



City Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2020
7:15 p.m.

Mayor: John McTaggart (not present)
Councilmember Chuck Adams Carolyn Caiharr Garrett Mellott
Margaret Shriver Chuck Stites

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Councilmember (and Council President) Chuck Adams noted that Mayor McTaggart would not be present at the meeting due to travel. As such, Council President Adams will preside over this evening's meeting.

1. Approve minutes of February 24, 2020

- **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2020 as presented
- **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 4-0 with Councilmember Stites abstaining

2. Statement of Bills paid \$149,439.93

- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to approve the statement of bills paid in the amount of \$149,439.93
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 4-0

3. Requests or Comments from the public

- Lane Cooper, 1535 S. 134th St., took the podium and voiced concerns about the utility billing process. Mr. Cooper expressed concerns that there were problems with accurate calculation of bills. Mr. Cooper also noted that he is hearing similar concerns from his neighbors. City Manager Michael Webb responded to some of Mr. Cooper's comments and provided some context on the use of winter water usage to determine year-long sewer bills for residences. It was noted that a future presentation on utility billing process would be appropriate.
- Rick Baine, 10109 Steele Rd., inquired about the status of the Quiet Zone project. City Manager Michael Webb noted that this project is still moving forward and that all plans are currently under review by the Union Pacific Railroad.
- Carston Mortenson, who lives in Lake of the Forrest in Bonner Springs, took the podium and voiced several concerns about pending 5G cell towers being erected locally. He expressed concerns about possible health impacts as well as infringement of property rights.
- Carolyn Riley, 1574 S. 134th St., took the podium and also voiced concerns and confusion about utility billing calculations.

4. Consider Resolution 2020-01 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a lease purchase agreement with NHB Bank (Bank Midwest) for financing Police Department vehicles

- Police Chief Mark Mathies reviewed this item, noting that the background information was all included in the agenda memo.
- Chief Mathies pointed out that this was a budgeted item included in the 2020 adopted budget and reviewed the proposal solicitation process. After staff review,

NHB Bank was selected due to their lower interest rate and local status. City Manager Michael Webb provided additional context on the action being requested.

- Councilmember Shriver asked why a local dealership wasn't considered. Chief Mathies reviewed the current purchasing cooperatives established by the Mid-America Regional Council and Shawnee Mission Ford's satisfactory service history. He also noted that the local dealer would likely result in higher overall cost had they submitted prices in the MARC solicitation. Councilmember Shriver emphasized she would like to see Wyandotte County dealerships being included in future cost solicitations.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked if two existing vehicles would be sold, which Chief Mathies confirmed. Councilmember Stites asked about the existing mileage on the vehicles being sold, which Chief Mathies noted the vehicles were typically between 80,000-90,000 miles at the time they are sold. Councilmember Caiharr asked if this was a Special Sales Tax purchase, which Chief Mathies responded that it was not.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 3-0-1, with Councilmember Mellott abstaining.

5. Consider authorizing the installation of a street light at the entrance of the Plaza West commercial district (10933 Kaw Dr.)

- City Manager Michael Webb noted that this item is being considered due to earlier requests from Councilmembers.
- Mr. Webb noted that the price for this street light is largely negligible at \$15.00 per month. The larger policy question remains as to whose responsibility it will ultimately be for lighting private developments and what the common standards will be for those improvements.
- Mr. Webb provided additional data on the traffic conditions along Kaw Dr., but did note that there have been no major accidents due to lack of lighting.
- Councilmember Mellott pointed out that there were no deceleration lanes along this road as you go to enter into Plaza West. His opinion was that it is important to be proactive in this location and to consider other locations for lighting when it is appropriate.
- There was additional discussion about business owners and KDOT possibly sharing the costs.
- Mr. Webb noted that future developments plans should include comprehensive lighting requirements to avoid similar complications down the line.
- There was additional discussion related to the placement of the light and the implications on future lighting requirements and design standards. Mr. Webb also confirmed there would not be any additional costs other than the monthly charges for service.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to authorize the installation of a street light at 10933 Kaw Dr.
- **Second:** Councilmember Caiharr seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 4-0, with Council President Adams voting.

6. Advisory Reports

City Manager: City Manager Michael Webb provided some legislative updates related to right-of-way usage and property tax revenues. City Attorney provided additional comments related to small cell wireless companies and their attempts to use new legislation to go around local right-of-way jurisdiction. Mr. Webb provided additional background on the "Utah model" of property tax notification and how it would affect budget processes moving forward. In short, the process as it is defined now would

place undue burden on municipalities as it relates to the timing of budget decisions and adoption. Additional information will be provided to the Council as it becomes available.

Fire: Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel thanked the Fire Department for their controlled burning activity that took place over the weekend that took care of brush piles behind the ball fields. Deputy Chief Morrow also noted that new JOCO students would be starting soon. He also added that the department has been engaged with regional partners for COVID-19 response.

City Attorney: City Attorney Lisa Dehon provided additional context on the earlier public comments regarding 5G and cell towers.

7. Council and Mayor Comments

Caiharr: Councilmember Caiharr raised concerns about rising property appraisals, noting that she would like to see flat spending levels in 2021 to help provide property tax relief to residents.

Mellott: Councilmember Mellott thanked the Council for their support in the street light decision earlier in the evening.

Shriver: Councilmember Shriver asked that a utility bill breakdown would be helpful to provide to City Council as well as the general public. She also asked for an update on Public Works staffing, which Mr. Webb provided. She had additional questions about shared services with Bonner Springs Fire Department, which Mr. Webb provided some details about the relationship.

Stites: Councilmember Stites stressed that he would like to see an effort to reduce trash and litter build up in the City's rights-of-ways.

Adams: Councilmember Adams raised concerns about communications to residents, particularly for residents who are not web-savvy. Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel noted that paper newsletters would likely be included in future utility billing inserts. He also asked when the City-wide clean up would be, which Mr. Daniel noted it would be May 16.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.n.

Zachary Daniel
City Clerk