

**CITY OF SEDAN
MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2024**

The Sedan City Council met for the council's regularly scheduled meeting on July 2nd, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM, with Mayor Bryan Blankinship presiding. Council members present: Janice Fine, Sharon Payne, Adam Clark, Angela Evans, and Kathy Miller on phone. Employees present: Lana Robinson, Chief Kirk Richardson, Nancy Crawford, Devin Lumley, Bri Ruark, and Raven Darnall. Public present: Wellington Butler, Pam Koerner, Jan Uhls, Michelle Williams, Jack Warren, Teresa Thompson, Ralene Davis, Tim Hills, Linda Bever, Sherry Miller, Sue Allen, Ben Allen, Diana Clanton, Rosie Sweaney, Shawn Franklin, and Estiquio Avalos.

Mayor Bryan Blankinship called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Sharon Payne made a motion to approve the agenda. Adam Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on June 18th, 2024. Janice Fine seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on June 26th, 2024. Adam Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sharon Payne made a motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$102,176.09. Adam Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments-

- o Tim Hills spoke on behalf of the Lyons Club regarding the firework show. He stated that the fireworks show was short about \$1,650.00 but they would be taking money at the gate. He did ask for a donation from the city.

Staff Comments-

- o Lana Robinson reached out to Waste Connection to see if we would be in breach of contract for going with another company for a roll off to clean the residence on Main Street that was burnt down. Waste Connections stated that if it is better for a local company to handle it, that is fine with them but just know they are there to provide help if needed. Placed the CD that had the maturity date of June 29th, 2024, in the amount of \$72,261.04 in a new CD at Howard State Bank in Sedan with an interest rate of 4.13% for 13 months. Which is higher than the renewal rate of 3.65%. A request was placed into Howard State bank to see if there was a higher rate for the city's money market account. Kactus Bidwell with the bank brought the money market rate request to the board and they are offering us a rate of 3.5% with effective date of July 1st, 2024.

Council Comments-

Adam Clark made a motion to donate \$750.00 towards the fireworks show put on by the Lyons Club. Angela Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Bryan Blankinship received a call from Jim Miller advising there is a pump station down. Jim Miller contacted Rodney Coward to help with the pump station as Jim Miller was not available due to eye surgery. Rodney Coward had to order some parts but was able to help

- Janice Fine wants to call for an executive session to discuss non-elect personnel.

Events of June 24th, 2024-

- Adam Clark wanted to do more fact finding and discussion about the events that took place on June 24th, 2024, and how it interacted with the Hollow Project. Adam asked questions to the city clerk questions about how things had worked in the past. Adam Clark asked questions of Sue Allen about that day.

- Lana Robinson read a statement that was prepared by herself regarding the events that occurred that day. She thanked the council for giving her the opportunity to speak on her behalf. She stated she received an agenda request form June 14th, 2024, that was written by Tom Oast. She made a phone call to Tom Oast to let him know the request form was received and it was going to be placed on the July 2nd, 2024, agenda. Tom Oast told Lana he wanted to be placed on the June 18th, 2024, agenda as the work at the Hollow would start June 24th, 2024. Lana explained the 7-day agenda request form policy to Tom Oast. Lana explained to the council that the policy in which she was following was approved at the September 19th, 2023, meeting at which time Adam Clark made the motion and Tom Oast seconding the motion. All council members that approved at the time were Janice Fine and Sharon Payne with a Nay vote from Bryan Blankinship. This vote resulted in the adoption of Resolution 23-03. Lana stated she told Tom Oast several times during that phone conversation that the work at the Hollow needed to be approved by the council as it was city property and due to the amount of money \$8,500.00 the Hollow is requesting from the city. The city also needed to make sure there are no ADA guidelines that are required to be followed. On June 24th, 2024, while on her way to lunch Lana Robinson stopped by the park as it was told to her that there was a construction sign at the park. Lana noticed there had been work started at the park and no one was around at the time. She contacted Officer Lumley and he met with her at the park. At no point during this meeting at the park was there anyone from the board or the contractor present. Lana explained that she has not lived in Sedan her whole life, nor did she get much training on how the city has been run prior to her appointment as city clerk. Lana stated she was going off her 16 years of experience in law enforcement as a 911 dispatcher, her year and a half as the city clerk in a small town in Missouri, and her 3 ½ years of experience as the deputy city clerk in Independence. Lana Also stated that it is her job to look after the best interest of the city and of any legal issues that might come to the city. She stated she did not want to be one-sided in any of the information that comes about, as it is not fair to the council or the citizens not to give all the information.

- Ben Allen was given permission to speak and was requesting an apology, not from the council members or mayor. Stated Sherry Miller had all the information and should have been called. The Hollow has been running itself for 30 years, no government funding, no outside influence and it is a bright site for this city. Now there is government oversite and look where you are at now. Council had no fault in this at all. Some information should have been found out before people started making phone calls and embarrassing people.

- Adam Clark, it would have been nice if we had those records in the city. Lana had compiled a list at the request of Kathy Miller with a list of those committees around and no one reached out to her. Adam asked Lana how long she had lived in the community. Lana responded with over 3 ½ years. Adam stated he did not realize the Hollow was an actual organization.
- Ben Allen stated that it states in the by-laws of the Hollow that there will be no government oversight. All there had to be is a phone call and all this could have been prevented. Ben Allen asked how the council even got the contractor's name.
- Mayor Bryan Blankinship stated he got it from Tom Oast's agenda request form.
- Lana Robinson advised that she did not make the phone call to Sherry Miller as she is retired and there should have been a list of boards within the community already compiled and in city hall but there was not. When Tom Oast was advised that the work could not start without city council approval due to \$8,500.00 being asked for city funds, he should have contacted Sue Allen or referred me to her, and he did not.
- Sue Allen stated she could hardly believe that if Tom heard those words that he would not have contacted me.
- Lana Robinson stated she was not going to sit on a gauntlet while everyone blames her for doing her due diligence at my job trying to get all the information as possible. She stated she does not know how the city has been run for the past 30 years. Jance Fine pulled her aside before one meeting and told her that she is the city clerk now and she needs to run it the way she sees fit.
- Sharon Payne apologized for doing or not doing something to create this issue. Sharon Payne does not blame Lana Robinson because she was doing her job. This is not her fault. Sharon Payne stated the city should just give the Hollow to the board. Since they are already doing it give it to them, so they don't have the issues that have come up.
- Janice Fine stated it makes the most sense to donate the land to the Hollow board so they can continue to do all they have done without having interference.
- Adam Clark has some realities to it. We don't want to cause harm or cripple the Hollow due to liability insurance or other funds associated with it.
- Rosie Sweaney raised a question about the museum on where they fall. It opens the question of what they need to do. The museum needs lots of repairs, which funds have been raised by donations. This community needs to leave the past in the past and move forward together and work together.
- Adam Clark a short answer is that the city is liable for any thing that happens on city property regardless of who pays for anything. If there is an ADA complaint the city is responsible not

the Hollow board. The city needs to have some sort of oversight due to the liability the city would be in. There needs to be some method of making sure that it will not cause problems for the city or others.

- Officer Devin Lumley made a statement about his interactions with the events that occurred June 24th, 2024. He made three phone calls, the contractor, Sue Allen, and Tom Oast. He called the contractor first and he referred him to Sue Allen. At no point during the conversation with Sue Allen and the contractor was he ever unprofessional, rash and just laid out the facts to them. Officer Lumley called Tom Oast after the direction of Sue Allen at which Tom Oast invited Officer Lumley to his residence. Tom Oast asked him a few times to go to his residence so Officer Lumley went to his residence. Tom Oast handed Officer Lumley a drink and they sat on the porch and had a very pleasant conversation. At this time Officer Lumley decided that there was no need for police presence that it was all a misunderstanding and miscommunication. This council took one side of the story and berated Officer Lumley as a thug out threatening people. Officer Lumley stated he has served the community for 13 years without one complaint and Officer Lumley believes it was unfair that council called him out by name and apologized for his actions in which he was professional. Any miscommunications he apologized for.
- Chief Kirk Richardson I believe this turned into a big misunderstanding. Based upon the allegations that were made at the last meeting on Officer Lumley's actions, Chief Richardson investigated the allegations of Officer Lumley's actions June 24th, 2024. Chief Richardson spoke with all parties and during the investigation it was determined that Officer Lumley treated each person with respect and did his job properly. Chief Richardson does not appreciate the actions of the governing body by not putting forth all due diligence possible into getting to the bottom of this matter prior to eviscerating this police officer. An act that he added is a violation of the Open Meetings Act and therefore a violation of this employee's rights. Chief Richardson echoed Rosie Sweaney's statement that we need to work together. Chief Richard requesting that if there is ever an issue with the way an officer conducts himself or conduct of an officer to contact him directly and that applies to the citizens.
- Ben Allen asked when the city attorney was contacted on the ADA compliance information.
- Lana Robinson contacted The League of Municipalities, City Attorney on Tuesday or Wednesday, and spoke with the ADA compliancy representative.
- Ben Allen what was decided on with the ADA compliancy.
- Adam Clark it was decided that there was sidewalk work being done but it did not meet the criteria to be ADA compliant.
- Lana Robinson explained to the ADA compliancy line what the repairs were going to be and what the walkway is. They stated it does not have to be ADA compliant if they are repairing it. The only time they would have to make it ADA complaint is if they are tearing it out. Lana Robinson stated she does not want Hollow to change and that she thinks it is beautiful and the

fact that she is under attack and fire right now she feels is uncalled for because she was simply doing her job for council.

- o Adam Clark, Lana Robinson has a duty just like the rest of the department heads to give us all information that is relevant to all things within the city. It is part of their job.
- o Jancie Fine stated she is not laying blame on Lana; she was doing her job as she was directed to do as well as the police department. Please know that we support our staff too.

Agenda Request Form- The Hollow Walkway Funding Request- Tom Oast-

- o Tom Oast was not present. Linda Bever spoke in his place. Linda Bever read a history on the Hollow and requested funds for \$8,750.00.
- o Sue Allen stood up and spoke stating they have big expenses coming up in the next couple of years and any funds the city would like to give would be much appreciated.

Kathy Miller made a motion to pay for the sidewalk restoration at the Hollow using the Appleby sidewalk funds in the amount of \$ 8,750.00. Janice Fine seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session for the City Pool-

At 6:26 PM, Adam Clark made a motion to go into executive session to discuss nonelected employees with Bri Ruark and Lana Robinson for 20 minutes. Angela Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 6:46 PM, Angela Evans made a motion to add 10 minutes to the executive session. Adam Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 6:56 PM, the regular meeting resumed. No action was taken.

Angela Evans made a motion to raise the pay for pool employees to \$10.00 an hour for lifeguards and \$14.00 for pool manager effective this pay-period. Sharon Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve a free swim day for all children under 18 to get in free at the pool and anyone over 18 will be required to pay \$4.00 entry fee. Adam Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Employee Handbook Update-

Adam Clark made a motion to table the employee handbook till the next meeting. Angela Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 6:58 PM, Janice Fine made a motion to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss nonelected personnel.

At 7:03 PM, the regular meeting resumed. No action was taken.

Jance Fine made a motion to increase Ronald Rodrick Jr.'s pay by \$1.00 putting him at \$10.00 an hour. Sharon Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 7:05 PM Angela Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Payne seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.


Bryan Blankinship, Mayor


Lana Robinson, City Clerk