

Meeting Minutes

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Murdock - present	Ritter – present
Daniels – present	Lane – present
Honomichl – present	

PUBLIC HEARING: Revenue Neutral Rate.

Mr. Brandon Mills, Assistant City Administrator led on this item. He gave an overview of the requirements for the revenue neutral rate hearing and resolution. He asked the council to open the public hearing, receive comments from the public and close the public hearing. After closing the public hearing, the council will vote on resolution 1083 to exceed the revenue neutral rate.

Mayor Walker opened the public hearing at 7:01 pm.

Name	Address	Topic
Albert Lightwine	8473 Timber Trails Drive, De Soto, KS	Discussed the revenue neutral rate and the Taxpayer Notification form.

Mayor Walker closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2023 Budget

Mr. Brungardt led on this item. He gave a detailed but concise overview of the 2023 budget.

Mayor Walker opened the public hearing at 7:11 pm

Name	Address	Topic
Albert Lightwine	8473 Timber Trails Drive, De Soto, KS	Same comments that he made as part of public hearing on City exceeding Revenue Neutral Rate.

Mayor Walker closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

Consent Agenda Items will be acted upon by one motion unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed for discussion and separate action.

1. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approve Minutes of the Council Meeting on August 18, 2022.
 - b. Approve Pay Ordinance No. 933
 - c. Accept Deed of Dedication for Road Right of Way from Intervet, Inc
 - d. Accept Quitclaim Deed from DVP LLC for Arbor Ridge sewer pump station land

Motion by Councilmember Murdock to approve the consent agenda; second by Councilmember Ritter.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes

Ritter – Yes

Daniels – Yes

Lane – Yes

Honomichl – Yes

Motion carries.

2. Call to Public:

Members of the public are welcome to use this time to comment about any matter relating to City business not listed on this Agenda. The comments that are discussed under Call to Public may or may not be acted upon by the Council during this meeting. **There is a four-minute time limit.** Please stand and wait to be recognized by the Mayor. You must state your name and address.

Charles Lawhead, 31760 West 83rd Street, De Soto, KS, distributed a photo of a pile of rocks dumped near his property. It is a hazard to his grandchildren. He is concerned about liability. The Mayor and City Administrator agree with Mr. Lawhead's concern, it will be addressed.

3. Old Business: None

4. New Business:

a. Consider Resolution #1083 Exceeding Revenue Neutral Tax Rate.

Mr. Mills gave an overview of the revenue neutral rate resolution. He recommended that the council approve the resolution.

Mayor Walker addressed the concerns raised earlier by Mr. Lightwine. He pointed out that, despite valuation rising about 30%, the City's mill rate has decreased by 30% over several years. The City, like everyone else, has pressures from inflationary costs. The City's total budget is raising by 4%, a fraction of the inflationary percentage. Councilmember Murdock also commented about economic development, it should not raise taxes but instead should decrease them. She also pointed out that almost every City project is coming in way over budget due to inflation pressures. Councilmember Daniels expounded on the revenue neutral rate; the City's budget does not increase to the same extent that valuations are increasing. He also commented about development pays for development, and then when those facilities come on the tax rolls, they will add tax revenue.

Marsha Sassaman, 8700 Lynne Road, De Soto, KS: Asked about recent sales tax renewal, and why is City still raising taxes? The Mayor tried to address her concerns. Councilmember Daniels also commented on the benefits of the sales tax.

Motion by Councilmember Honomichl to adopt Resolution 1083; Second by Councilmember Honomichl.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes
Daniels – Yes
Honomichl – Yes

Ritter – Yes
Lane – Yes

Motion Carries

b. Adopt 2023 Budget.

Mr. Brungardt led on this item. He gave an overview of the 2023 budget and asked council to approve the 2023 budget and sign the budget sheet.

Motion by Councilmember Murdock to approve the 2023 budget; Second by Councilmember Lane.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes
Daniels – Yes
Honomichl – Yes

Ritter – Yes
Lane – Yes

Motion Carries

c. Consider Bids for Ottawa Street Project.

Mr. Brungardt led on this item. On August 19th, the City received five bids for Ottawa Street Project. The bids were very tight showing they are competitive. The low bidder was McAnany Construction in the amount of \$1,987,654.32. CFS Engineering recommended that the council accept the low bid from McAnany Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,987,654.

The Mayor asked Mr. Brungardt to share information about the grant money the City received, which Mr. Brungardt did. The Mayor agrees bids are not going to get better. Council person Murdock commented that this project is an example of how the City is seeing costs going up, not going to get cheaper.

Motion by Councilmember Honomichl to accept the low bid from McAnany Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,987,654, a \$100,000 contingency in the CIP, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract; Second by Councilmember Lane.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes
Daniels – Yes
Honomichl – Yes

Ritter – Yes
Lane – Yes

Motion Carries

d. Consider One-Time Employee Inflation Bonus and Wage Scale Adjustments

Mr. Brungardt led on this item, he provided background information on the pressures the City is feeling in retaining employees and hiring new ones. With all the new economic development on the horizon, the challenge of retention and hiring is only expected to worsen.

Councilmember Honomichl commented about a conference he recently attended where this exact topic was discussed. Everyone is facing this same issue. Retention is key, and you do that by retaining employees you have by using bonuses.

Councilmember Ritter supports the approach. He asked a question about the recent MARC study, have we looked at that. City Administrator responded.

Councilmember Lane commented about some of the cities he looked at, he supports the City Administrator's concern and plan to address it.

Motion by Councilmember Murdock; Second by Councilmember Ritter to approve the plan set out by the City Administrator for employee retention.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes

Ritter – Yes

Daniels – Yes

Lane – Yes

Honomichl – Yes

5. Executive Session:

- a. 15 Minutes to Discuss Personnel.

Motion by Councilmember Murdock to recess into executive session (at 8:03 p.m. for 15 minutes) to discuss (**subject:** applicant for employment) pursuant to (**statutory basis:** non-elected personnel, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)), with the open meeting resuming in the City Council chamber at (**return time:** 8:18 p.m.). Second by Councilmember Ritter.

All in favor by Aye. Motion carries.

Mayor returned the Council to regular session. at 8:18 p.m.

6. Advisory Reports:

- a. City Administrator-Notified Council of the days he will be out of town in next couple of weeks. Briefly addressed traffic and construction issues going on in the City.
- b. City Attorney- no report.
- c. City Planner- Absent.
- d. Assistant City Administrator-Absent.

7. Council & Mayor Comments

Councilmember Honomichl – Nothing.

Councilmember Lane -Asked question about work on City water wells.

Councilmember Murdock - Nothing.

Councilmember Daniels - Nothing.

Councilmember Ritter – Asked about VFW fireworks display permit.

Mayor Walker announced Mark Huggins as his nomination for Planning Commission. Councilmember Honomichl made a motion to approve, second by Murdock.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes

Daniels – Yes

Honomichl – Yes

Ritter – Yes

Lane – Yes

Motion Carries

The Mayor renominated Todd Manson to the Planning Commission – term will expire in 2025.

Motion by Councilmember Murdock to ratify the Mayor’s nomination, second by Councilmember Lane.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes

Daniels – Yes

Honomichl – Yes

Ritter – Yes

Lane – Yes

Motion Carried.

The Mayor renominates Bob Garrett for the Planning Commission - term will expire in April 2025.

Motion by Councilmember Murdock to approve, second by Councilmember Lane.

Roll Call

Murdock - Yes

Daniels – Yes

Honomichl – Yes

Ritter – Yes


Lane – Yes

Motion Carried.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Murdock; Second by Councilmember Honomichl. All Council approved by "ayes." The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted by:


Patrick Reavey, City Attorney