

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL  
December 12, 2022  
City Hall Council Room-200 Cedar Street, Kennett, MO 63857

Members Present:

Bob Green  
John Robertson  
Randy Baker  
Towny Sparks

Others Present:

Jamie Chitester, CEO  
Jill Rickman, CHRO  
Gary Figgins, Citizen  
Jake Crafton, Citizen

City Council:

Chancellor Wayne, Mayor  
Terry McVey, City Attorney  
James Waynick, Council Member  
Gary French, Council Member  
Scott Hunter, Council Member  
Bill Palmer, Council Member

Brenda Ellis, City Clerk  
Mike Harbrueger, Council Member  
Randy Carter, Council Member  
Kevin Swain, Council Member  
Jake McQuin, Council Member

Mr. Green called the BOPW members to order. Mr. Robertson made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Sparks seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The mayor stated that he wanted to discuss employee questions with the Board of Public Works Directors. Council Member Carter asked the mayor which employees he wanted to discuss. The mayor responded it was a CLGW employee. At this time City Attorney McVey explained that the City Council could not call a closed session to discuss a CLGW employee. Mr. McVey stated that the Board of Public Works could vote to enter closed session and invite the City Council to be present.

Mr. Green stated that the Board of Public Works chooses not to discuss their personnel with the City Council.

Council Member McQuin asked the Board of Public Works members what the City Council could do to work better with the BOPW. Mr. Green noted that he was not aware of any issues working with the Council. Mr. McQuin asked if the Board would consider holding a meeting quarterly in the evening, so that citizens whose work schedule did not allow them to attend daytime meetings could have the chance to attend. Council Members Waynick and Carter noted that they had been attending the Board meetings and have been included in discussion with the Board. Mr. McQuin also asked for the Board to provide more transparency to the rate payers about why rate changes occur. Discussion regarding these two requests were held, with Mr. Robertson noting that it does take an ordinance change to move the meeting times.

Mr. Robertson addressed those in attendance. He commented on the recent fire hydrant issues, stating that CLGW and the Fire Department are both doing the best job they can with what we have in the ground to work with. He noted that the Board of Public Works has been studying the replacement of the water lines, as well as a new Water Treatment Plant, for the last several years. The Board has a plan in place, but it is very expensive, and the Board is concerned about how dramatic rate increases will affect the customers on fixed income. Mr. Green noted that the Board hired a third-party consultant that did a nationwide search for the CEO of CLGW. The Board has chosen Mr. Chitester and said that he has done a great job for CLGW.

Council Member Swain stated that he wanted the Board to know that no one wanted to take over the Board of Public Works. That he wanted things to move forward and us all to work together. Mr. Green asked if this was the case then why was an ordinance created to abolish the Board. City Attorney McVey stated that an individual asked him to create the ordinance. Mayor Wayne then stated that the ordinance was created because a few people sitting up front with the City Council were fuming mad after Mr. Chitester's speech at a previous council meeting and that the only way to get rid of Mr. Chitester was to get rid of the Board, fire Mr. Chitester, and then get a new Board. Brief additional comments were made by Mr. Chitester, Mayor Wayne, Council Member Palmer, and Council Member Carter.

Mr. Robertson made a motion to have one Board of Public Works meeting per month at 6:30 pm. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mr. Robertson then invited all present to attend the Board of Public Works meetings, noting that one will be held tomorrow, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Council Member Carter noted that the Board has been very welcoming of he and Council Member Waynick during their attendance at Board meetings.

Council Member Palmer addressed the Board with questions of utility needs by perspective hospital businesses. Council Member McKuin responded in kind regarding a perspective industrial business. The Board responded that they are happy to assist, and that Mr. Chitester can answer any specific questions. Mr. Chitester noted that getting utilities to any customer is not a problem, it is just a matter of cost for some projects. This led to a discussion of citizens contacting Council Members with utility questions. The Board asked that the chain of command be followed - contact CLGW customer service, then Mr. Chitester, then the Board Chairman.

Mr. Sparks addressed the City Council. He stated that the Board of Public Works was created 80 years ago, and it has been successful because it is separate from the politics that the City Council must deal with. Mr. Sparks stated that he didn't realize that there was a problem with the Board of Public Works until he read the ordinance that was created. Mayor Wayne stated there was a problem with the presentation at the City Council meeting by Mr. Chitester. Mayor Wayne noted that he asked the Board for an apology to be given and he was never given a response and that it had been several weeks that he had been waiting for a response. Mayor Wayne noted that he would like for the Board to provide response to him, even if the answer is no. At this point, Council Member Carter made a motion to adjourn the City Council's meeting, a second and vote followed.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Robertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting to open session. Mr. Baker seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Attest:

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Randy Baker

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Secretary