

**City of Clearwater, Kansas**  
Sedgwick County  
City Council Meeting - **MINUTES**  
August 10, 2021  
Clearwater City Hall – Council Chambers  
129 E. Ross Avenue Clearwater, KS 67026

**1. Call to Order/ Invocation and Flag Salute**

Mayor Burt Ussery called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed the invocation and flag salute.

**2. Roll Call**

The City Clerk called the roll to confirm the presence of a quorum. The following members were present: Mayor Burt Ussery, Councilmembers; Chris Griffin, Shirley Palmer-Witt, Chad Pike, Crystal Walter and Justin Shore were present.

The following staff members were present:

Courtney Zollinger, City Administrator, Cole Hollis, Jared Dinwiddie, Kirk Ives, Justin Patrick.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Ussery stated a second executive session needed added after item 9 for discussions prior to acquisition of real estate

**Motion: Shore** moved, **Walter** seconded to approve the agenda as modified. Voted and passed unanimously.

**4. Public Forum**

None

**5. Approve Consent Agenda**

Mayor Ussery asked if there was any question on the consent agenda and if not asked for a motion to approve.

Minutes

Claims and Warrants

**Motion: Walter** moved, **Palmer-Witt** seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Voted and passed unanimously.

**6. Staff Reports**

a. Administration Office – Courtney Zollinger – Shore asked if there was an updated on CDBG grant applications. Zollinger stated there are no updates from the original report. Palmer-Witt asked for an update on the city clerk open position. Zollinger stated interviews were still be conducted. Council had no other questions.

b. Fire Department –Jared Dinwiddie –Council had no questions.

c. Police Department – Kirk Ives – Council had no questions.

d. Park – Cole Hollis – Palmer-Witt pointed out there was a hole in the bottom of one of the slides that is quite large. Can the slide be roped off? Hollis stated yes it can. Council had no other questions.

e. Public Works – Cole Hollis – Council had no questions.

- f. Senior Center – Courtney Zollinger – Council had no questions.

## 7. Sgt Lee Harp Recognition

Mayor Ussery recognized Sgt Lee Harp as SRO of the year. He read aloud the letter that was submitted for his consideration to the KSJOA.

*Dear Selection Committee,*

*It is with great honor that I recommend to you Sgt. Lee Harp for the coveted awards of SRO of the Year.*

*Sgt. Harp has been the SRO and DARE Officer for USD 264 Clearwater for the last ten years.*

*Sgt. Harp was the first ever SRO for Clearwater USD 264. Although he already had a long and lustrous career in Law Enforcement to this point, he had never served as an SRO. When he was first selected for the position he immediately began attending any training he could find that would help him in his new assignment. He was certified as an SRO after attending an SRO training class, and continued that training to be certified as an advanced SRO.*

*Sgt. Harp also attended DARE training and received his certification as a DARE instructor during this time.*

*As our SRO, Sgt. Harp covers all three school campuses in our district, which keeps him quite busy! Along with his regular duties, Sgt. Harp teaches DARE to all the fifth graders every year. He teaches bicycle safety to the entire elementary school. He reads specially selected books to all first and second grade students about positive interaction with police. He teaches Search and Seizure to the high school business law class during their study of the Bill of Rights and the fourth amendment. Sgt. Harp also attends the home sports competitions for the High School and volunteers when extra help is needed. Sgt. Harp volunteers as a judge for Scholars Bowl meets at the high school and intermediate middle school. Sgt. Harp regularly attends music programs, school plays and other extra-curricular events on his own time in an effort to praise and encourage the Clearwater students.*

*In 2017, Sgt. Harp took on additional duties at the High School when he volunteered to sponsor the SAFE (Seatbelts Are for Everyone) and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) organizations. His leadership has propelled both organizations to excellence. SADD has sponsored events such as dances, Film on the Field, and Film On the Floor that Sgt. Harp volunteers his own time to arrange and supervise. His SAFE team was noticed by the State of Kansas as one of only five teams in the state that reported 100% seat belt usage by high school students for the last 2 years. Additionally, through Sgt. Harp's leadership, the SAFE/SADD organization has offered college scholarships to seniors for the last three years.*

*In addition to all of this, Sgt. Harp is also our department detective. He prepares and presents most felony cases to the District Attorney and does all the required follow-up investigation that is required. He initiates investigations, draws and executes search warrants, and supervises patrol officers.*

*Realizing his time in his beloved profession is growing shorter with each passing year, and realizing the need for a specific type of officer for the SRO position, Sgt. Harp handpicked an officer to take his place as the next Clearwater SRO.*

## 8. Business

### a. General Update

There was no business action for today. Zollinger updated council of the following items.

Park Shelter bids have gone out and the bid opening is 8/20/21. The bids will need to be held for 60 days, the project is scheduled to start the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, and weather permitting, end on 01/22/22

After Prom committee cancelled their request to use the sports complex for the Dash for Prom idea.

Shore stated that Fall Festival is still moving forward. Volunteers and donors are still be sought after. They are meeting weekly each Tuesday at 6pm at the Christian Church.

#### 9. Executive Session

**Motion:** *Shore* moved; *Pike* seconded to recess into executive session for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship, to include the City Attorney. The open meeting in the City Council Chamber at 6:51 p.m. Voted and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ussery called the meeting back to order at 6:51 p.m. and stated there was no action taken in executive session.

#### INSERT Executive Session

**Motion:** *Palmer-Witt* moved; *Pike* seconded to recess into executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate to include the City Attorney. The open meeting will reconvene in the City Council Chamber at 7:11 p.m. Voted and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ussery called the meeting back to order at 7:11 p.m. and stated there was no action taken in executive session.

#### 10. Governing Body Comments

Griffin had no comments

Palmer-Witt had no comments

Pike asked if the sign that was at 135<sup>th</sup> and K42 was going to be relocated. Zollinger stated she was looking at options.

Shore had no comments.

Walter asked we were aware of the sign at 4<sup>th</sup> and Ross was not reading correctly. Zollinger stated yes we are looking at new signage options for future discussions.

Ussery stated he is trying to get a meeting with GraceMed to discuss the level of service for Clearwater. He asked the Chief of Police to have his department monitor Yvonne Dr as school starts. He also stated there is no need at this time to have a facemask policy. He would like to encourage people who want to wear a mask to wear one and to do what the individual feels comfortable doing.

#### 11. Adjournment

With no further discussion Mayor Ussery called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** *Shore* moved; *Palmer-Witt* seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voted and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

**CERTIFICATE**

State of Kansas        }  
County of Sedgwick   }  
City of Clearwater    }

I, Courtney Zollinger, City Clerk of the City of Clearwater, Sedgwick County, Kansas, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the August 10, 2021 City Council meeting.

Given under my hand and official seal of the City of Clearwater, Kansas, this 24th day of August 2021.

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Courtney Zollinger, City Clerk