

SPECIAL MEETING:

The La Cygne City Council met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at the La Cygne Community Building. Council Members present were: Danny Curtis; Thomas Capp; Jerome Mitzner and James Thies.

Others in attendance included, but not limited to: City Clerk Jodi Wade; City Attorney Burton Harding; Public Works Superintendent Dan Nasalroad; City Treasurer Connie Gore and Linn County Newspaper Tony Furse

MAYOR DEBRA WILSON CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER AT 11:30 a.m.

The Purpose the Special Meeting was called for:

❖ **GAS SUPPLY SITUATION**

City Clerk Wade had attended an emergency KMGa Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, February 14, 2021. Due to the extreme cold temperatures causing high demand and a lack of supply available from the suppliers, the daily price index for Gas has skyrocketed from \$3.00/MMBtu to amounts as high as \$325/MMBtu. The Suppliers are asking all users to conserve their use in order to maintain a supply for the purpose of health and wellness only. These daily prices are going to cause a terrible financial burden. KMGa was required by one supplier to pay a \$1 million dollar amount in order to secure a continual flow of gas supply. Our City needs a plan of action to address the high-level users and for our citizens to conserve in order to keep the gas flowing for our community. KMGa has contacted the state Senators and Representatives, Governor Kelly, reached out to FERC (Federal Energy Regulation Commission) asking for an Emergency declaration and assistance regarding these extreme prices.

Mayor Wilson, Council Member Curtis and Council Member Mitzner all stated the necessity to communicate to all the big users that a shut-down needed to happen immediately and as a City we must discuss the burden of closing the valve vs. the cost of the bill coming to us.

City Attorney Harding explained to the Council how they can put restrictions on the high-level users and on the citizens of the community in order to conserve. City Attorney Harding also explained the repercussions the City could face on the financial side of this crisis, stating "We can't bankrupt the City". If the combination of the usage and price gets to a point in which the City can't carry the cost, then the City can proceed with shutting off the gas.

Mayor Wilson asked if it was possible to monitor the use. PWS Nasalroad indicated meters would have to be read daily and he does not have the manpower to do that daily while attempting to clear roads and maintain the Water plant.

Mayor Wilson asked the Council to determine a 5-day action plan. Council Member Thies suggested taking a picture of the meter for the high-level users, review the situation with all business owners, insist they turn things down or temporarily shut down, and explain the request is to ensure there will be gas supply for everyone in the community (due to the shortage of supply).

Mayor Wilson suggested putting together an Emergency Order "press release" and taking it door to door to all citizens and businesses to explain to them we are doing all we can to keep the gas supply coming. Also using all sources of communication to include: Facebook and the City website. CC Wade suggested reaching out to the school and to Doug Bartlett (Linn Co. Emergency Management) about using their telephone messaging services. Council Member Curtis stated he would check with Peoples Telecommunication about their phone message system.

PWS Nasalroad indicated he had received a call from Doug Bartlett (Linn Co Emergency Management) prior to this meeting. Doug Bartlett had received a call from the state wanting to know how many cities in Linn County would be shutting off their gas valves due to the gas shortage and how many warming centers would they be opening? PWS Nasalroad indicated the Community building and Prairie View high school operate on gas furnaces.

Council Member Mitzner asked City Attorney Harding if the City would be able to get a bond to float the front load of cost? City Attorney Harding indicated the City could look into temporary loans to help. Council Member Mitzner stated the City needs to determine an amount that is the City's limit and the necessity to shut off the gas would be a reality. Mayor Wilson stated "I hope and pray relief could come from the State or Federal government".

CC Wade explained the situation is similar for the electric energy. The electric industry is fluctuating between emergency level 2 and 3 which causes rolling blackouts for cities. KCC (Kansas Corporation Commission) called an emergency meeting on February 15 regarding the rolling blackouts and advised cities to have the gas crew on hand when these electrical blackouts occur. The electric blackouts are to last between 30 – 60 minutes. The problem is when the power is turned back on all the electric start-ups on the gas furnaces happen at once and it overloads the gas system and can cause a gas outage.

The City Council asked the Clerks to put together an Emergency Order explaining the current situation regarding the gas supply and the necessity for everyone to conserve. Mayor Wilson indicated to make it clear that gas usage is for health and wellness only. It was suggested to explain the situation on one side of the order and on the other side indicate what homes and businesses should do to help conserve. We also needed to indicate to the businesses the potential cost and the importance for them to shut-down. Citizens need to cut their use in half to slow the usage down. Make it clear the City is not going to shut-off the valve and is doing everything possible to keep the gas flowing.

Council Member Mitzner stated the importance for us to take care of our people. In this crisis the people take priority over production and sales.

Council Member Curtis asked the clerks to reach out to the school and ask them to turn down the thermostats and to close.

Mayor Wilson asked the clerks to reach out to volunteers to help distribute the flyers door-to-door.

ADJOURNMENT:

❖ Motion

Council Member Capp motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member Mitzner, voted on, passed 4-0. Time 12:20pm.

Record of the Proceedings of the Governing Body

SPECIAL MEETING

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I, _____ La Cygne City Clerk, do hereby declare
(Jodi Wade) the above to be true and correct, to the best of
my knowledge, and do hereby subscribe my name
on this 16th of February 2021.