

**Minneola City Council  
Minutes  
June 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
Minneola City Hall**

The City of Minneola Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pat Kelley. Also present were Vice Mayor Pam Serviss, Councilor Lisa Jones, Councilor Joe Saunders, Scott Gerken (City Attorney), Mark Johnson (City Manager), and Barbara Hollerand (City Clerk). Councilor Kelly Price was absent. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all present were practicing “social distancing” by remaining at least six feet apart in the council chambers.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Kelley** called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence was observed, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Serviss.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

**Scott Gerken** requested that Item 3 – Ordinance 2020-06 — Duke Energy Franchise Agreement be tabled to June 16, 2020.

**MOTION by Vice Mayor Serviss, SECONDED by Councilor Jones, to table Item 3 – Ordinance 2020-06 to June 16, 2020.**

**AYE:** Serviss, Jones, Kelley, Saunders

**NAY:** None

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mayor Kelley** asked for public comments.

There were no comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Item 1: City Council Meeting Minutes May 5, 2020**

**Item 2: Purchase Request – Grapple Truck – Budgeted**

**Mayor Kelley** asked for public comments. There were no comments.

48 **MOTION by Vice Mayor Serviss, SECONDED by Councilor Jones, to approve the**  
49 **Consent Agenda.**

50  
51 **AYE:** Serviss, Jones, Kelley, Saunders

52  
53 **NAY:** None

54  
55 **MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

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57 **MOTION by Vice Mayor Serviss, SECONDED by Councilor Jones, to excuse**  
58 **Councilor Price.**

59  
60 **AYE:** Serviss, Jones, Kelley, Saunders

61  
62 **NAY:** None

63  
64 **MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

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66 **DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

67  
68 **Item 4: Discussion – Cemetery**

69  
70 **Mayor Kelley** provided a brief introduction.

71  
72 **Councilor Saunders** provided background on his research on cemeteries. He reviewed his  
73 summary report, speaking on Minneola Cemetery's history, maintenance, lot sales, and trust  
74 fund. He reviewed some common cemetery terms, numbering systems, maps, and the City's  
75 code.

76  
77 He spoke regarding operational procedures for cemeteries and standardized forms. His data  
78 included internet research, City records, resident Sandra Oliver's research, site visits to Oak  
79 Hill Cemetery and Choice Cremations, and interviews with area religious leaders of  
80 different faiths. He presented several maps, including revisions to existing documents and  
81 maps created for planning purposes. He described other draft documents including a  
82 cemetery resolution and brochure. He stated that his Excel spreadsheet data could be  
83 imported into cemetery management software in the future.

84  
85 He spoke regarding the internment process and traditions observed by different religions  
86 including Islamic and Jewish burials.

87  
88 He spoke regarding the potential to expand the existing cemetery and to repair or replace  
89 damaged headstones. He spoke regarding the City's ownership of the Pearl Street right-of-  
90 way on the cemetery's northern boundary as well as potential expansion on the eastern  
91 boundary adjacent to Plum Lake.

92  
93 Among his recommendations were a new numbering system, surveying, use of vaults,  
94 revised forms and contracts, established rules and regulations, certificates of internment  
95 rights, procedures for scattering ashes, a dedicated position for any new City cemetery,  
96 cemetery fund trustees, and annual reporting.

97 He emphasized that the council had several decisions to make regarding the existing  
98 cemetery as well as any future cemeteries.  
99

100 In consideration of a new cemetery, he provided an analysis of required acreage based on  
101 population projections. He spoke regarding possible sites, record and management software  
102 proposals, and veterans considerations.  
103

104 **Council** discussed columbarium niches, vaults, fencing, and gravesite markers.  
105

106 **Mayor Kelley** spoke regarding the City's ownership of the Pearl Street right-of-way and  
107 his interest in reasserting control over the property.  
108

109 **Ramon Flores**, Senior Code Enforcement, asked if the Pearl Street right-of-way had been  
110 used for burials.  
111

112 **Daniel Smith**, Ardmore Reserve resident, spoke regarding using ground penetrating radar  
113 for the Pearl Street right-of-way.  
114

115 **Councilor Saunders** presented a draft map of a potential future modular cemetery that  
116 allowed for flexibility in accommodating both burials and cremations. He spoke of a state-  
117 defined process for the City to reclaim sold-but-vacant spaces in the existing cemetery.  
118

119 He concluded his report and then read a series of questions for council consideration. He  
120 reminded council that taking no further action on the cemetery was also an option.  
121

122 **Mark Johnson** confirmed that the cemetery was not in the C.R.A.  
123

124 **Council** discussed the Pearl Street right-of-way.  
125

126 **Mayor Kelley** suggested Councilor Saunders work with staff to add a line item for  
127 headstone repair to the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget.  
128

129 **Councilor Jones** expressed support for the City regaining control of the Pearl Street right-  
130 of-way.  
131

132 **Councilor Saunders** spoke regarding moving the fence.  
133

134 **Mayor Kelley** proposed identifying a new cemetery site before homes are built on adjacent  
135 property.  
136

137 **Councilor Jones** suggested that council review the full report prior to making other  
138 recommendations.  
139

140 **Mayor Kelley** asked for public comment.  
141

142 **Daniel Smith** thanked Councilor Saunders for his research and presentation. He asked about  
143 the cemetery's boundaries, and he recommended against replacing headstones due to their  
144 historic or sentimental value.

145 **Council** discussed headstones and markers.

146  
147 **Scott Gerken** spoke regarding sending a letter to adjacent Pearl Street right-of-way property  
148 owners as an initial step.

149  
150 **FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

151  
152 **Mayor Kelley** asked for final public comments.

153  
154 **David Serdar**, Fruitland Park resident, introduced himself and addressed the council.

155  
156 **REPORTS**

157  
158 **Mark Johnson:**

- 159 • Briefed council that W.X.W. was requesting to resume wrestling events in the gym  
160 beginning June 13.
  - 161 ○ **Council consensus** was to allow W.X.W. to resume its events beginning June 13
  - 162 with social distancing in place.
  - 163 ○ **Vice Mayor Serviss** asked about hockey
- 164 • **Mark Johnson** stated that the City had received inquiries regarding basketball and line  
165 dancing
- 166 • Spoke regarding a food drop event now planned for Friday, June 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

167 **Scott Gerken:**

- 168 • Clarified that the South Avenue extension project would need council approval but  
169 would not be an advertised public hearing to amend the development agreement as  
170 previously stated. He recommended a courtesy notification of adjacent property owners.
  - 171 ○ **Mayor Kelley** spoke in support of building the road and then barricading it
  - 172 ○ **Mark Johnson** stated that the City had received a phone call in support of the road  
173 opening
  - 174 ○ **Councilor Saunders** recommended pavement striping for safety

175  
176 **Councilor Jones:**

- 177 • Spoke regarding consideration of a charter amendment for term limits and districts
  - 178 ○ **Council** discussed the timing of proposed charter amendments
  - 179 ○ **Mark Johnson** reported on the status of a proposed age-restricted community
  - 180 ○ **Mayor Kelley** asked legal counsel if charter amendment language could be crafted  
181 that triggered the creation of voting districts at a predetermined population threshold
  - 182 ○ **Scott Gerken** spoke regarding establishing districts and the purpose of straw ballots
- 183 • **Councilor Jones** spoke in support of four, two-year terms
  - 184 ○ **Council** discussed straw ballots and charter amendments
  - 185 ○ **Nathan Focht**, County resident, spoke regarding the potential for creating confusion  
186 among voters. He recommended three-year terms if the council pursued term limits  
187 and advised against a straw poll.
  - 188 ○ **Mayor Kelley** requested that the next agenda include a discussion item on the issue
  - 189 ○ **Scott Gerken** said he would provide an update at the June 16 council meeting

190  
191 **Mayor Kelley:**

- 192 • Stated that the skate park was getting a lot of use  
193 • Commended Rick Jiles and the Public Works crew for their work at Trailhead Park and  
194 Ed Harvey Station  
195 • Stated that the basketball courts were also getting a lot of use  
196 ○ Vice Mayor Serviss suggested looking at improvements to the dog park  
197

198 **MOTION by Councilor Jones, SECONDED by Vice Mayor Serviss, to adjourn.**  
199

200 **AYE:** Serviss, Jones, Kelley, Saunders  
201

202 **NAY:** None  
203

204 **MOTION PASSED: 4-0**  
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206 *(Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.)*  
207  
208



218 **ATTEST:**

219   
220 Barbara Hollerand, City Clerk

  
Pat Kelley, Mayor