

SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 1975.

COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION, MAYOR MURRAY PRESIDING.

COUNCILMAN PRESENT:

AVICOLA BANKSON BARKER BOGLE KAEHLER HANSBRAUGH

COUNCILMAN ABSENT:

CHESNUTT DAVIES JAY LATURNER

THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE CLOSING OF THE GAS SERVICE COMPANY LOCATED AT 802 MAIN STREET, GALENA, KANSAS. PRESENT AT THE MEETING WAS AN OFFICIAL FROM THE GAS SERVICE COMPANY, MR. SHERMAN POTTER, PITTSBURG, KANSAS, WHO WAS TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT THE CITY OR RESIDENTS MAY WANT TO ASK OF HIM.

SINCE THERE WAS A LARGE NUMBER OF PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, MAYOR MURRAY ADJOURNED THE MEETING TO RE-OPEN AGAIN IN THE COURT ROOM.

MAYOR MURRAY OPENED THE MEETING WITH A FEW REMARKS. HE WANTED TO THANK THE GAS SERVICE EMPLOYEES AS THEY HAD BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE. HE STATED THAT WE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THE COMPANY WAS CLOSING THE OFFICE IN GALENA AND THE ONLY TIME WE DID RECEIVE ANY SUBSTANTIAL REASONS WAS BY A COPY OF THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO MR. FRED BRAUN REGARDING THE CLOSING OF THE OFFICE AND TERMINATING THEIR LEASE FOR THE BUILDING EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 1975. THE CITY HAS NEVER BEEN NOTIFIED OFFICIALLY THAT THE OFFICE WAS CLOSING. HOWEVER, UPON LEARNING OF THIS THROUGH THE LETTER TO MR. BRAUN THE CITY COUNCIL WENT ON RECORD OPPOSING THE MOVE AND SEVERAL PETITIONS WERE STARTED AROUND AND WERE SIGNED BY BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS. ALSO, LAST WEEK THREE PERSONS MET WITH THE GOVERNOR TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. WE TOOK THE SIGNED PETITIONS WITH US WITH 535 residents SIGNATURES AND 75 BUSINESSMENS SIGNATURES. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TONIGHT AT THE REQUEST OF MR. SHERMAN POTTER TO DISCUSS THE REASON FOR CONSIDERING THE CLOSING OF THE OFFICE AND ALSO WOULD SERVE THE FIRST NOTIFICATION OF CLOSING TO OFFICE. AT THE COUNCIL MEETING LAST WEEK, COUNCIL WENT ON RECORD AS OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE OFFICE. AT THIS TIME THE MEETING WAS TURNED OVER TO MR. SHERMAN POTTER.

MR. POTTER STATED THAT THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO FIND A COLLECTING AGENT HERE IN GALENA TO COLLECT THE CITIES ACCOUNTS. WE HAVE SEVERAL AGENTS COLLECTING FOR US AND WE FELT THAT WE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH WORK TO KEEP BETTY BUSY ALL MONTH. A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN THE HOME OFFICE AT KANSAS CITY AND IT IS DOING MOST OF THE WORK. THE BAXTER OFFICE HAD A GIRL RESIGN AND WE WERE GOING TO TRANSFER BETTY TO THE BAXTER OFFICE. THIS CLOSING IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE CONSUMERS IN TRYING TO KEEP GAS RATES DOWN AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. WE HAD HOPED TO FIND A COLLECTOR SO THE PEOPLE OF GALENA WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO TO BAXTER TO PAY THEIR BILLS. THE BAXTER OFFICE EMPLOYEES 2 CLERICAL WORKERS AND 1 SUPERVISOR. THE BAXTER OFFICE COLLECTS FROM THE CUSTOMERS OF BAXTER, TREECE, CRESTLINE AND OSWEGO AND RIVERTON. THE BAXTER CUSTOMERS NUMBER 2125 COMPARED WITH THE 1497 OF GALENA. THE BAXTER OFFICE THE THE CENTRAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE FOR THIS AREA. INDUSTRIAL ACCOUNTS ARE BILLED OUT OF KANSAS CITY, BUT THE CREDIT GOES TO THE COMMUNITY WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED, FOR EXAMPLE, EAGLE PICHER AND DOANES ARE CREDITED TO THE GALENA OFFICE, AND THE REVENUE OFF BOTH THESE INDUSTRIES ARE PAID TO THE GALENA FRANCHISE CONTRACT.

FOR FIRE REASONS WE NEED A SERVICE MAN TO SERVICE THE GALENA AREA. AS IT IS NOW, WE HAVE TO CALL BAXTER AND WAIT FOR ONE TO ARRIVE. THIS COULD CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE DURING THE COURSE OF A FIRE. (H. LITCH SPEAKING)

ONE PERSON BROUGHT UP ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE GAS COMPANY COULD AFFORD TO PAY THE CITY TO REPAIR THE STREETS THEY CUT UP, SO WHY COULDN'T THEY AFFORD TO KEEP THE GALENA OFFICE OPEN.

AT THIS TIME A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BANKSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BOGLE THAT THE CITY NO LONGER REPAIR STREET CUTS THAT THE GAS SERVICE COMPANY DOES. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCILMAN KAEHLER WANTED TO KNOW IF THE CITY WOULD LOSE THE FRANCHISE CONTRACT IF THE OFFICE WAS CLOSED. ATTORNEY, GEORGE HERRELSON, STATED THAT THE LANGUAGE STATES NOTHING THAT WOULD MEAN THE CITY WOULD LOSE ANY OF ITS FRANCHISE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE THE PROPER AND LEGAL THING FOR THE GOVERNING BODY TO DO WAS TO PURSUE THIS ACTION TO THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION AT TOPEKA. THIS ACTION REQUIRES THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AND ACTION BY THE COUNCIL TONIGHT. AT THIS TIME THE CITY ATTORNEY READ THE RESOLUTION HE HAD PREPARED (COPY ON FILE IN CITY CLERKS OFFICE). THE RESOLUTION STATES IN PART THAT IT WOULD PUT A HARDSHIP ON THE CITIZENS OF GALENA. MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN HANSBRAUGH AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BANKSON THAT THE RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED AND THAT THE CITY ATTORNEY BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO TAKE ANY AN ALL LEGAL ACTION TO FOLLOW THROUGH. MOTION CARRIED.

THE RESOLUTION REQUIRES THE SIGNATURES OF THE COUNCILMAN.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BOGLE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN AVICOLA THAT THE CITY BE NOTIFIED ANYTIME A STREET IS TO BE CUT AND EXPENSES TO BE PAID BY THE GAS SERVICE COMPANY. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE NAY VOTE BEING CAST BY COUNCILMAN KAEHLER.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN BANKSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN AVICOLA THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN.

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JACK N. MURRAY, MAYOR

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CITY CLERK