

**Clearwater City Council
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Clearwater City Council Chamber
January 19, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edmonson called the regular council meeting of January 19, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

- Present: Mayor Edmonson, Council Members Crandall, Ranum, Ritzer, and Lange.
 - Absent: None.
 - Staff present: Administrator Kress.
 - Public Present: Vern Scott.
 - Others Present: Kevin Bittner – Bolton-Menk, Dave Lenhardt – Gries Lenhardt, Kendra Lindahl – Landform, Deputy Henry – Wright County Sheriff’s Office, and Ken Francis – Citizen-Tribune.
- A quorum was declared present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION by Lange, seconded by Crandall, to approve the agenda as submitted.
Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Crandall, seconded by Lange, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. **Claims/Accounts Payable**
- b. **Approval of 1-04-16 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**
- c. **Approval of 2016 COLA**
- d. **Approval of Resolution 2016-03 Authorizing of Tax Exempt Temporary Gambling Permit for Masonic Lodge #28 to Hold a Raffle on June 4th, 2016 and October 15th, 2016**
- e. **Approval of Resolution 2016-04 Adopting Lien for Unpaid Charges**

Motion carried 3-2 (Mayor Edmonson and Member Ritzer opposed).

As part of the motion a discussion was held regarding item c. “Approval of 2016 COLA.” Member Ritzer asked that the item be pulled for discussion and Mayor Edmonson asked Member Crandall if he would amend his motion. Crandall stated he would like to stand on his motion and would not amend his original motion to approve all of the consent agenda items. Crandall added that discussion could happen with his motion on the table as per parliamentary procedure. Member Ritzer asked if the COLA increase was included as part of the City’s step increase program. Administrator Kress explained that the COLA adjustment was rolled into the step increase program and that the steps would subsequently increase. Kress added that the intent was to be competitive with nearby cities and to provide competitive wages. Member Ritzer then asked if the employees would earn the step increase as well. Kress pointed out that the COLA and step increase were two separate things. The COLA increase is a blanket adjustment and the step increase is performance based. Kress added that unless there performance issues with an employee the step increase would likely apply. Mayor Edmonson asked again if Member Crandall would amend his

motion. Member Crandall replied that he felt there was sufficient information for the Council to make a decision and refused to amend his motion. The City Attorney, Dave Lenhardt was asked to weigh in on the discussion. Mr. Lenhardt stated that with a motion on the table the Council probably needed to call for a vote. If the vote failed then the Council could make a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of whichever particular item warranted additional discussion.

WRIGHT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTY REPORT

Deputy Henry was present to give an update on criminal activity within the City. Henry reported that there were thirty eight calls for service. Henry added that there was a semi-trailer fire and several gas drive-offs.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Update on North Area Street and Utility Project

Kevin Bittner was present to address the Council on the North Area Street and Utility Project. Bittner informed the Council that he met with the contractor to inspect several lights that weren't working on Highway 24. Bittner added that they didn't feel the outage was due to the North Area Street and Utility Project.

REPORTS

- a. **Mayor and Council** – Member Ritzer stated that the City use to have a Library Board and it was removed. Ritzer questioned whether or not the City was required to have a Library Board. Mayor Edmonson stated there was a Sewer Authority meeting Thursday, January 21st. Member Ranum stated that the Sewer Authority meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 28th and not the 21st.

- b. **Boards** – None.

- c. **Staff** – Mr. Kress gave a brief update on City business. Kress mentioned that the Public Works department was putting the new street signs that were ordered together, the hockey rink has been flooded, and grommets were installed on the banners. Kress informed the Council that Midcontinent ran a cable line into the City Hall because the old line that runs underneath the blacktop behind City Hall failed. Mr. Kress informed the Council that Wright County had the Board of Equalization scheduled for Monday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. Kress asked if there was any interest in asking for the date to be changed to correspond with the City's regularly scheduled Council meetings. Council was in favor of moving the meeting day to line up with the Council meetings.

7. Other –

- a. **Next Meeting – Monday, February 1st, 2016.**

ADJOURN:

MOTION by Ritzer, seconded by Lange, to adjourn the council meeting, at 7:20 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

