

RESOLUTION NO. 2-22-21-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HALSTEAD, KANSAS DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY;

WHEREAS, over a two-week period in February, low temperatures with sub-zero wind chills over several days accompanied by snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the state have caused stress to the energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, communities across the state including the City of Halstead saw an increase in the demand for natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cost to purchase natural gas exceeded 10 – 240 times the normal prices, at its highest being \$622.78 per MMBtu; and

WHEREAS, without emergency action, the increased prices required to purchase natural gas and/or electricity will result in significantly higher than normal utility bills for the citizens of the City of Halstead threatening the financial health, and the physical welfare of the City of Halstead's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Kansas declared a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation within the state on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The City of Halstead, Kansas is requesting the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Harvey County, Kansas to declare a State of Local Disaster Emergency within the county on February 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Halstead, in response to the situation desires to place the public on notice that it is exploring every avenue of relief and is declaring an extraordinary local state of financial emergency.

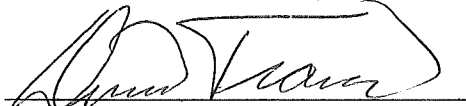
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HALSTEAD:

As of February 22, 2021, the City of Halstead is in an extraordinary financial emergency.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

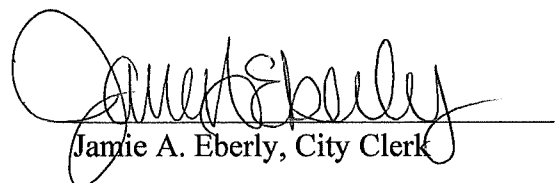
This resolution shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of February 2021 and **SIGNED** by the Mayor.



Dennis Travis, Mayor

Attested:



Jamie A. Eberly, City Clerk



Published in the Lyons News

_____, 2021

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LYONS, KANSAS
DECLARING A LOCAL
STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY**



CITY OF LYONS
PRIDE of the TRAIL

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, over a two-week period in February, low temperatures with sub-zero wind chills over several days accompanied by snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the state have caused stress to the energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, communities across the state, including the City of Lyons, saw an increase in the demand for natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cost to purchase natural gas exceeded 10 – 200 times the normal prices; and

WHEREAS, without emergency action, the increased prices required to purchase natural gas and/or electricity will result in significantly higher than normal utility bills for the citizens of the City of Lyons, threatening the financial health and the physical welfare of the City’s residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Kansas declared a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation within the state on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Rice County, Kansas declared a State of Local Disaster Emergency within the county on February 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Lyons, in response to the situation desires to place the public on notice that it is exploring every avenue of relief and is declaring an extraordinary local state of financial emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LYONS:

As of February 22, 2021 the City of Lyons, Kansas is in an extraordinary financial emergency. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

This resolution shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of February 2021 and **SIGNED** by the Mayor.

Dustin Schultz, Mayor

Attested:

Janelle Simpson, City Clerk



Resolution No 4-2021 And Proclamation

PROCLAMATION of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Rice County, Kansas

WHEREAS; On the 18th Day of February, 2021 the Board of County Commissioners of Rice County, Kansas finds that certain conditions have caused, or eminently threaten to cause wide-spread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion with Winter Weather in Rice County, Kansas.

WHEREAS; Such conditions have created obstructions which endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the border of Rice County Kansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Rice County, Kansas:

That the Board of County Commissioners of Rice County, Kansas, under and by the virtue of the authority vested in it by K.S.A. 176 Supp. 48-932, do hereby PROCALIM that a State of Local Disaster Emergency exists.

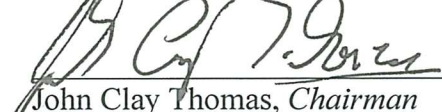
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that the area within the border of Rice County, Kansas covered by this proclamation/resolution is the entire area of Rice County, Kansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Board has all rights and/or powers to perform such functions as are vested in said Board and through the provisions of the Kansas Emergency Preparedness Act of 1975.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that this resolution shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless termination earlier or renewed by consent of the governing body.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF RICE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THIS 18th DAY OF February 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RICE COUNTY KANSAS



John Clay Thomas, *Chairman*

Board of County Commissioners



Aurelia Garcia, *County Clerk*

Resolution No. R-3-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SHARON, KANSAS DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY;

WHEREAS, over a two-week period in February, low temperatures with sub-zero wind chills over several days accompanied by snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the state have caused stress to the energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, communities across the state including the City saw an increase in the demand for natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cost to purchase natural gas exceeded 10 – 200 times the normal prices; and

WHEREAS, without emergency action, the increased prices required to purchase natural gas and/or electricity will result in significantly higher than normal utility bills for the citizens of the City threatening the financial health, and the physical welfare of the City’s residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Kansas declared a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation within the state on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Sharon, in response to the situation desires to place the public on notice that it is exploring every avenue of relief and is declaring an extraordinary local state of financial emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SHARON:

As of February 22, 2021, the City of Sharon is in an extraordinary financial emergency.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

This resolution shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

ADOPTED this 22 day of February 2021 and **SIGNED** by the Mayor.

Lance Vandever

Mayor

Attested:

Jennifer Rausch

City Clerk

Resolution No. 21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SYLVIA, KANSAS DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY;

WHEREAS, over a two-week period in February, low temperatures with sub-zero wind chills over several days accompanied by snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the state have caused stress to the energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, communities across the state including the City saw an increase in the demand for natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cost to purchase natural gas exceeded 10 – 300 times the normal prices; and

WHEREAS, without emergency action, the increased prices required to purchase natural gas and/or electricity will result in significantly higher than normal utility bills for the citizens of the City threatening the financial health, and the physical welfare of the City's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Kansas declared a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation within the state on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Sylvania, in response to the situation desires to place the public on notice that it is exploring every avenue of relief and is declaring an extraordinary local state of financial emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SYLVIA:

As of February 25, 2021, the City of Sylvania is in an extraordinary financial emergency.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

This resolution shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

ADOPTED this 25 day of February 2021 and **SIGNED** by the Mayor.

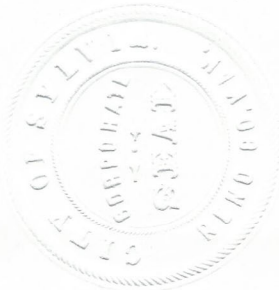


Mayor

Attested:



City Clerk



Title: City declares state of financial emergency

Author:

Size : 69 Inches Sq Humboldt,KS Circulation: 561

Keywords: League of Municipalities



City declares state of financial emergency

By Nick Reynolds

The Humboldt City Council met Monday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m., for a special meeting.

The special meeting was called to consider passing a resolution declaring a state of financial disaster for the City of Humboldt.

The resolution is in response to the recent extreme winter weather that impacted most of the central United States.

As temperatures fell to dangerously low levels across the region, the demand for electricity and natural gas rose dramatically, leading to shortages, and vastly inflated prices for natural gas.

In response, people across the region were asked to do their part to help in conservation, by reducing their usage of gas and energy.

The strain of the increase was compounded by the cold causing wellheads to freeze, and other issues within the infrastructure.

These issues fueled a massive spike in the price for natural gas, topping out upwards of \$600 a unit for one day.

City administrator Cole Herder asked the council to meet to review the situation, and to consider declaring a state of financial emergency for the city.

Herder reported that he had discussions with the **League of Kansas Municipalities**, who encouraged member cities to consider similar resolutions as soon as possible.

Herder also briefly reviewed

the process of the city purchasing natural gas, which is done through the Kansas Municipal Gas Association (KMGA).

KMGA contracts approximately one-third of the anticipated amount the city will require that year several months in advance, one-third one month in advance, and the final third on a daily index.

An otherwise mild winter, and low gas prices, caused an extremely high demand in the sudden cold snap, one of the worst in 40 years, exasperated by well freeze-offs, and demand for electrical generation.

The normal cost for natural gas is around \$3/MMBtu, that KMGA deals in. These are very similar to the units used by the city.

Herder stated that they were warned Tuesday, Feb. 9, that anticipated costs could be ten times the normal rate, and were asked to spread a conservation message to customers.

Herder personally contacted Humboldt's top users of natural gas, like B&W, and asked them to do their part to conserve.

An emergency meeting was called Sunday, Feb. 14, by KMGA, where it was learned that the daily price index for the weekend, was \$329/MMBtu, covering Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Herder worked with Allen County Emergency Management to put out a CodeRED at this

point, stressing conservation.

The price for natural gas was reportedly at \$622.785/MMBtu for Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The price dropped dramatically the following days, down to \$44.53 for Thursday, \$7.945 Friday, and \$4.385 for the weekend.

Herder noted that city workers read meters Wednesday, Feb. 17, and Thursday, Feb. 18, on schedule with when they would normally read meters.

In January, the city billed customers for 13,045 units; and for February, the billing will be for 16,833 units.

Herder was surprised to see a much smaller increase than he had feared, and was grateful to the people of Humboldt for doing their part to conserve.

Herder noted that KMGA has not yet released the 'mixed' rate that will be charged for natural gas, but reported that it could be in excess of \$70/MMBtu, more than 20 times the normal rate.

He also reported that KMGA had to make a \$1 million advance payment over the weekend to secure gas, and that they were putting out a 'collateral call' to member cities.

Humboldt's portion would be for \$49,022, or approximately \$2.91/unit.

Herder stressed further that the numbers he was working off of were rough estimates at best, and that they would not know concrete numbers on gas prices until



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at least March.

Breaking down the situation further, and why the city should declare a state of financial emergency, Herder noted that if they were charged at \$70/unit, the city's cost for February would be approximately \$1.2 million.

The city's typical monthly bill for gas hovers around \$35,000. The budget for 2021 only has \$375,000 for the purchase of gas.

The city is also forbidden by statute to use general fund dollars to pay for utilities; though Herder noted, that the entire city's budget, including reserve funds, was only around \$2 million.

Herder has been in contact with numerous entities over the past week, seeking information.

Herder's opinion is that the city should work with KMGGA to hold off on billing member cities until state or federal aid could possibly be negotiated, and the possibility of investigation into alleged market manipulation.

Herder has also been in contact with state and federal legislators, pushing for disaster relief.

Council member Sarah Hart asked how much the average person in Humboldt would see their bill go up, and when they could expect to see an increase.

Herder responded that he did not know, that there were no good numbers to work off of yet.

Herder stated that the city will bill for February as normal, at the same rate as January, with the addition of \$2.91 per unit, to cover the collateral cost from KMGGA.

Discussion then turned to the resolution. The resolution would

set Humboldt at the table in the event that disaster relief comes up.

The council motioned to adopt the resolution declaring a state of financial emergency for the City of Humboldt.

With no further business, the Humboldt City Council motioned to adjourn until their next regular meeting Monday, March 8, at 7 p.m.



Title: City approves financial emergency declaration

Author: BY TAINA COPELAND taina@indydailyreporter.com

Size : 72 Inches Sq Independence,KS Circulation: 5989

Keywords: League of Municipalities



City approves financial emergency declaration

BY TAINA COPELAND
taina@indydailyreporter.com

Following approval of the meeting agenda, Consent Agenda and a mention of open city board appointments, the Independence City Commission held three public hearings to consider condemnation of structures Thursday evening followed by a resolution adoption to declare a financial emergency due to the sub-zero wind chills experienced last week.

Commissioners adopted a resolution, which declared a financial emergency in relation to anticipated high utility bills due to the

extreme winter weather the area recently suffered. City Manager Kelly Passauer said administrative staff met with Rick Whitson, Montgomery County Emergency Management director, where they watched a live video from the **League of Kansas Municipalities** regarding the potential for higher rates than normal for natural gas and/or electricity. The league recommended adopting a resolution to declare a financial emergency. It was noted Montgomery County passed a declaration Feb. 22. Passauer advised the attorney from

♦ See **EMERGENCY**, page A2

• **Emergency declaration**

Con't from **Page A1**

the league is who actually drew up the declaration.

"It seems like a fairly rational preliminary step in preparation for what might be coming," Commissioner Dean Hayse stated. "I know there have been significant cost impacts for communities and it's going to be



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a while before we actually understand how impactful this cold weather has been to us.”

Commissioner Leonhard Caffisch asked if the city would administer funds if they are released and Passauer replied, “So far, all the finding we have gotten through things like this is kind of filtered through the county, I don’t know if that’s how it would [work] on this.” Commissioners approved the resolution.

Tyler Henry, building inspector for the City of Independence, told commissioners the owner of the structure at 801 E. Birch has given him a timeline of repair and requested the hearing be adjourned for 120 days. Commissioners approved the request and set June 24 at 5:30 p.m. as the next public hearing date for 801 E. Birch. Commissioners approved the condemnation request for the structure at 1020 W. Myrtle St. as Henry said the owner, Paul Borovetz, has not responded to any correspondence. The public hearing for the structure at 2009 1/2 N. Penn Ave. was adjourned until June 24 at 5:30 p.m. as the owner is being cooperative with repair and timelines.

A demolition bid for 201 E. Main St. was awarded to G&G Dozier out of Caney at a maximum of \$43,200 following discussion and a request from James Beachner of JRB Industries in Parsons to reconsider the bid. Assistant City Manager David Cowan told commissioners the building has been inspected and the city was told it could come down at any time. Cowan said as the building is in the historical district, whoever the commission awarded the bid to, it is subject to state historical society review and approval prior to demolition and may require “further action” from the commission.

Beachner asked the city to not award the bid to G&G Dozier because his bid was \$41,000 and asked if G&G’s bid included removal of floor slabs. He spoke of additional fees from G&G for removing wythes, which would increase their bid. Beachner noted he offered discounts bringing his bid down from \$49,500 to \$41,000. He requested further review of the bids or even a rebid if things are clarified more. Commissioners thanked Beachner and awarded the bid to G&G Dozier following discussion.

The commission approved the location of the statue of Remington, the town’s beloved fire dog, at the northwest corner of Penn Ave. and Laurel St., adopted a charter ordinance to exempt the city from certain statutory provisions in relation to Municipal Court, as well as Ordinance 4351, which provides for substitute provisions for Municipal Court procedures.

The Independence Public Library Board of Trustees annual 2020 report was accepted, as was the Jan. 20 meeting minutes of the library trustees. It was men-



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tioned applications are being accepted until March 5 for positions on the Tree Board and the Independence Historic Preservation and Resource Commission; visit the city's website, independenceks.gov, to fill out an application online.

Prior to the commission setting March 17 at 9 a.m. as the date for a special meeting to discuss city facilities, resident Andy Taylor spoke in regard to rehashing the phases of renovation for 1916 City Hall. "This is an issue that baffles me," began Taylor. "Several months ago this body voted 2-1 to proceed with the Phase 2 City Hall workspace plan." Taylor said he felt the decision took much too long to render and said the decision was partly based on the previous recommendation of the City Hall Taskforce. Taylor called out Hayse as the one commissioner who "seemed to believe they have a better idea." His concern was the city already cast a public decision and, although it may not be a perfect plan, it is a roadmap for future use of 1916 City Hall.

"Why are we now taking time to revisit this process and look at ideas that should have been discussed during the taskforce process?" asked Taylor. "Why is this body unable to move forward with this original plan, the Phase 2 plan?" He added they are not showing good leadership and said it almost bordered on "silliness." Taylor mentioned his patience, and that of other citizens, is wearing thin. "Commissioner Hayse, let me be honest with you. I am at a loss to understand your argument, sir," Taylor commented. "One month it's, 'let's stay in Building D' and the next month it's, 'let's fit our offices in Memorial Hall.' I don't get it."

Cafilisch assured Taylor and citizens that the city is still moving forward with the current processes and are awaiting a timeline from Treanor, LLC. The special meeting will hold discussion on alternatives and ROP to market Building D.

A 30-minute executive session was held with client/attorney privilege and no action was taken up return and the meeting adjourned.

Title: Gas prices imperiling local governments

Author: BY BLAKE SPURNEY HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

Size : 63 Inches Sq Newton,KS Circulation: 1300

Keywords: League of Municipalities



Gas prices imperiling local governments

BY BLAKE SPURNEY

HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON – Prolonged freezing temperatures created not only a natural disaster, but also an energy crisis that resulted in natural gas prices increasing up to 200 percent.

Walton Mayor Barry Wentz told the Board of Harvey County Commissioners on Tuesday that he expected the city's next gas bill to be in excess of what was budgeted for the year. Halstead, Hesston and Burrton also were hit particularly hard.

"The scope of this financial crisis is bad and there are communities in Kansas that are going to become insolvent because of this," Wentz said.

Hesston Mayor David Kauffman noted in a letter to commissioners that the wholesale unit price of natural gas went from \$4 to more than \$40. He also wrote that

the unprecedented gas prices were coupled with well heads freezing, which in turn caused a threat to human safety.

Halstead City Manager Ethan Reimer said his city's gas bills would exceed its operating budget.

Commission Chairman George "Chip"

Westfall signed a disaster declaration related to last week's winter storm.

Emergency Management Director Gary Denny said this disaster declaration was atypical from others in that it was more comprehensive. He said increases in operating expenses weren't eligible for disaster relief, but the **League of Kansas Municipalities** was asking for counties to help bring to public attention the crisis caused by the spike in natural gas prices. He said there wasn't a lot of power in the declaration, but it provides an opportunity

to show the Kansas Legislature the dire impacts of the winter storm.

Commissioner Randy Hague said the county also needed to send a letter to its state representatives expressing the importance of the crisis.

"It can be an economic disaster to the community," he said.

The severe weather also caused a delay in the shipment of COVID-19 vaccinations. Health Department Director Lynnette Redington said a shipment of vaccinations due to arrive last week was delayed to this week. She said the health department would be getting two

shipments from the state, this week. So far, the health department has administered 2,100 initial doses of the vaccine and 200 people have received both doses. She said the health department is close to wrapping up vaccinations for school employees, law

enforcement and health care workers and would begin vaccinating those who live in congregant environments, such as shelters.

Redington said more than 3,900 names were on the health department's waiting list, 17 percent of which were out of the county. She said those from outside the county were moved to the bottom of the list. She encouraged people not to sign up more than once for the waiting list because it was costing staff a lot of time to remove duplicates of names.

Redington said the percentage of positive cases dropped to 4.61 percent, last week, down from over 10 percent in November. Deaths from COVID-19 now stand at 57, after the addition of five more last week.

In other business, commissioners:

* Approved a request from Department on



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Aging and Transportation Director Robert Shelton to enter a funding agreement with Sedgwick County for the hiring of a mobility manager. The position will help coordinate transportation among nine agencies. Shelton said passengers would be able to receive transportation across the region. For example, they would switch rides at the rest area on the southern end of the county for rides to and from Wichita. The position, which will go into effect in 2023, will cost the county \$50 a year.

* Approved a request from Road and Bridge Superintendent Jim Meier to advertise for bids to replace a culvert bridge on Southeast 84th Street, just east of Hillside Road. Part of the old wooden culvert gave way in 2018, forcing the closure of the north portion of it. Meier said he expected construction to take two

to three months once it begins.

* Approved Meier's request to seek bids for a new steel drum roller, which is used by patching crews to pack asphalt and soil.

* Approved entering a federal exchange program for road construction projects. Meier said

nearly \$184,000 in funds was available, of which 90 percent is recouped by entering the program.

* Received the annual communications report from Communications Director Don Gruver. While call volume was down over 11 percent in 2020, domestic disturbances increased nearly 40 percent during the pandemic. Calls involving mental issues increased nearly 120 percent.

* Approved paying weekly bills totaling \$54,691.85.

* Went into two executive sessions to discuss non-elected personnel.