



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall, 131 N Main, Cheney, Kansas
November 07, 2023 at 4:30 PM

MINUTES

Mayor Philip Mize declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 04:29pm.
Members present: Council members Kassie Gile, Ryan Graf, Greg Kampling, Greg Williams. Council member Jeff Albers were present via phone. Staff present were City Administrator Danielle Young and City Clerk Angie Gassmann.

Discuss Election of Council Members

Mayor Mize stated there are 2 open council seats but the voting ballots were incorrectly asking for you to vote for all 3 candidates. Administrator Young explained there are two options that were given by the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner. Option 1 is to take the top 2 candidates with the highest votes from today's ballot. Option 2 is to hold a special election in December. If a special election were held it would be held on December 5th. They would then canvas the votes and certify them with the new council member taking office in January instead of December. There would be no cost to the City to hold a special election. The election could be held at City Hall or the Church, if available. There are 1372 active voters in Cheney.

Councilmember Graf mentioned that if the person who lost felt it was incorrect, they could request a special election, but he was good taking the top 2. Administrator Young stated she had spoken with the other two candidates and they were both good with either option. They did not feel they would be upset if they lost. Councilmember Gile pointed out the votes are never the same for each person even when there are three spots open with only three candidates. Councilmember Kampling felt most probably voted for 3 if they read it correctly but felt it would only make for a closer race. Administrator Young stated she had spoken with the league for advice. They stated in other similar situations elsewhere the top 2 with the highest votes were the winners. Administrator Young felt there was a better turnout today due to the schoolboard election and if we held a special election we may not have as good of a turnout. She also mentioned mail out ballots would not be an option as they take 45 days to review. Councilmember Kampling asked what happened in the event of a tie? Administrator Young stated she would look into and let them know but assumed it would be the same as a tie in any other race. She stated she felt it would be best if the decision was made prior to the media posting results this evening to make it as fair as possible. She stated she had spoken with Attorney Parker and he felt the easiest thing to do was to go with the top 2 but also thought the City would have to pay for the special election. Council felt the best option was to go with the top 2.

Motion: Accept the top 2 number of ballot votes cast in the November 7, 2023 election for open council seats.

Motion made by Councilmember Williams, Seconded by Councilmember Kampling.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Albers, Councilmember Gile, Councilmember Kampling, Councilmember Williams. Councilmember Graf abstained.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 4:41pm. Motion made by Councilmember Graf, Seconded by Councilmember Williams.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Albers, Councilmember Gile, Councilmember Graf, Councilmember Kampling, Councilmember Williams.



Handwritten signature of Philip Mize

Philip Mize, Mayor

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Angie Gassmann

Angie Gassmann, City Clerk