



# City Council Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

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

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*Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Mayor McTaggart and the City Council formally recognized Fire Chief Tim Whitham for his recent Fire Marshall designation from the Center for Public Safety, Commission of Professional Credentialing.*

1. **Consider approval of consent agenda items**
  - a) **Approve minutes of April 26, 2021**
  - b) **Statement of bills paid in the amount of \$334,978.46**
    - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to approve the consent agenda items
    - **Second:** Councilmember Caiharr seconded the motion
    - **Vote:** Passes 5-0
2. **Requests or Comments from the public**
  - No comments heard
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 related to a project in the City's industrial park**
  - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to recess into executive session for the reasons stated with the regular meeting to resume at 6:20 p.m.
  - **Second: Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion**
  - **Vote: Passes, 5-0**
  - *Executive Session held and regular meeting resumed at 6:20*
  - **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to return to regular session
  - **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
  - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
  - **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to recess into executive session with the regular meeting to resume at 7:00 p.m.
  - **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
  - **Vote: Passes, 5-0**
  - *Executive Session held and regular meeting resumed at 7:00*
  - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to return to regular session
  - **Second:** Councilmember Caiharr seconded the motion
  - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
  - No action was taken as a result of the executive sessions.
4. **Consider 2020 Financial Statement and Report of the City's Independent Certified Public Accountants**
  - City Manager Michael Webb introduced the item, and also introduced Sean Gordon of Gordon CPA, who prepared the audit.

- Mr. Gordon walked the Council through the draft audit document.
  - Mr. Gordon noted that his firm gave the City the highest and cleanest opinion under state guidelines, which reflects highly of the City's financial practices.
  - Mr. Gordon noted the ending cash balances, consolidated and itemized by fund.
  - There was a statutory violation that was noted related to the schedule of payments for the General Obligation Bonds, which staff has since corrected.
  - The biggest item of discussion was the practice of keeping receipts for gas cards, specifically for police vehicles. The possibility of changing the city's policies in this area was discussed.
  - Councilmember Caiharr requested an additional week to review the material before making a motion, which the City Council generally agreed to.
  - No action was taken on this item.
- 5. Consider Resolution 2021-05 setting a date to conduct a public hearing regarding a dangerous and unfit structure at 9711 Steele Rd.**
- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item, briefly noting the code enforcement history of the property.
  - Pictures of the property were provided, demonstrating the current condition of the building and surrounding area.
  - Mr. Webb noted the property is currently scheduled for an upcoming tax sale.
  - Mr. Webb recommended the tax sale process and noted that a public hearing is still recommended due to the requirements it would place on the property to bring it to code compliance.
  - **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-05
  - Councilmember Adams asked if this action also included the outbuildings on the property, which Mr. Webb confirmed.
  - **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
  - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
- 6. Hear presentation regarding Quarter 1 Budget Review for 2021**
- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reviewed this item, noting they would focus on the General Fund along with broad overviews of the other funds.
  - Largely, revenues are coming in stronger than anticipated in the adopted Budget. Mr. Daniel noted that the City Council was conservative in their revenue estimates due to the uncertainty of the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic. With economic indicators starting strong so far in 2021, many revenue items are overperforming expectations.
  - In addition to revenues coming in strong at this point in the year, Mr. Daniel pointed out that General Fund expenditures are lower than where they typically are at this point in the year.
  - Mr. Daniel reviewed the Q1 performance of the other funds, noting they are performing within staff expectations to this point in the year.
  - Mr. Daniel then provided an overview of the expected budget development process throughout the summer. He focused on the new budget process passed by the state legislature, which eliminated the tax lid but not incorporates a revenue neutral rate (or RNR)
  - Mr. Daniel noted that in order to exceed the RNR (which holds property tax revenues to the levels of the previous years despite valuation changes), a separate public hearing would be required.
  - Mr. Daniel noted that the legislation does not take IRB properties returning to the tax rolls into consideration.
  - No action was required for this item.

**7. City Council discussion regarding Resolution R-34-21 of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas amending Local Health Order 3/25/21**

- City Manager Michael Webb introduced this item, noting that several City Councilmembers requested a formal public discussion on this topic.
- Councilmember Stites voiced his opinion that Edwardsville should be able to make its own decisions on what happens in the City. He recommended voting on a resolution to let the UG Commission and Health Department know this sentiment.
- Councilmember Caiharr noted the frustration with the unclear metrics used by health departments.
- Councilmember Adams voiced his concern for the private businesses and tax payers who have been harmed financially due to the County and state's decisions. Mr. Adams also noted that if fairness was the reasoning to extend health orders into Edwardsville, then that should also apply to other County resources.
- City Attorney Lisa Dehon and City Manager Michael Webb noted they would develop resolution language for consideration at the group's next meeting, which would be done in time to provide to the UG Commission prior to their next scheduled vote on the continuation of the current mask order.

**8. City Manager Report**

- City Manager referred to the written report included in the packet and highlighted the retirement of Fire Captain Dan Johnson and Police Lieutenant Doug Hermreck
- Assistant City Manager provided some details about this weekend's City-Wide Clean Up event.

**9. Council and Mayor Comments**

Councilmember Adams congratulated Chief Whitham on his recent Fire Marshall distinction. He also asked about utility poles along 110<sup>th</sup> St., which Mr. Webb noted were KCP&L/Evergy poles. Councilmember Adams also compliment Blue Moon Hauling for the work they did on the culvert project. Councilmember Adams closed with a push to find a permanent location for new City facilities, specifically moving forward with an engineering study on the current site and finding adequate facilities for public safety.

Councilmember Mellott seconded the call to work towards improved facilities for City personnel and business. He also asked about the public response to the proposed sign location, which Mr. Webb noted were mixed based on the social media reactions.

Councilmember Shriver also commented on the City signage, noting she'd like to see a variety of outreach activities explored. She also noted the monument maintenance work at the Cemetery, which has dramatically improved several stones.

Councilmember Caiharr also noted the monument work being done. She also asked when City flags would get replaced with newer ones, which Chief Whitham noted new flags for all facilities have been ordered. Councilmember Caiharr then relayed the details about the upcoming Harvester's Food Pantry event at the Community Center and asked for an update on street projects to be presented to the City Council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Stites asked questions about the Riverview Crossroads project. Mr. Webb then presented the current detour map, which notes proposed alternative routes and signage placement. Mr. Webb and Public Works Director Zenger both noted that they have requested KDOT adjust the K-32 signage to be more clear. Councilmember Stites also noted that he felt the input for the sign was successful and cost effective. There was also discussion about the availability of County funds for road repairs.

Mayor McTaggart congratulated Chief Whitham on his distinction and reminded everyone once again about the clean-up occurring this weekend.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Zachary Daniel

City Clerk