



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

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, July 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, and Ian Graves. Staff present via Zoom: Byron Roberson, Chief of Police; Melissa Prenger, Public Works; 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

Ms. Limbird made a motion to approve the agenda for July 19, 2021. Mrs. Myers seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Julie Brewer, Executive Director of United Community Services, gave a presentation on a recently completed community housing study in Johnson County, and discussed strategies for making housing more affordable and attainable.

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 - July 6, 2021



2. Approval of expense ordinance #3004
3. Consider an Ordinance approving the Prairie Village Jazz Festival as a special event and authorizing the sale, consumption and possession of alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverages within the boundaries of a barricaded public area of the event

Mrs. McFadden made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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. The motion passed 11-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ms. Selders provided an update on the forthcoming JazzFest event, stating that the artist lineup had been finalized and food trucks had been selected. She added that the Diversity Committee had partnered with the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, and would have a tent at JazzFest where attendees could learn more about the history of jazz and the 18th and Vine district.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Mayor provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that vaccination rates had increased very slightly since his last report. Currently, 50.1% of Johnson County residents ages 12 and up were fully vaccinated; in Prairie Village, the total was slightly higher, at 53%. He added that positivity rates and new case numbers were both increasing.
- The Mayor stated that the City had received its first American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) payment, totaling approximately \$1.6 million. This amount was roughly 50% of the total allocation, with the remaining 50% set to be received in 2022.
- The Mayor noted that the City's second quarter financial report had been made available, and that revenues exceeded expectations, and expenses were lower than anticipated. Additionally, the police pension fund showed significant growth in the second quarter.
- The Mayor visited the site of the new skate park, which is scheduled to be completed before JazzFest in September. Additionally, the new Public Works building is expected to open in late August, and an open house would be held later in the year.
- The MARC First Suburbs Coalition met the prior week and discussed the regional climate action plan. Climate Action KC will give a report to the City Council in August.
- The Mayor attended a ribbon-cutting event at the Nektar Juice Bar in the new Corinth Quarter shopping center.
- A webinar for elected officials hosted by the U.S. Green Building Council, MARC and Climate Action KC is scheduled for July 27.
- The Mayor reported that the Johnson County Charter Commission would begin reviewing charter amendment proposals at its next meeting.



STAFF REPORTS

- Consolidated Fire District #2 Chief Steve Chick spoke about decisions made at the district's recent board meeting. He reported that the financial health of the district was good, and that three new firefighters would be hired in 2022. Further, the 2022 mill levy would be slightly lower than 2021.
- Chief Roberson said that six high school students took part in the first Youth Academy graduation. Additionally, the naming contest for the Department's new K-9 was underway, with over 200 different names submitted.
- Mrs. Myers asked for the total cost of the City Attorney's recent research into marijuana laws. Mr. Waters said that the total fee was approximately \$29,000, for 123 hours of research. He added that he had reduced the amount of time charged to the project because of its high cost.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

COU2021-54 Request permission to publish the 2022 proposed budget

Ms. Lee stated that the 2022 proposed budget maintained the same level of services as the 2021 budget while retaining a mill rate of 19.321. She noted that state statutes required the City to hold a public hearing on the proposed budget at least ten days prior to the date the budget was certified by the County Clerk (August 25 if not exceeding the revenue neutral rate or October 1 if exceeding the revenue neutral rate). The City must also publish the budget at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing. To comply with these statutory requirements, the public hearing would be scheduled for the City Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Ms. Lee added that, per Senate Bill 13, the proposed budget would also require a revenue neutral rate hearing to exceed the revenue neutral rate provided by the County Clerk. That hearing date was also scheduled for September 7, 2021, and would immediately precede the budget adoption public hearing.

Mr. Herring made a motion to authorize staff to publish notice of the budget hearing for the 2022 proposed budget as required by state statute. The motion was seconded by Mr. Poling.

Mr. Runion moved to amend the motion to authorize publication subject to the reallocation of \$400,000 of expenditures from the budget (approximately \$100,000 from personnel services and \$300,000 from contract services) to fund the police pension plan. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Myers. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: "aye":



Myers, Runion; “nay”: Herring, J. Nelson, Selders, R. Nelson, Poling, Limbird, Reimer, McFadden, Graves. The motion failed 9-2.

After further discussion, A roll call vote was taken on the original motion with the following votes cast: “aye”: Herring, J. Nelson, Selders, R. Nelson, Poling, Limbird, Myers, Reimer, McFadden, Graves; “nay”: Runion. The motion passed 10-1.

COU2021-55 Consider new and revised employee handbook policies to include paid parental leave, military leave, and designation of Juneteenth and Christmas Eve as City holidays

Ms. Robichaud said that its July 6, 2021 meeting, the Council Committee of the Whole voted to approve new and revised policies for paid parental leave, military leave, and city holidays, and move the items forward to the City Council for final consideration. Additional amendments to the paid parental leave policy were also approved, which increased the leave allotment to 8 weeks and changed the timeframe from when the leave must be used from 12 weeks to 12 months.

In addition to these policy recommendations, a thorough compensation and benefits study will be conducted in 2022 and recommendations will be brought forward to ensure the total compensation package remains competitive and is neither lacking nor overly generous when compared with the compensation package offered by similar jurisdictions.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the changes to the employee handbook as presented. Ms. Reimer seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.

Ms. Limbird made a motion that the City Council move to the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelson and passed 11-0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COU2021-56 Consider approval of the purchase of winter covers for city statuary

Ms. Buum noted that the City Council allocated \$50,000 towards statuary maintenance and preservation in the 2019 budget. Thus far, the funds had been spent on regular annual cleanings, general maintenance, and the replacement of several broken urns. Approximately \$41,500 remained in the fund.

The Statuary Committee explored options for further preservation of the City’s more valuable pieces and recommended the purchase of winter covers for 11 pieces from KC Tent and Awning. The pieces selected for covers were those insured by the City due to their value. The total value of the insured statuary was appraised at a combined \$458,500.



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A previously completed appraisal recommended protection from extreme weather, as freezing, wet conditions could be damaging to statues and stonework.

Mrs. Myers moved to approve the purchase of winter statuary covers for an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Limbird and passed 11-0.

Ms. Reimer moved that the City Council end the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves and passed 11-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were included in the Council meeting packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Limbird made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reimer seconded the motion, which passed 11-0.

Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Adam Geffert
City Clerk