



# City Council Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2020

7:00 p.m.

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

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**1. Approve minutes of the June 8, 2020 City Council meeting**

- **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to approve the minutes from June 8, 2020
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0

**2. Statement of Bills paid \$364,977.86**

- **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to approve the statement of bills paid in the amount of \$364,977.86
- **Second:** Councilmember Adams seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0

**3. Requests or Comments from the public**

- Erin Shevling, 1701 S. 102<sup>nd</sup> St., addressed concerns about the availability of broadband internet in certain parts of the City. She stressed that the lack of reliable internet severely impacts the quality of life in Edwardsville and makes it difficult for remote work or school activity. She requested that the City begin looking at ways to provide equitable access for this service.

**4. Consider creation of a Broadband Development Taskforce**

- City Manager Michael Webb thanked the Ms. Shevling from the public comment period as it highlights one of the reasons for this requested action.
- Mr. Webb referenced other communities who had launched similar initiatives related to internet provision.
- He noted that the purpose of the taskforce would be to drill down into the details of the problems related to internet availability. This would include reviews of where the issues are geographically in the City, whether it is a detriment to private businesses, and more.
- He noted that this taskforce would likely include himself, the City Attorney, Police Chief Mark Mathies, as well as representatives from the City Council, residents, and businesses.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the different models other communities have employed in this area, including actually owning and providing the internet utility through the City. He also stressed that Edwardsville's lack of residential density in large areas of the City is a likely a contributing factor to some of the difficulties in securing reliable internet.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the proposed makeup of the taskforce, noting that it may also include subcommittees reviewing specific areas of interest.
- Councilmember Stites asked about the timeline for reports from this taskforce. Mr. Webb noted this would likely depend on the scope of the group. The process in the long-term will likely take several years, but progress reports could be given in regular intervals with the first update in 2-3 months.

- **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to authorize the creation of a Broadband Development Taskforce
- **Second:** Councilmember Caiharr seconded the motion
- Mayor McTaggart also noted that the League of Kansas Municipalities also has done work in this area and may be able to provide. There was additional discussion regarding council representation on the board.
- **Vote:** Motion passes 5-0

**5. Consider authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Public Service Agreement with the City of Bonner Springs**

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed the history of this item as it relates to development projects in the City's north end.
- Mr. Webb reviewed pertinent development projects underway on the Bonner Springs side and how that may affect the reconstruction of 110<sup>th</sup> St. and Riverview. He noted that KDOT would prefer to see an agreement between two cities as the Riverview Crossroads project continues to develop as portions of the improved area would be in Bonner Springs.
- There are several other areas involving access and sewer provision that also need to be reviewed. Both City Managers agreed to include these areas in the public service agreement.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the components of the proposed agreement, which included sections related to road and streets, zoning and planning, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, public safety, future maintenance, and more.\
- Regarding sewer service, Mr. Webb noted that Edwardsville would provide 100,000 gallons per day to the Bonner Springs parcel, which would support the proposed development in that community. He stressed that this would not be a strain on the sewer system's capacity inside the city limits of Edwardsville. He also noted that Bonner Springs would pay the costs to connect the service and would pass those on to the private developer. Bonner Springs would then be a customer of the City of Edwardsville, who would be able to charge premium, "out-of-town" rate.
- Councilmember Caiharr expressed her concerns with the fact that Edwardsville would assume the maintenance and upkeep of the system while Bonner Springs would be the primary user of the service at 100,000 gallons per day. She asked if it would be more beneficial for the City to have development actually inside the City vs. the City of Bonner Springs. Mr. Webb responded there is no material difference as to where the development occurs as long as the flow goes through the City's lift station. Councilmember Caiharr stated she doesn't think this proposed arrangement is as beneficial to Edwardsville as it is Bonner Springs.
- Mayor McTaggart pointed out that the proposed flow to Bonner Springs does not represent a third of the total capacity of the lift station, but rather a third of its current activity. In reality, the lift station could service a great deal more than what it is currently doing. This would support future development on the Edwardsville side of the city limit line.
- Mr. Webb noted that the Edwardsville taxpayer does not pay to support the sewer system. Rather, the sewer's customers pay 100% of the maintenance and operating cost. Under this agreement, Bonner Springs would be a customer of Edwardsville's sewer system.
- Councilmember Caiharr stated her concerns about the nature of the development on the Bonner Springs side, noting it may be detrimental to future development in Edwardsville and may increase the maintenance responsibility by City crews. Mr Webb clarified that there would be no new access points created by this agreement or the Riverview Crossroads project.

- Councilmember Stites also noted he understood the difficulties of cities trying to entice development without sewer provision. He also he has concerns regarding the potential Bonner Springs development. However, he recognized that all development in that area could be a benefit to Edwardsville due to the increased traffic and demand for amenities. Councilmember Stites did raise concerns about public safety dispatch policies as it relates to the site.
- Fire Chief Whitham noted that first response is not based on proximity, but rather which City the originating event occurs in. There was additional discussion on mutual aid practices.
- Councilmember Adams asked for clarification on portions of the agreement related to City boundaries. Mr. Webb reviewed discussions regarding city limits along Riverview and 100<sup>th</sup> St. There was additional discussion on the location of the city limit line along Riverview. Councilmember Adams noted he would prefer that this line be on the south side of Riverview to ensure access and control over the maintenance of the area. This he feels would have an effect of future development. He noted the calls that come in now from residents about maintenance issues along Riverview.
- There was discussion on Bonner Springs role in the design development of signage in the roundabout related to Riverview Crossroads. Mr. Webb noted that this would likely be parsed out at a later time.
- Councilmember Stites asked for a sunset date for this agreement and Councilmember Caiharr asked if it could be tied to a specific development. Stites noted a sunset date would give Edwardsville some control on the development in the north end. Adams agreed that sewer service is really the only control measure that Edwardsville has in the area. Mr. Webb noted that the limit on the capacity essentially serves as the control mechanism as the limit in the proposed agreement would not support certain types of high-use development.
- There was additional discussion on the planning and development process in the City of Bonner Springs. Councilmember Caiharr again stressed her desire to see Bonner Springs assume some maintenance responsibility in that area as a component of the agreement.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a public service agreement with the City of Bonner Springs with an amendment to section 5-A adding language related to an 3-year end date for the 'will serve' conditions of the sanitary sewer.
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- Representatives of the Bonner Springs development took the podium and provided some context related to the Bonner Springs planning process.
- **Vote:** Motion passes 4-1 with Councilmember Caiharr dissenting.

#### 6. Hear a presentation regarding the development of the 2021 Annual Budget

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed City activity in 2020 as well as the factors contributing to the 2021 budget development. The balance of this portion of the presentation related to the City's response and efforts to the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the performance of the 2020 budget, noting that adopted revenue/expenditure figures were very close to final, audited numbers.
- Mr. Webb then reviewed the projections related to revenue collection for the current year. He noted that revenues will likely be down due to the impacts of COVID-19, especially in the area of sales taxes and gaming revenue.
- Sales taxes have so far come in strong, but staff expects some kind of hit to revenues in the upcoming state distribution. Models are largely based on the revenue that will be in in the coming months.

- Court and Ambulance revenues are performing slightly stronger than budget expectations at this point in the year.
- Currently, staff is estimating a 6% drop in revenues from the adopted 2020 Budget, which would be a 3% drop from the audited 2019 revenue figure.
- Expenditures are currently trending 2% lower than normal at this stage in the year, largely due to vacant staff positions and reduced spending activity due to COVID-19. Mr. Webb noted that it is expected 2-3% can be shaved from budgeted expenditures relatively easily with vacant staff positions, cutting down on travel and training, and considering deferring certain capital items.
- Mr. Webb reviewed items from the 2020 Year-End reports and how they may drive budget discussions for 2021. He also reviewed the 2021 Budget priorities including maintaining staffing, compensation levels, rebuilding the fund balance, and providing property tax relief.
- The next presentation will be related to projected 2021 revenue figures.
- There was no formal action taken by the City Council at this time.

## **7. Advisory Reports**

City Manager Michael Webb reviewed the status of various projects.

Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel noted that the CPPS Board approved and that registrations were now open for Parks & Rec's free baseball skills camp to take place throughout July.

Chiefs: Police Chief Mark Mathies provided an updated on a grant the department is working on that would eliminate the need for hand-wanding as well as providing upgrades to other equipment.

Fire Chief Whitham noted that the department as resumed inspections of commercial properties. He also shared pictures of the new tranquility garden EFD crews built on the north side of the Fire Station.

Public Works: New Director Dusty Zenger noted that he is becoming familiar with the City and is anxious to start launching improvement projects.

## **8. City Council and Mayor Comments**

Adams: Councilmember Adams asked about the status of the road inventory. Mr. Webb noted that the road inventory was completed and that staff made some edits. The new Public Works Director and the City's engineering partner will be discussing this data to ensure it is still relevant before presenting to the Council. There some discussion about the pavement improvements near the McAnany project.

Caiharr: Councilmember Caiharr brought up concerns about mowing in north sections of the City.

Mellott: Councilmember Mellott asked for an update on the silent crossing project, which Mr. Webb noted he has not heard much of an update from the rail road. He also asked about any status update on the signage request, which Mr. Webb noted there is no update at this time. He also provided some personal context related to the issues around internet service provision.

Shriver: Councilmember Shriver expressed her support for the broadband review efforts. She also requested that the City continue to look at drainage and road condition problems at the Shelton street entrance in Williamson Farms. Director Zenger noted he was aware of this area and that it was one of the road projects that will likely go out to bid this summer.

Stites: Councilmember Stites noted there are rumors circulating about the Edwardsville Post Office being dissolved. There was some discussion on the history of that site and the lack of control the City has in those decisions. Mr. Webb provided some context in the previous activity related to the Edwardsville post office. Councilmember Stites also asked that littler pickup be included in sentencing guidelines for Municipal Court.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Zachary Daniel  
City Clerk