



**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE  
JANUARY 3, 2022**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Mikkelson presided.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by the City Clerk with the following Councilmembers in attendance: Chad Herring, Cole Robinson, Inga Selders, Ron Nelson, Lauren Wolf (via Zoom), Bonnie Limbird (via Zoom), Dave Robinson, Piper Reimer (via Zoom), Greg Shelton, Courtney McFadden, Ian Graves (via Zoom), and Terrence Gallagher. Staff present: Byron Roberson, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Director of 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 Boom, Assistant City Administrator; Nickie Lee, Finance Director; Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. McFadden made a motion to approve the agenda for January 3, 2022. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Dr. Sunny Sanwar, PhD, CEO of Dynamhex Corporation, provided an update on the results determined by the carbon emission management software purchased by the City.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**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 - December 20, 2021
2. Approval of service agreement for Public Works project management software



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, C. Robinson, Selders, Nelson, Wolf, Limbird, D. Robinson, Reimer, Shelton, McFadden, Graves, Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

- The Mayor stated that although final numbers were not yet available, the City was expected to finish the year ahead of the 2021 budget. Expenses were lower than anticipated, and revenues were equal to or higher than initial estimates.
- The Mayor noted that he had shared committee appointments with Councilmembers the prior week.
- The Mayor and staff interviewed three consulting firms for the pending 2022 employee compensation study.
- The Mayor attended a Johnson County Charter Commission meeting the previous week, noting that no proposals had advanced to be voted on yet.
- The Mayor and staff met with several Northeast Johnson County legislators to discuss the City’s 2022 legislative agenda.
- The Johnson County/Wyandotte County Mayors group was scheduled to meet with state legislators on January 5.
- A Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, sponsored by the City and Stand Up for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, would be held at the Village Church on January 16.
- The Mayor, Mr. Jordan and Chief Roberson planned to attend a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day dinner sponsored by the Olathe branch of the NAACP on January 17.

**STAFF REPORTS**

- Mr. Bredehoeft provided a summary of Public Works crews’ response to the prior weekend’s snow event. He added that staff continued to take steps to achieve LEED Platinum certification on the new Public Works building.
- Mr. Jordan stated that the January plan of action and project narrative were included in the packet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the Council.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COU2022-01 Consider election of 2022 Council President**

Mayor Mikkelson said that traditionally, the longest serving Councilmember who had not yet served as Council President was elected to the position. He noted that Mr. Herring had served on the City Council since August 2017, and recommended that the Council ratify his election as Council President.

**Mrs. McFadden made a motion to ratify the election of Chad Herring as the new Council President. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Gallagher made a motion for 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**

### **2021 Exterior grant & sustainability grant report and 2022 recommended program changes**

Ms. Robichaud noted that the exterior grant program was initially launched in 2008 in an effort to address code violations and encourage homeowners to invest in their home's curb appeal. Since then, City staff prepared an annual report for the Governing Body that outlined how program funds were utilized. In 2021, the City allocated \$74,000 from the economic development fund to the program, with the following results:

- 37 exterior grants awarded totaling \$63,981
- 0 applicants were left on the wait list
- Total homeowner investment: \$216,333
- Average grant award for exterior grant: \$1,729
- Average appraised value for homes receiving grants: \$227,314

Ms. Robichaud added that in 2021, the residential sustainability grant was created to encourage residents to reduce their carbon footprint by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. \$20,000 was allocated to the program, with the following results:

- 10 sustainability grants awarded totaling \$18,785
- 14 applicants remained on the wait list
- Total homeowner investment: \$166,922
- Average grant award: \$1,878
- Average appraised value for homes receiving grants: \$318,770

Based on results, staff recommended the following changes for 2022:



- Increase the appraised value maximum for the 2022 exterior grant program from \$275,000 to \$300,000
- Remove the \$25 application fee for the exterior grant program
- Reallocate the unused 2021 exterior grant and sustainability grant funds (\$11,215) to the 2022 sustainability grant program - increasing the 2022 budget to \$31,215

Mrs. McFadden asked if HVAC projects should be removed from the sustainability grant program, since they generally did not provide major energy efficiency increases.

**Mr. Gallagher made a motion to recommend approval of staff's recommendation for the 2022 exterior grant and sustainability grant programs, increasing the appraised value maximum for the exterior grant from \$275,000 to \$300,000, removing the \$25 application fee for the exterior grant program, and increasing the budget for the 2022 sustainability grant program to \$31,215. Ms. Selders seconded the motion.**

**After further discussion, Mr. Shelton moved to amend the motion to remove the \$300,000 appraised value maximum from the exterior grant program, and instead use Johnson County's minor home rehabilitation program income limits, equal to 80% of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual guidelines. Mrs. McFadden seconded the motion to amend.**

Mr. Graves and Ms. Limbird stated that they preferred to leave HVAC replacements as an acceptable usage of sustainability grant funds.

**Mr. Shelton withdrew his amendment to the motion, and instead moved to amend the original motion to increase the appraised value maximum for the exterior grant program to \$350,000 for 2022. Mr. Cole Robinson seconded the motion, which passed 10-2, with Mr. Herring and Mr. Gallagher in opposition.**

**The original motion as amended passed unanimously.**

#### **COU2022-02          Discuss City efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19**

Mayor Mikkelson provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that Johnson County transmission numbers had increased dramatically. 637 new cases per 100,000 people had been reported in the past seven days, and the percent positive rate had risen to 21.5%. Hospitalizations and deaths remained steady.

Mr. Jordan stated that the City still had roughly 4000 masks available for residents and businesses to use, though no requests had been received for several months. He added that administrative staff from several Northeast Johnson County cities had met earlier in the day, and that none had considered instituting mask mandates in their cities.



Mr. Waters shared information about a Kansas state law that went into effect January 1, which would allow for the reimbursement of tax dollars to businesses that were shut down or forced to operate with limited functionality by a governing entity due to an emergency order. He noted that an example might include a governing entity requiring a restaurant to reduce its seating capacity, which could result in the City being required to reimburse the restaurant's property tax payments.

Ms. Selders stated that she had heard from several constituents about the difficulty in finding at-home COVID test kits, and suggested the City purchase kits to be made accessible to residents at no charge. Mr. Jordan said that funds were available for the purchase of testing kits and masks. Other Councilmembers recommended increased messaging through social media platforms, making different sizes and varieties of signage available for businesses, and communicating the City's concerns to the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners.

After further discussion, Ms. Limbird moved to have staff draft a letter to the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners requesting proactive efforts to mitigate COVID in local communities and throughout the county. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallagher, and passed 11-1, with Mr. Dave Robinson in opposition.

Ms. Selders made a motion for staff to purchase 100 COVID test kits to be made available to residents at no charge. Mr. Shelton seconded the motion, and amended it to place a \$5,000 spending cap on the purchase of test kits. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shelton moved to have staff draft a messaging plan aimed at residents and businesses to more clearly communicate COVID mitigation strategies in the community, as well as draft a budget that would support the production of universal signage related to the aforementioned mitigation strategies to be shared with businesses and other entities in public spaces. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wolf, and failed 7-5, with Mr. Herring, Mr. Cole Robinson, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Dave Robinson, Ms. Reimer, Mrs. McFadden and Mr. Gallagher in opposition.

Mr. Cole Robinson 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.

Ms. Selders moved to advise staff to purchase 100 COVID test kits to be made available to residents at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Shelton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements were included in the Council meeting packet.



**PRAIRIE VILLAGE**  
KANSAS

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.**

Adam Geffert  
City Clerk