



City Council Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021
6:00 p.m.

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

This meeting was held using a hybrid of in-person and remote participants with Councilmembers Caiharr and Stites participating remotely.

1. **Consider approval of consent agenda items**
 - a) **Approve minutes of March 22, 2021**
 - b) **Statement of bills paid in the amount of \$380,877.94**
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to approve the consent agenda items
 - **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes 5-0
2. **Requests or Comments from the public**
 - No public comments were heard or submitted.
3. **Consider motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) for consultation with legal counsel for matters which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship for discussions regarding a sewer development agreement as well as a development agreement related to a project in the City's industrial park**
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to recess into executive session with the regular meeting to resume no earlier than 6:20 p.m.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
 - *Executive Session, group returns at 6:20 p.m.*
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to return to the regular meeting
 - **Second:** Councilmember Adams seconded the motions
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to return to executive session with the regular meeting to resume no earlier than 6:40 p.m.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Adams seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
 - *Executive Session, group returns at 7:40*
 - No action was taken as a result of the executive sessions
4. **Hear City Manager Presentation related to the American Recovery Act of 2021 and its potential impacts for the City of Edwardsville**
 - City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item, giving a brief background on the legislation signed into law by President Biden.
 - Mr. Webb reviewed the uses of the funds, as detailed in a graph presented by Baker Tilly. In short, \$130.2 billion has been allocated for local governments. Communities like Edwardsville will have their distributions sent first to the state, then to the communities.

- Mr. Webb reviewed eligible uses, which included public health responses, infrastructure (not including streets and roads), and revenue loss recovery.
- Funds should be with the state by May 11, with the City to receive within 30 days.
- The preliminary estimate for the City of Edwardsville to receive is between \$830,482 and \$998,278, based on population-based distribution model.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked why Kansas City was receiving more funds than Wyandotte County if it was based on population. City Manager Michael Webb stated he could not answer that question and that the estimates are still considered preliminary.
- Councilmember Stites if there was going to be a group approving funding levels, which Mr. Webb noted that there would not be. The distribution would be developed based on a common model, then sent straight to communities (after passing through the State).
- Councilmember Adams noted that there should be about 2% of the County's \$32 million should be allocated for Edwardsville.
- The timeline to spend the money is longer than original CARES Act distributions, giving the City about two years to expend funds on projects.
- As it relates to potential projects, Mr. Webb noted sewer work around Betts Creek, economic development, connectivity and broadband, among other options.
- There was no official action taken as a result of this presentation, but projects are expected to be developed and presented over the coming months.

5. Hear City Manager presentation regarding adjustments to the City's pay plan

- City Manager Michael Webb presented this item, which followed up on an earlier presentation given to the Council earlier in the year. He emphasized that this discussion was more about the broader pay plan than adjustments for individual positions. The decision to fund the pay plan is made every year during the budget process and any change to the plan would not obligate the Council to future decisions.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the current pay plan structure and the changes made since 2011.
- Mr. Webb then reviewed the pay plan for the communities of Basehor and Bonner Springs, both of which have a larger range between the bottom of the scale and the top.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the continuing use of the MARC Compensation Survey, which is a valuable resource in reviewing the competitiveness of the City's pay.
- The most significant issue facing the City now in terms of pay is compression. This means that many employees are in the top range of their position, meaning they will soon (or have already) hit the top level that they can be paid.
- Councilmember Shriver asked if they are topped out, do they still get a cost-of-living adjustment. Mr. Webb noted that the Council has only approved COLA adjustments twice in the last number of years, but that is the only way for a topped-out employee to have pay adjusted.
- Mr. Webb noted that the City is competitive at the lower end of the pay plans in peer cities, but less so at the higher end. Often, the City will need to bring in employees at the mid-range in order to be competitive with neighboring communities, which compounds the compression issues.
- Recommendations include the addition of steps to the City's plan to give long-term employees a way to grow in the City, including fewer grades with larger gaps between grades, further comparison to other communities, and policy guidelines for annual adjustments.

- Councilmember Shriver noted the model where salaried employees would be categorized differently, using a min/mid/max model rather than steps and grades.
- There was some discussion of the level of benefits that the City offers. Mr. Webb noted that the two cities that were used as comparisons this evening either used the same benefit provider (MPR) or would be soon.
- Councilmember Adams remarked that he did feel qualified to give recommendations, given the specialized needs and market for public employees, outside of the peer comparisons that staff is undertaking.
- Direction was given to come back to the Council with models based on the discussion at this meeting.

6. Consider Ordinance No. 1041 granting a telecommunications franchise to Unite Private Networks LLC

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item, providing the background of the UPN project.
- UPN is not a direct service provider, but more of an infrastructure provider.
- This work would be in and around 98th St. and 9th Street, before attaching to the Elementary school and Bonner Springs further west on K-32.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Shriver made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1041
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- City Attorney Lisa Dehon gave additional context to standard telecom franchise agreements at the request of Councilmember Mellott.
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0

7. City Manager Report

- City Manager referred to the written report included in the packet.

8. Council and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Caiharr asked about the recent accident at the mobile home park asking if there was a way to limit access to the area. Mr. Webb noted that there is no easily accessible way to get to this area and that it is property owned by the railroad.

Councilmember Shriver thanked the Fire Department for the vegetation management efforts. She also asked about the EPD hiring efforts, which Chief Mathies provided some background.

Councilmember Adams asked about the timeline for the Riverview Crossroads project. Mr. Webb provided an update on the utility relocation and boring work.

Councilmember Mellott asked about the silent crossing project, which Mr. Webb spoke to, and also requested that additional work be done to correct drainage in and around the back. He also noted it was nice to see people participating in the spring soccer program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Zachary Daniel
City Clerk