



City Council Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Mayor: Carolyn Caiharr
Councilmember Chuck Adams Mark Bishop Garrett Mellott
Greg Scott Margaret Shriver

1. Requests or Comments from the public

- Lane Cooper, 1535 S. 104th Terrace, addressed the group and encouraged the City to consider other ways to pay for City equipment rather than reliance on the Special Sales Tax. He noted the possibility of using property taxes, considering the pending expiration of industrial revenue bonds.
- John Altevogt, 10601 Shawnee, addressed the group advocating for the appointment of Margaret Shriver as City Council President.
- Mike Wheeler, 1145 S. 105th St., addressed the group to provide a courtesy notice of his recent filing to run for a City Council position in the 2024 election.

2. Consider approval of consent agenda items

- a) Approve minutes of May 8, 2023
 - b) Statement of bills paid in the amount of \$308,355.32
 - c) Special Event permit application from Fastenal for the BK5K Run/Walk to take place as part of Edwardsville AutumnFest 2023
- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to approve the consent agenda
 - **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0

Planning Commission Items

3. Consider the following recommendations from the Edwardsville Planning Commission

- a) Recommendation of approval regarding a replat for a property located at 10941 Kaw Dr. (2023-05-FPT)
 - b) Recommendation of approval regarding a replat for properties located at 1729, 1500, and 1501 Edwardsville Dr. (2023-05-PPT/2023-06-FPT)
- City Planner Bradley Hocevar provided the background on both items, summarizing their intent and their review by the Planning Commission.
 - Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel provided additional information related to the Edwardsville Dr., replat, adding more context as it related to the Historic Cemetery project. He noted that once the terms of the land acquisition are finalized, the replat will secure permanent access to the cemetery site, consolidating the 2.2 acres into a single site for possible redevelopment.
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to approve both Planning Commission items as provided.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Scott seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0 with Mayor Caiharr voting

4. Introduction of Wyandotte County Administrator David W. Johnston.

- Mayor Caiharr introduced Mr. Johnson, who provided comments related to his background. He noted he looked forward to working with the western parts of the County on future projects.
5. **Hear update from Mayor/CEP of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS, Tyrone Gardner**
 - Mayor Gardner thanked the group for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He noted Mayor Caiharr's efforts to speak on behalf of Edwardsville and the concerns of its residents.
 - He noted his support for the extension of the CiFi program to Edwardsville and Bonner Springs as well as the use of ARPA funds in both cities.
 - He looked forward to building a strong partnership with the City.
 6. **Consider nominations and election of the City Council President**
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to appoint Mark Bishop as Council President effective immediately
 - **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
 - Prior to the vote, Mayor Caiharr read the City ordinance relating to the City Council President roles and authorities.
 - **Vote:** Passes, 4-0-1 with Councilmember Bishop abstaining
 7. **Consider recommendation from the City's Construction Manager for selection of Finkle + Williams Architecture for architectural services**
 - City Manager Michael Webb provided background on this item, summarizing the review and selection process that involved staff and the City's Construction Manager.
 - Roger Summers from Vogel Anderson provided additional comments related to the search process and the recommendation of Finkle + Williams. He noted the firm will provide assistance in phasing, cost estimates, and more.
 - Mr. Webb reviewed the reference checks made for Finkle + Williams, all positive. He noted the prior relationship between the two firms, which will help move the project along at a good pace.
 - Greg Finkle, representing the firm, provided additional comments, noting he was looking forward to being a part of this legacy project.
 - Councilmember Scott noted he was impressed with the packet response from Finkle + Williams and looked forward to continuing with this project.
 - Councilmember Adams stressed the need for improved public safety facilities and noted he was looking forward to the project.
 - Councilmember Mellott provided additional history of City facilities, and stated how excited he was that staff and citizens would finally be getting adequate facilities.
 - Mayor Caiharr noted that she appreciated the charette process and being able to get early input from stakeholders.
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Finkle + Williams for architectural services.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Bishop seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
 - Mr. Webb provided comments regarding next steps in the process.
 8. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with High Point Grading for demolition of structures located at 111 S. 4th St.**
 - This item was tabled for future consideration at the request of staff to allow for additional review of the proposed cost of the project.

- No official action was taken.

9. Consider Resolution 2023-05 calling for a vote to renew the Special Sales & Use Tax

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item and went over the history of the sales tax as well as the uses currently allowed.
- Mr. Webb noted that there were two versions of the resolution calling for a vote to renew the sales tax, one which keep the rate as-is and the other would be a $\frac{3}{4}$ tax.
- Mr. Webb noted that both versions included expanding the use of the sales tax for all of public safety. He also reviewed the timing of the initiative and voting procedures.
- There was additional discussion regarding potential changes in the rate and scope of the sales tax.
- Mr. Webb noted that with the special sales tax, Edwardsville still has the lowest tax rate in the County.
- There was some consideration to raise the rate, but the group ultimately decided to keep the rate as is.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to adopt Resolution 2023-05, calling for an election to consider the renewal of the half-cent sales tax
- **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes, 5-0

10. Consider a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) for consultation with the City Attorney which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship concerning a matter of potential litigation

- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to recess into executive session for the reasons stated to involve the City Manager and City Attorney with the regular meeting to resume at 7:40
- **Second:** Councilmember Scott seconded the motion.
- The group conducted its session and returned at 7:41.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to return to regular session
- **Second:** Councilmember Scott seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Passes, 5-0

11. City Manager Report

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed updates to the micro-transit project as well as the review of the City's wholesale wastewater agreement with Wyandotte County. He also thanked the group for their leadership when it came to providing adequate facilities for City staff.
- Police Chief Mark Mathies and Fire Chief Tim Whitham both provided comments, thanking the City Council for their support of the facilities projects, noting that it was something that the staff was looking forward to. They both noted their satisfaction with Finkle + Williams, based on their participation in the search.

12. Council and Mayor Comments

Councilmember Adams stated he felt the City-Wide Clean Up went very well and thanked all the staff and volunteers who participated. He also requested that SGR communicate with the entire City Council during the City Manager selection process. He also made the assumption that staff and possible other subject matter experts would be involved as well to get a solid position description in place before the recruitment began. He felt that the process has been going to slowly to date.

Councilmember Bishop thanked Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel coordinating the City-Wide Clean Up as well as the City staff who made time to help with the event. There was additional questions about AutumnFest dates.

Councilmember Mellott thanked all of the staff an volunteers who helped during the Clean Up Day. He also provided additional context to his support of the half-cent sales tax renewal. He stressed that the Council needs to be advocating for the renewal whenever appropriate. He thanked the citizens who made time to provide public comments.

Councilmember Shriver echoed the kudos provided to staff for their help during the City-Wide Clean Up. She also thanked Mr. Daniel for coordinating the Memorial Day ceremony as well as the EFD involvement in the process.

Councilmember Scott noted some of the positive comments he received regarding City Manager Mike Webb, and noted how big of a hole they had to fill with his retirement. He noted the length of time that searches tend to take. He wanted the Council to be aware of these timeframes so the group is prepared to fill that void with an interim appointment if needed. He also recommended bringing Mr. Webb in on a contractual basis on certain projects to allow for continuity.

Mayor Caiharr thanked all of the staff who were present at the City Wide Clean Up. She also provided stats related to the May Harvesters food pantry event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Zachary Daniel
City Clerk