



**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE  
JUNE 17, 2024**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, June 17, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Mikkelson presided.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by the City Clerk with the following councilmembers in attendance: Cole Robinson, Terry O’Toole, Inga Selders, Ron Nelson, Lori Sharp, Chi Nguyen, Dave Robinson, Tyler Agniel, Greg Shelton, Nick Reddell, Ian Graves, and Terrence Gallagher. Staff present: Byron Roberson, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Director of Public Works; City Attorney Alex Aggen, Hunter Law Group; Wes Jordan, City Administrator; Nickie Lee, Deputy City Administrator; Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator; Meghan Boom, Assistant City Administrator, Jason Hannaman, Finance Director (via Zoom); Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Agniel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves.

Ms. Selders made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a discussion of the possibility of a joint work session with the Planning Commission and City Council to discuss proposed zoning amendments before final consideration of the Planning Commission’s recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sharp and passed 8-4, with Mr. Cole Robinson, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Graves and Mr. Gallagher in opposition.

The original motion as amended passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS AND SCOUTS**

There were no students or scouts present at the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Chief Roberson presented the Police Meritorious Service Award to Officer Ben Overesch and K-9 Blitz, who were recognized for their efforts in assisting the Kansas City Missouri Police Department in apprehending a shooting suspect.



**PRAIRIE VILLAGE**  
KANSAS

- Mayor Mikkelson read a Pride Month proclamation. Equality Kansas Policy Director Taryn Jones was present to share information about the organization.
- Mr. Shawn Gordon with Gordon CPA presented the City's 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). He noted that the company had issued an unmodified audit opinion, which was the best opinion that could be received.
- Tyler Riordan and Garrett Spoonmore from Republic Services gave an update on solid waste performance issues. Each stated that they would be addressing service problems with the addition of new drivers and vehicles.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- The following individuals expressed their support of the Mayor and Council:
  - George Williams, 7801 Colonial Drive
  - Trudy Williams, 7801 Colonial Drive
  - Melissa Funaro, no address given
  - Sherri Solis, 7339 Mission Road
  - Dennis Solis, 7339 Mission Road
  - Hazel Krebs, 4021 W. 84<sup>th</sup> Street
  - David Magariel, 4210 W. 69<sup>th</sup> Terrace
- Pam Justus, 7637 Chadwick Street, and Jeff Wright, 3916 W. 90<sup>th</sup> Street, noted their opposition to proposed changes to the City's zoning regulations
- Leon Patton, Ward 5, stated his concern with gun violence and marijuana legalization
- Barbara Cantrell, no address given, shared information about a recent interaction with the police department
- Tim Swanson, no address given, conveyed his thoughts about trans legislation
- Karen Gibbons, 71<sup>st</sup> Street, spoke about the effort to recall the Mayor
- Paul Gorelick, 8050 Mohawk Street, acknowledged City staff and expressed frustration at political divisions in the City

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Mikkelson asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda for discussion:

1. Consider approval of regular City Council meeting minutes - June 3, 2024
2. Consider renewal of franchise agreement with Level 3 Telecom
3. Consider construction administration agreement with Trekk Design Group for 2024 CARS project and 2024 paving program

**Mr. Agniel made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": C. Robinson, O'Toole, Selders, Nelson,**



Sharp, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Agniel, Shelton, Reddell, Graves, Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Shelton provided an Environmental Committee update, sharing information about Johnson County’s “Recycle Right” initiative which was still underway in the City.
- Mr. O’Toole gave a summary of the June 4 Planning Commission meeting, noting that the recommendations for zoning regulation amendments approved by the commission would be considered by the Council at its July 1 meeting.
- Mr. Dave Robinson congratulated Ward 4 residents Ashley Kennedy and Travis Moore, who had recently gotten married.

### MAYOR’S REPORT

- The Mayor noted that he had attended the following events since the prior Council meeting:
  - The Prairie Hills Homes Association annual picnic on June 15
  - The United Community Services’ “Human Services Summit”
  - The Mid-America Regional Council annual assembly on June 14
  - The City’s Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on June 15
- The Mayor shared the following upcoming events:
  - The Prairie Village community gardeners’ summer solstice celebration on June 20
  - A Northeast Johnson County Mayors meeting on June 21
  - The annual VillageFest event on July 4

### STAFF REPORTS

None.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

**COU2024-39**

**Consider transfer of ownership of .24 acres of land at Shaffer Park from Johnson County Park and Recreation to the City of Prairie Village**



Mayor Mikkelson said that in 2004, Johnson County Park and Recreation purchased an existing home that was for sale beside Prairie Park (now Shaffer Park) at 6830 Mission Road. The City entered into an interlocal agreement to lease the property in order to expand Prairie Park. Johnson County Park and Recreation had since decided to transfer ownership of the .24 acres to the City with the understanding the greenspace would be continued to be used as a park in perpetuity.

**Mr. Gallagher made a motion to accept the transfer of ownership of park land at Shaffer park from Johnson County Park and Recreation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dave Robinson and passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Nelson made a motion for the City Council to move to the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves and passed unanimously.**

#### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**COU2024-40          Consider approval of an agreement with KERAMIDA to develop a community climate action plan**

Ms. Buum stated that In October 2021, the City of Prairie Village signed on to the Cities Race to Zero, a global campaign backed by the United Nations aimed at reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. The Cities Race to Zero is the city-specific campaign in which municipalities commit to carbon targets that align with the specific aspects of their communities. The pledge requires annual progress reporting through CDP.

In 2022, as part of the 2023 budget process, the City Council committed \$50,000 to implement a City-wide sustainability program. Following an RFP process, KERAMIDA was selected based on a strong understanding of Prairie Village’s needs, professional background and resources, breadth of consulting services able to be provided, and fees. For budgetary purposes, the scope of work was divided into two phases.

Ms. Buum said that in 2023, KERAMIDA completed a municipal greenhouse gas inventory and outlined emission reduction pathways with strategies to meet the 2030 reduction targets, with the goal of net zero by 2050. The City Council adopted the municipal operations climate action plan in fall 2023.

The second phase of the sustainability program would expand the scope of the municipal climate action plan to include community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and reduction strategies. As part of the Cities Race to Zero, participating cities must set science-based targets - measurable and actionable environmental targets that cover community-wide emissions, not simply municipal operations.



Nick McCreary, Vice President for Sustainability and Climate Services with KERAMIDA was present to provide additional information. He noted that the second phase of the project would be broken into three tasks:

1. Expansion of greenhouse inventory to include all community operations
2. Develop greenhouse gas reductions measure to achieve the City's goal of climate neutrality by 2050
3. Create a stakeholder engagement plan, including community workshops, open houses and idea generation sessions

Mr. McCreary noted the entire project would take approximately seven months.

Ms. Selders asked how the work performed by KERAMIDA would differ from what was being done as part of the Mid-American Regional Council's Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan. Mr. McCreary said that the regional action plan was being performed at a much higher scale, and that the plan for Prairie Village would be shared with MARC as part of that project.

**Mr. Shelton made a motion to approve the agreement with KERAMIDA to develop a community climate action plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cole Robinson.**

Mr. Gallagher asked how data would be gathered in the community. Mr. McCreary said that specific methods would be discussed after the project kicked off, but would include mail and online surveys and community engagement events.

**After further discussion, the motion passed 9-3, with Ms. Sharp, Mr. Reddell and Mr. Gallagher in opposition.**

### **Preliminary 2025 budget presentation**

Ms. Lee gave a presentation on the proposed 2025 budget. She noted that it had been reviewed by the Finance Committee on May 14, 2024, and was unanimously approved by the committee at its May 23, 2024, meeting. She stated that the "all in number" for expenditures in the general fund budget represented a 1.3% increase over 2024, totaling \$32,005,383. Proposed increases included 6.4% for personnel, 2.8% for contract services, 3.4% for commodities, and a 7.4% decrease for capital outlay. The majority of the increase to the personnel budget would be applied to the Police Department, whereas the merit pool for other City employees was set at 4%. Ms. Lee noted that the mill levy would remain flat at 18.325, and the fund balance would be slightly over its 25% target, at 25.1%.

Mr. Jordan provided information about the personnel budget, specifically a proposed increase to police department salaries that had been recommended by the Finance Committee. He noted that the department continued to struggle to hire officers, and provided a comparison of salaries in the City versus surrounding communities. In most



cases, other agencies had similar minimum salaries but higher maximum salaries than Prairie Village. In order to improve recruitment and retention, Mr. Jordan recommended increasing the minimum salary for an officer from \$57,724 to \$62,000, and the maximum from \$77,927 to \$90,000, effective July 1. For 2025, a range of \$65,000 minimum to \$92,000 was proposed, with a top out reduced from 12 years to 10 years. The adjustment would cost approximately \$220,000 for the remainder of 2024, and \$426,000 in 2025.

Mr. Jordan stated that police department staffing was at a critical level. The department was authorized to have 47 sworn officers; of the 42 employed officers, seven were still in training, leaving 35 officers available to work. The reduced number had resulted in fewer officers available to patrol City streets and a reduction in services, such as crime prevention. Lastly, Mr. Jordan said that of the 31 officers hired in the past five years, 16 were no longer with the department, and that the cost to replace the 28 officers that had left over the five-year period was nearly \$2.5 million. He emphasized that retaining officers was ultimately a cost savings versus hiring new officers.

Ms. Lee added that Senate Bill 13 and House Bill 2104, enacted in 2021, required notice and public hearing requirements if a city's proposed budget exceeded the property tax levy's revenue neutral rate. The City's revenue neutral rate would be 17.365 in 2025 per Johnson County, which would require the proposed budget to go through the revenue neutral rate process.

**Mr. Cole Robinson made a motion to approve the preliminary budget recommended by the Finance Committee and send it to the City Council for final approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallagher and passed 11-1, with Ms. Sharp in opposition.**

### **Proposal to hold a work session with the Planning Commission**

Ms. Selders stated that she felt it was important for the Council to have a work session with the Planning Commission to ensure that concerns from residents and Councilmembers about changes to zoning regulations were thoroughly discussed. She also stated concern about having a "blanket" approach to adding residential uses to commercial districts, and whether other cities in Johnson County used similar methods.

Mr. Cole Robinson said that the existing process in place would allow the Council to discuss the proposed changes, and if necessary, remand them back to the Planning Commission with recommended changes, making a work session unnecessary.

Mr. Graves and Mr. Nelson stated that the proposed changes had already been narrowed significantly and did not need to be discussed further in a work session.

Mr. Gallagher added that amendments could be made to the Planning Commission's recommended changes by the Council at its July 1 meeting.



Ms. Selders shared her concern that the Council would not be able to dictate the style or design of residential uses that could be put in commercial districts. Mr. O'Toole said that the proposed changes did contain safeguards that would allow the Planning Commission and City Council to make those judgements.

**After further discussion, Ms. Selders made a motion to have City staff provide the Council information on whether other cities in Johnson County used a "blanket approach" to adding residential uses in commercial districts and also provide an in-depth explanation of what the "golden factors" were. Ms. Sharp seconded the motion.**

Mr. Jordan stated that staff would not be able to accomplish the request of polling all Johnson County cities in the two weeks before the July 1 meeting.

**Ms. Selders amended her motion to ask staff to get information from a few Johnson County cities about allowing residential uses in all of their commercial districts, as well as an in-depth explanation of what the "golden factors" were.**

After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": Selders, Sharp, Reddell; "nay": C. Robinson, O'Toole, Nelson, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Agniel, Shelton, Graves, Gallagher. The motion failed 9-3.

**Mr. Shelton 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 unanimously.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements were included in the Council meeting packet.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Adam Geffert  
City Clerk