



**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE  
APRIL 19, 2021**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Councilmembers attended a virtual meeting via the Zoom software platform. Mayor Mikkelson presided.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by the City Clerk with the following Councilmembers in attendance remotely via Zoom: Chad Herring, Jori Nelson, Inga Selders, Ron Nelson, Tucker Poling, Bonnie Limbird, Sheila Myers, Piper Reimer, Dan Runion, Courtney McFadden, Ian Graves and Terrence Gallagher. Staff present via Zoom: Byron Roberson, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director; City Attorney David Waters, attorney with Lathrop & Gage; Wes Jordan, City Administrator; Jamie Robichaud, Deputy City Administrator; Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator; Meghan Buum, Assistant City Administrator; Nickie Lee, Finance Director; Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda for April 19, 2021. Mrs. McFadden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Teen Council recognition** - Mayor Mikkelson recognized Teen Council members Macy Cherra and Sydney Newton, and presented them certificates of achievement.
- **Presentation of energy audit by Energy Solutions Professionals** - Jeff Flathman and Ron LaCombe from Energy Solutions Professionals shared results from the audit that identified investments the City could make to improve energy efficiency. Mr. Flathman documented steps the City had already taken, including the installation of geothermal heating and cooling and efficient pool pumps. He noted that additional opportunities existed, such as the installation of LED lighting, solar panels, and insulation. Projected costs and savings were also shared.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No requests to address the Council were received.



### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Mikkelson asked if there were any items to remove from the consent agenda for discussion.

1. Approval of regular City Council meeting minutes - April 5, 2021
2. Approval of Expenditure Ordinance #3001
3. Approval of short-term special use permit for Franklin Park event
4. Consider bid award for purchase of swimming pool chemicals
5. Consider bid award for highway rock salt
6. Consider approval of new residential sustainability grant program

**Mrs. Myers asked to remove item #6 for further discussion.**

**Mrs. McFadden made a motion to approve consent agenda items #1 through #5. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: Herring, J. Nelson, Selders, R. Nelson, Poling, Limbird, Myers, Reimer, Runion, McFadden, Graves, Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Myers stated that she did not feel the proposed sustainability grant was appropriate at a time when many residents were struggling to pay increased property taxes.

**Mr. Graves made a motion to approve item #6 on the consent agenda. Mrs. McFadden seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: Herring, J. Nelson, Selders, R. Nelson, Poling, Limbird, Reimer, McFadden, Graves, Gallagher; “nay”: Myers, Runion. The motion passed 10-2.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Ms. Reimer said that the United Community Services’ Drug and Alcohol Council met on April 15, and discussed updates to the grant application process. The Council also shared their appreciation for the City’s decision to increase funding to the program in 2022.
- Ms. Selders reported that the JazzFest Committee met on April 8 to discuss the prospect of holding a modified event in 2021. Proposed changes included a shorter schedule, fewer volunteers, and limited attendance.
- Mr. Runion said that Jeff White of Columbia Capital gave a presentation on pension obligation bonds and interest at the Police Pension Committee meeting the prior week. During the meeting, a motion to have Mr. White deliver the presentation to City Council did not pass.
- Ms. Limbird noted that the winners of the Arts Council’s 2021 Art of Photography competition had been announced and could be viewed on the Council’s website: <https://www.artspv.org/aop2021.html>. Additionally, the first annual Prairie Village



Art Walk would be held on June 11 and include a ribbon cutting for the “Fifties Freedom in the Village” sculpture at 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Mission Road.

- Mr. Herring stated that the Finance Committee would meet on April 22.
- Mrs. Myers said that she was interested in having Jeff White give his Police Pension Committee report to Council at an upcoming meeting. Mayor Mikkelson stated that she could make a motion to have the presentation during New Business.
- Mr. Gallagher shared that the Prairie Village Foundation had met the prior week to discuss its budget and consider programs for the fall. He added that Foundation President Ann Lilak was stepping down after many years, and suggested that she should be recognized at a future Council meeting. Marianne Noll would become the new President, and former Mayor Laura Wassmer would become the new Vice-President.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT**

- The Mayor provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that approximately 400,000 vaccine doses had been administered in Johnson County. He stated that hospitalizations, the percent positive rate and deaths remained low.
- The Mayor said that there were positive signs of an economic rebound, sharing that the unemployment rate had dropped to 6% nationally.
- The Mayor reported that the new “Stretch Zone” fitness center in the Corinth Shops would hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 27.
- The Mayor stated that the City was still expected to receive funding from the American Rescue Fund, though details of how the money could be used were not yet available.
- The Mayor co-chaired a First Suburbs meeting on April 16, at which community land trusts were discussed.
- The Mayor attended the second Johnson County Charter Commission meeting, at which leaders were elected and a meeting schedule was set.
- The Mayor shared that the recent Meadowbrook classic auto show was a success.
- The Mayor noted that a proclamation for Earth Day 2021 was included in the meeting packet.
- The Mayor said he would be giving two presentations to residents at the Claridge Court senior living facility on April 27.
- The Mayor said that the “KC Rising” economic development group would be hosting a virtual event on May 6.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- Chief Roberson said that the Police Department was allowed to employ a total of 47 sworn officers, but had struggled to achieve full staffing. Currently, the Department had 42 officers, four of whom had not yet completed training. He added that several officers either retired or changed careers over the past year.



The Chief said that department salaries in Prairie Village were very competitive with other cities in the region, and that no officers had been lost to other agencies due to pay.

- Mr. Schwartzkopf reported that he was working on a plan to return to in-person Council meetings. He added that he was researching diversity and inclusion training per the recommendation of the Diversity Committee, and would share information with Council at an upcoming meeting.
- Ms. Buum said that a blood drive would be held at City Hall on April 20 and 21. She noted that the registration period for pool passes and summer aquatic programs had opened, and that 55 lifeguards had been hired for the pool season.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Reimer stated that she was disappointed to see photos of the Meadowbrook auto event that showed many attendees not wearing masks, indicating that mask-wearing was not being enforced by the event sponsors.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2022 Budget**

- **2021 estimated revenue and 2022 preliminary general fund revenue assumptions**

Ms. Lee stated that COVID-19 had a negative impact on several specific 2020 revenues. She said that it was anticipated that revenues would rebound in 2022, and that there was a potential for the City to recover a portion of lost revenue through the American Rescue Plan funding.

The Preliminary General Fund Revenue Assumptions for the 2022 Budget included:

- A projected 4% increase in overall General Fund revenue over the 2021 budget, and 7% growth over 2020 actuals.
  - A projected total assessed value increase of 5.44% for 2021. If captured, it would result in a 5% increase in 2022 property tax revenue over the 2021 budget with the mill levy remaining at the 2021 rate of 19.321.
  - A decrease in franchise fee revenue, but a slight increase in sales tax collection due to new businesses and use tax collection.
- **2022 decision packages**

Ms. Lee said that the 2022 preliminary decision package list had been updated based on discussion at the April 5 Council meeting. She added that staff was seeking guidance to finalize the list before being reviewed by the Finance Committee on April 22.



The preliminary decision package list for the 2022 budget included:

- New Public Works Full-Time Employee
- Civic Center Feasibility Study
- Sustainability Grants
- Energy Efficiency Audit Implementations
- 5-Year Salary Survey
- Police Department Canine Unit
- Carbon Emissions Tracking Services
- Annual Diversity Training
- Building Permit Software
- Property Tax Relief Grant program

Mr. Gallagher asked if the annual diversity training would be funded through the budget approved for the Diversity Committee. Mr. Schwartzkopf stated that the \$10,000 requested in the decision package was separate from the Diversity Committee budget. Mr. Jordan added that each decision package item would be reviewed by the Finance Committee individually before being brought back to Council for final approval.

After discussion about whether the Finance Committee should consider a decision package providing increased funding to the police pension fund, Mrs. Myers made a motion to have Jeff White give a presentation about the use of obligation bonds to fund the pension to the City Council. Ms. Reimer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: J. Nelson, Myers, Reimer, Runion, Gallagher; “nay”: Herring, Selders, R. Nelson, Poling, Limbird, McFadden, Graves. The motion failed 7-5.

Ms. Reimer made a motion that the City Council move to the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously.

#### COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COU2021-39      Consider amending animal ordinance

Ms. Selders stated that she and Mr. Poling requested that the following language be removed from subsection (a) of Section 2-123, “Cat and Dog Control” in the Municipal Code:

*“If a neighbor complains orally or in writing to the person responsible for a cat, that the cat is entering upon the neighbor’s property, then the cat’s presence on the neighbor’s property at any time subsequent to the neighbor’s complaint shall constitute a violation of this section.”*



Ms. Selders said that the change had been reviewed by the Police Department's Animal Control Officers, and that they had no objections.

Mr. Poling made a motion to recommend approval of the amended ordinance to the City Council as presented. Ms. Selders seconded the motion, which passed 9-3, with Mr. Runion, Mrs. McFadden and Mr. Gallagher in opposition.

Ms. Limbird moved that the City Council end the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously.

At 8:53 p.m., Mrs. McFadden made a motion for the City Council to recess into executive session for a period of 20 minutes for a preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6). Ms. Limbird seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:13 p.m., the Council resumed the open meeting. Mrs. McFadden made a motion for the City Council to recess into executive session for a period of 10 minutes to continue a preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6). Ms. Limbird seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The open meeting resumed at 9:23 p.m.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements were included in the Council meeting packet.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. McFadden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson, and passed unanimously.

Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Adam Geffert  
City Clerk