



City Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Mayor: John McTaggart
Councilmember Chuck Adams Carolyn Caiharr Garrett Mellott
Margaret Shriver Chuck Stites

1. Approve minutes of the August 10, 2020

- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2020
- **Second:** Councilmember Caiharr seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0 with Councilmember Adams abstaining

2. Statement of Bills paid \$114,389.86

- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to approve the statement of bills paid in the amount of \$114,389.86
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0

3. Requests or Comments from the public

- Gary Carpenter, 11030 Riverview, addressed the City Council expressing his frustration with the Riverview Crossroads project. He also complained about an adjacent project in Bonner Springs that would affect the flow and makeup of traffic in the north section of town.
- Craig Brandt, 449 S. 98th St., addressed the City Council asking for updates on 98th St. repairs. He also thanked the Councilmember Stites and City Manager Michael Webb for working with him on an issue involving railroad ties.

4. Consider authorizing the issuance of General Obligation (GO) Bonds for certain public improvements (Riverview Crossroads) including adoption of Resolutions 2020-09 and 2020-10

- City Manager Michael Webb noted that the City's financial advisor Dustin Avey is in attendance as well in case there are questions for him.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the two actions before the Council, noting that the project has already been authorized but that the issuance of bonds requires a separate authorization.
- Mr. Webb noted the parr amount of the bonds being slightly over \$2 million and that the sale will be on September 28, 2020, the results of which would be shared with the Council at their meeting on that date.
- Dustin Avey took the podium and summarized the bond rating process as well as the timing for this effort.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked for clarification on what has already been allocated for the project/
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-09
- **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-10
- **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion.

- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
5. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with McConnell & Associates for the 2020 Shelton & 105th Terrace Street Maintenance Project**
 - Public Works Director Dustin Zenger reviewed the bid process for this project as well as the results, which are detailed in the agenda memo.
 - McConnell & Associates were the low bidder for the project. Mr. Zenger noted bids were higher than the engineer's estimate, likely due to the small size of the project making it more expensive to scale.
 - There was some discussion on McConnell & Associates and their work in the area. They have not done projects with the City before. Mr. Zenger noted that it is beneficial to work with a variety of firms for projects in order to keep costs down.
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for with McConnell & Associates for this project
 - **Second:** Councilmember Adams seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes 5-0

 6. **Consider Ordinance No. 1030 adopting the 2020 Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas cities with edits and amendments – OLD BUSINESS**
 - City Manager Michael Webb reviewed the previous discussion on this item as it related to firearm use in the City.
 - He reviewed the changes staff made since the last meeting, specifically the allowance of "target practice" in the appropriate areas of the City.
 - There was some discussion about adopting the ordinance as presented then coming back to the Council with a more detailed permitting process for specific circumstances (specifically for training purposes for groups like Boy Scouts, 4H, etc.).
 - Councilmember Caiharr suggested the group hold off on final adoption until all of the edits are finalized. She also asked that when the UPOC was adopted that it be shared online.
 - There was also discussion about the shoot zone map, including the possibility of eliminating it entirely.
 - Councilmember Caiharr and Stites also noted that they have received a lot of feedback from the public who are keeping up with this item by viewing Council meetings online.
 - There was no action to take on this item as the Council had reached consensus about the further edits needed.

 7. **Conduct a public hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Budget**
 8. **Consider certifying the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Budget**
 - City Manager Michael Webb presented the staff's recommended budget. He began by suggesting the City Council revisit the stated goals that are taken into account when discussing budget decisions.
 - Mr. Webb discussed the mill levy in Edwardsville. He noted that it is the only entity in Wyandotte County that has been offering consistent relief in property taxes. This makes the City shoulder the burden of growing valuations, despite only having purview over about a quarter of a resident's total property tax bill.
 - Mr. Webb highlighted the fact that increases in expenditures are largely related to increasing costs related to pay and benefits rather than capital expenses or equipment.
 - Individual Department Budgets were highlighted.

- Mr. Webb reviewed contingency items related to mid-year pay adjustments, including a review of executive pay.
- Councilmember Stites noted that the City is in an enviable position that we are discussing raises for employees compared to other communities and organizations.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked about the timeline for certain street improvements as it relates to General Fund expenditures. Mr. Webb reviewed the different timelines and funding streams associated with these projects.
- Councilmember Stites restated his commitment to seeking out projects to correct issues on 98th St.
- Public Works Director Zenger gave a broad overview of some of the strategies he has in mind for road projects on 98th St.
- Mr. Webb then reviewed the budgets for the other funds, including the debt service fund which has all anticipated debt payments accounted for.
- Related to the Solid Waste fund, Mr. Webb noted that bids for a new contract that would begin in 2021 are being solicited now. The Council should begin reviewing those responses at their September 28 meeting.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to open the public hearing related to the budget
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
- Gary Carpenter, 11030 Riverview, took the podium and thanked the Council for not defunding the police department
- **Motion:** Seeing no other comments, Councilmember Adams made the motion to close the public hearing.
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
- At this time, the Mayor moved on to item #8 on the agenda, which is to certify the budget.
- Councilmember Caiharr noted the \$125,000 deficit. She asked about the possibility of removing certain park expenditures. Mr. Webb noted that those expenditures are out of the Special Sales Tax Fund, not the General Fund. Mr. Webb noted that the 1.5% increase in expenditures is almost totally related to pay and benefits and that there are no major capital expenses in the General Fund.
- Councilmember Stites noted that he would still prefer a 2-mill reduction overall. Mr. Webb noted the nuances as it relates to the state pages and the preliminary evaluation.
- Mayor McTaggart voiced his opposition to further reduction, noting that the benefit per household is relatively minor, but its effect on the overall General Fund is more pronounced.
- Councilmember Shriver asked what a half mill approximates to, which Mr. Webb noted it's about \$36,000 per half mill.
- Councilmember Stites stressed his position that the mill levy is a major area that potential developers look at when comparing communities to locate into. Mayor McTaggart refuted that notion, citing a recent EDC presentation he took part in.
- Mr. Webb also noted that a 2 mill reduction would represent an adopted budget that violates the City's financial policy, which could effect the City's bond rating.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to certify the budget that would represent a final mill levy reduction of 2 mills.
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 4-2, with Councilmember Mellott and Mayor McTaggart dissenting.

9. Advisory Reports

City Manager Michael Webb updated the group on STP projects as well as items related to the Towne Center effort.

Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel noted that the City is reviewing ways to apply for the second round of CARES funding, specifically the areas around connectivity.

Police Chief Mathies thanked the Council for their efforts to clarify the shoot zone language in the current ordinances.

Public Works Director Dustin Zenger made comments encouraging residents to be proactive in cleaning the ditches and culverts in front of their home.

10. City Council and Mayor Comments

Adams: Councilmember Adams clarified an earlier comment noting that the City did not hire a business developer consultant, but rather it was part of the overall Towne Center project.

Caiharr: Councilmember Caiharr had additional questions about the second round of CARES Act funding application, stressing the need to pursue areas to ensure reliable internet connectivity. She also asked for an update on community service sentencing in the municipal court. Mr. Webb confirmed it is finalized and that it is now a sentencing option for the Judge.

Shriver: Councilmember Shriver noted that she'd like additional review of the taxing authority of the KC Library and Community College in Edwardsville. She also asked about a salary survey for the City, which Mr. Webb noted that there are a lot of resources to compare positions within the state. There was also discussion about a drone program. She closed by stating it was nice knowing more people are engaged with the Council online. She also thanked Mr. Brandt for his public comments.

Stites: Councilmember Stites thanked staff for their work on their budget. He was also grateful that the 98th St. discussion continued as part of that item. He also made comments about the Fire Department blowing out clogged ditches in the past. Councilmember Stites also asked that Saturdays be added to the community service schedule.

McTaggart: Mayor McTaggart thanked staff for their work on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Zachary Daniel
City Clerk