



# City Council Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

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

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*This meeting was held remotely, with some staff inside the City Council Chambers, using the GoToMeeting software*

1. **Consider approval of consent agenda items**
  - a) **Approve minutes of January 25, 2021**
  - b) **Statement of bills paid in the amount of \$358,024.03**
    - **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott 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 offered at this time.
  
3. **Consider Addendum No. 1 to the 2020 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement**
  - Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reviewed the addendum, noting that it provided an update of the house count used for billing (which can happen once per year), and specifies the placement of certain containers within City locations.
  - Councilmember Adams asked if any of the additional addresses included along 94<sup>th</sup> St. were located in Kansas City, KS, which Mr. Daniel noted they were not.
  - **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to approve Addendum No. 1 to the 2020 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement
  - **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
  - **Vote:** Passes 5-0
  
4. **Review closure of Steele Road between K-32 and Crestwood Dr.**
  - City Manager Michael Webb reviewed the concerns brought up by Bruce Hollenbeck, who lived at the corner of Steel Rd. and Crestwood Dr. Mr. Hollenbeck claims it is impossible for him to back out his truck and trailer like he is used to with the road closed.
  - Mr. Webb reviewed some of the options available in order to begin to address Mr. Hollenbeck's concerns. He also stressed that the road has other challenges, specifically its low PACR rating and width issues.
  - Councilmember Stites asked about the potential liability exposure should the City open the road back up. City Attorney Lisa Dehon provided a response, essentially stating that since the City is aware of the issues surrounding the road, then reopening it could have liability issues.
  - Public Works Director Dusty Zenger summarized his conversations with Mr. Hollenbeck, noting that he will not likely be satisfied with any alternative that is not simply reopening the road back up.

- Councilmember Mellott asked about the abandonment process, and Mr. Webb reviewed that process. Councilmember Mellott also asked if there was a business associated with the address. Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel noted that there is no business license associated with the address.
- Councilmember Adams expressed his concerns over potential abandonment.
- Mr. Webb again noted that the central issue is whether or not to dedicate resources to improving a small section of roadway for the convenience of only a few residents. Additionally, the City does not have a permanent plan in place for the rights-of-way in the area.
- Councilmember Caiharr stated she was not in favor of reopening the road, but was interested in exploring alternatives that would be the least costly for the City.
- Mayor McTaggart stated that he was not in favor of dedicating additional resources to the road. However, he did note that moving the barricades back further may be the best available option at this point.
- No formal action was taken on this item at this time.

**5. Review existing ordinance language related to sidewalk maintenance**

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed existing sidewalk maintenance ordinance language, specifically the need to keep sidewalks clear of snow. He also spoke on the differentiation between sidewalks and trails.
- Councilmember Caiharr restated her opposition to the existing language, as it could allow for residents being cited for not maintaining driveways. Her suggestion would be to remove that requirement for sidewalks installed through a City project. A new, private subdivision would then have different requirements for maintenance.
- Mayor McTaggart agreed that homeowners should not be burdened with sidewalk maintenance through City ordinance.
- Councilmember Mellott had questions about how changes would affect businesses vs. homeowners. Mr. Webb further explored some of these concerns as well as potential alternatives for maintenance. Mr. Webb also noted that there may be long-term difficulties in assigning different responsibilities to different areas of town.
- Councilmember Caiharr restated that she was primarily concerned with removing the responsibility from the homeowner.
- Mayor McTaggart gave the recommendation to staff to either amend the ordinance language to address these concerns or delete it entirely.
- No formal action was taken at this time.

**6. Consider authorizing 1.4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and other adjustments to the pay plan**

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item, noting that this cost was included in the adopted 2021 Budget. He also noted that originally it was a 1.5% adjustment, but that this recommendation was 1.4%.
- Mr. Webb reviewed previous pay adjustments over the past 5-6 years.
- The other item up for consideration is a change to the pay structure based on recent studies done for the Bonner Springs and Basehor communities. Mr. Webb noted there are no budgetary implications related to this item, as it would only revise the plan rather than enacting any changes outside of the COLA adjustment.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked for clarification about the impact on future budget years. Mr. Webb noted it would not obligate any changes to pay in future years, but would provide a framework for adjustments should the Council want to move forward with them.
- Councilmember Adams asked if this would assist with recruitment and/or retention. Mr. Webb noted that would keep the City competitive in those areas, specifically in

the cases where employees are “topped out” under the current pay plan. This would provide them with a path to continue to progress within the organization.

- Councilmember Caiharr noted that it would be beneficial for her to see the plan in a different format to see how it would effect future budgets.
- Councilmember Adams asked if the 1.4% COLA would be over budget per the original adopted budget. Mr. Webb confirmed it would not exceed the budget.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to authorize the 1.4% COLA Adjustment effective Feb. 1.
- **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
- After the vote, Councilmember Adams advised having a future Council discussion item or workshop on the pay plan adjustments.

**7. Hear staff presentations regarding the following subjects:**

**a) Municipal Court Community Service Program**

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel presented this item and walked the Council through the background of the program. He provided additional details on the makeup of Municipal Court.
- Mr. Daniel reviewed the usage of the program through the nine court dockets. He also noted the additional opportunities the City will take to raise awareness of the program in order to drive up participation.
- Mr. Daniel noted that a more consistent, cost effect way to provide for ROW maintenance may be a contracted solution budgeted out of the Solid Waste Fund.
- Councilmember Stites stated he felt that not enough research has been done to see how other communities make similar programs work. He also noted he felt the Judge should have the ability to sentence community service.
- Mr. Webb provided some context on the sentencing issue. Councilmember Stites also stated he'd like to see Wyandotte County District Court defendants assigned to work areas in Edwardsville.
- Mr. Daniel again stated that a community service program to maintain the rights-of-way would likely be better served as complimentary to a more structured program that would have more consistency. He noted that included the sentencing in City ordinance would not guarantee the Judge would actually use it.
- Councilmember Adams asked if it were possible to have someone from the District Court address some of their questions.
- Police Chief Mathies commented that there are other programs which help assign community service work which could be another avenue.
- Councilmember Caiharr noted that she believed the Public Spaces Groundskeeper position out of the Parks Department was going to act as a supplement for this program and that she'd prefer to explore that option vs. a contracted solution.
- Councilmember Adams requested more research be done and presented to Council regarding Edwardsville's possible inclusion in the Metropolitan Community Service Program.
- Mayor McTaggart noting he was hesitant to changing ordinances tailored to Council's sentencing preferences.

**b) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Review for the Fiscal Year 2020**

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reviewed the final quarter of the 2020 budget.
- He noted that overall, revenues were only down about \$30,000 from the original budget (adopted in August of 2019), which is a stronger finish than the mid-year estimates (which were depressed due to COVID concerns).

- General Fund expenditures were about 1% over budget. Staff is reviewing whether a transfer into a payroll clearing account would need to be reflected in the budget via the audit. If not, it would bring expenditures right in line with budgeted figures.
- Mr. Daniel also reviewed the other funds, noting that there are no major concerns with the performance in these areas.
- There were no questions from Council regarding this report and no formal actions requested related to these presentations.

#### **8. City Manager Report**

- City Manager Michael Webb noted the format change for this item, noting that there is now a written departmental report rather than oral reports from department heads.
- Mr. Webb highlighted street projects that were scheduled to begin soon.

#### **9. Council and Mayor Comments**

Councilmember Shriver appreciated the work being done in the community service program. She had additional comments related to the section of Steele Rd. She closed by thanking Public Works crews for their efforts treating the snow.

Councilmember Caiharr asked about the payment deductions related to the final Waste Management payment. Staff confirmed \$8,500 was deducted from the final payment and a \$5.00 credit will be extended to residents for the next billing cycle. She noted her support for City employees but also the need to balance compensation with available resources. She also noted she was pleased with the announcement of recent street maintenance projects.

Councilmember Mellott was asked about the EFD's Hallmark Channel appearance. Staff provided an update about that, noting they would update the group on when that segment is aired. He also asked about the status of the Special Sales Tax, which will be expiring at the end of 2024.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Zachary Daniel  
City Clerk