Council Member Kenneth Warner

Council Member Warren Devore

Council Member John Duran

Council Member Larry Velasquez

Interim City Administrator Alan Olson

City Clerk Sarah Britton