

**COUNCIL
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE
November 6, 2000
-Minutes-**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, November 6, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Shaffer called the meeting to order with the following Council members responding to roll call: Al Herrera, Bill Griffith, Ruth Hopkins, Bob Pierson, Roy True, Laura Wassmer, Jerry Kelso, Nancy Vennard, Kay Wolf and Diana Ewy Lamberson.

Also present were: Barbara Vernon, City Administrator; Charles Wetzler, City Attorney; Charles Grover, Chief of Police; Bob Pryzby, Director of Public Works; Doug Luther, Assistant City Administrator and Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Shaffer said he was pleased to introduce and welcome Chantal Schaller visiting from our Sister City of Schaerbeek, Belgium. Ms Schaller served as the Mayor's Assistant for Schaerbeek.

Boy Scout Paxton Gross addressed the Council to request that the City of Prairie Village consider the construction of a skateboard park. He noted that skateboarding is prohibited at the shopping centers, on the city's tennis courts and in some school parking areas. This leaves very few locations where skateboarders can safely and legally skate. Paxton has submitted a petition to the City formally requesting the consideration of creating a skateboard park. Mayor Shaffer announced that this issue has been assigned to the Park & Recreation Committee for consideration. Nancy Vennard, Park Committee Chairman, stated that Paxton was welcome to attend the next meeting of the Board, but advised him that the committee had a very long agenda and may not be able to discuss this issue at the November 8th meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Nancy Vennard moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, November 6, 2000 as amended:

1. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2000
2. Approve Claims Ordinances #2201 through #2206
3. Approve the establishment of a fee of \$2 for Decorative City of Prairie Village License Plates
4. Adopt Resolution 2000-11 authorizing a contract with Firststar Bank of Prairie Village to serve as the depository account for seized assets from Case #00-5628

and withdrawal of such assets by the Chief of Police upon notification of the findings of the District Court

5. Ratify the appointment of Leslie Anderson, Ken Starkey and Chad Schleicher to the Environment/Recycle Committee
6. Approve a short-term special use permit to Sunseekers for a non-illuminated promotional banner to be placed on the front of their building from November 7, 2000 to December 6, 2000
7. Approve a short-term special use permit to Community Bank for 3' x 10' promotional banner to be placed on the front of their building at 5206 from November 13th through December 12th.
8. Approve an agreement with Bucher, Willis & Ratliff for the 2000 Traffic Safety Study in the amount of \$39,945 with funding from the 2000 Public Safety budget 01-03-21-5160
9. Approve a short-term special use permit to Oxford Cleaners at 4517 West 90th Street for an 8' x 2' banner to be placed on the west side of their building and five directional signs from November 6th to November 30th
10. Approve a short-term special use permit to The Mission Bank, 8201 Mission Road for two grand opening celebrations on Wednesday, November 15th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, November 18th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
11. Approve the 2001 agreement with Challenger Sports, contingent upon the inclusion of appropriate ADA language by Challenger Sports
12. Adopt the Strategic Plan Action Plan as presented October 16,2000 with the noted addition

A roll call vote was taken with the following members voting "aye": Herrera, Griffith, Hopkins, Pierson, True, Wassmer, Kelso, Vennard, Wolf and Ewy Lamberson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Golden Anniversary Committee

Diana Ewy Lamberson reported on the progress of the Golden Anniversary Committee. The full committee has met three times. The initial event will be a reception at Homestead Country Club on February 19th (the date of the City's incorporation). This will include individuals past and present who have had an impact on the City. She requested that if Council members knew of teachers, clergy or others that should be included please contact a committee member with this information. There will be a PowerPoint presentation given that evening on the history of Prairie Village, which will also be made available on CD.

The parade will be held in the fall, the day after the Lancer Day Parade, not in conjunction with the Villagefest celebration. Committee members felt there would be a better response by the community and youth during the fall when school was in session and it would not require special police services on a holiday. There will still be a children's parade held for Villagefest. Homes Associations will be able to pick up block party kits to continue the celebration throughout the year.

Committee members are still exploring the possibility of a book on the history of Prairie Village. If done, it would not be completed until 2002, so all the events of the

year could be included. The logo has been approved and will be used on City letterhead, business cards and other city publications.

Policy/Services Committee

POL97-134 Consider Mission Road and Tomahawk Road Intersection

The Policy/Services Committee discussed at their meeting whether to consider the design of a roundabout at the intersection of Mission Road and Tomahawk Road. This intersection improvement project is currently under design for construction the first of the year 2001. However, it has been suggested by Council members and others that a roundabout be considered for that area. Mr. Pryzby has directed Larkin to not proceed any further on the original design at this time. Both Bucher, Willis & Ratliff and The Larkin Group have prepared sketches of a roundabout at this location.

Mr. Pryzby explained the proposed roundabout. A roundabout is basically a traffic circle where the traffic in the circle has the right of way, unlike true traffic circles where incoming traffic has the right of way. Roundabouts are said to improve the flow of traffic and also lower the speed of traffic, thereby reducing accidents.

The Policy/Service Committee discussed this issue earlier and Mr. Pryzby has requested direction from the entire Council on how to proceed. The concerns raised by Policy/Service Committee members were pedestrian traffic, the ability of large trucks servicing the commercial center to use the traffic circle without damaging the infrastructure and the lack of input from the Fire District, Police Department or Shopping Center merchants. Based on the limited information available and the delay in construction and increased costs that would be incurred by changing the design the committee voted to recommend continuing with the original design for this location.

Ruth Hopkins reported that the individual making the presentation on the use of “roundabouts” at the Kansas League Conference strongly supported their use. He presented statistics showing significant decreases in accidents where roundabouts were used. Traffic flows more smoothly through roundabouts than through traditional intersections with traffic signals. She feels the advantages of “roundabouts” outweigh disadvantages.

Laura Wassmer noted that several other Johnson County cities currently have or are in the process of constructing “roundabouts” in their cities.

Al Herrera stated that he would be more comfortable with the placement of the roundabout at a location without the neighboring commercial development.

Diana Ewy Lamberson stated that the “roundabouts” are a unique idea; however, she does have some concerns with the lack of monitored pedestrian crosswalks and feels that perhaps another location would be better.

Kay Wolf stated that in conversations with Ron Williamson, he felt this would be an appropriate location within the City.

Jerry Kelso expressed opposition to additional money for a roundabout if there are no safety issues to be addressed. Laura Wassmer responded that this has been suggested more for the creation of a significant entrance to the City than to address any safety issue.

Nancy Vennard noted that JC Nichols will allow the City to relocate the Prairie Family at the city’s entrance. This was to be placed in Prairie Park; however, it is now being considered to place this significant identifying statue in the center of the roundabout.

Bill Griffith questioned how much had already been spent in the original design for this intersection. Mr. Pryzby estimated that the engineers are approximately two-thirds of the way through with the design and have spent approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. However, he noted that survey work and utility location work completed would be used even if the design was changed.

Al Herrera and Laura Wassmer expressed concern with the single lane roundabout would be able to handle the large trucks servicing the commercial center. Mr. Pryzby stated that Bucher, Willis & Ratliff and The Larkin Group feels the space can accommodate the traffic for this area.

Roy True noted that if the roundabout does slow down traffic, it might be beneficial to the merchants of the Shopping Center.

Nancy Vennard moved the Council proceed with the original design for the intersection at Mission Road and Tomahawk Road. The motion was seconded by Al Herrera. The motion was defeated by a vote of 3 “ayes” (Herrera, Pierson, Kelso) to 7 “nay” (Griffith, Hopkins, True, Wassmer, Vennard, Wolf and Ewy Lamberson).

Jerry Kelso expressed concern with the Council paying twice for the design of this intersection.

Nancy Vennard moved the Council authorize The Larkin Group to do a feasibility Study for a roundabout at the intersection of Mission Road and Tomahawk. The motion was seconded by Ruth Hopkins and passed by a majority vote with one “nay” (Kelso).

Bill Griffith confirmed that the feasibility study would include the following: Discussion of design criteria; case studies on use of roundabouts, discussion of pedestrian and bicycle movement in a roundabout, discussion with Fire, Police, Med-Act, PV Shopping Center Mgmt, Mission Hills, the gas station owners and affected property owners. The information will contain a minimum of two sketches, probable estimate of construction cost, discussion of constructing fountain with the Prairie Family in the roundabout. Both bound copies and a powerpoint presentation will be prepared for the Council.

Mayor Shaffer reminded the Council that the action taken at this point will only delay the construction of the intersection. After the feasibility study is completed, the Council will have additional information on which to base their decision on the possible construction of a roundabout at this location.

Communications Committee

Laura Wassmer announced that the City license plates have arrived and will be on sale through the City Clerk's Office at a cost of \$2.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Griffith advised the Council that the Legislative/Finance Committee is considering the property maintenance codes, process and enforcement. At one time there was a suggestion that this be dealt with as a worksession for the entire Council. It was noted that this may still be done, possibly after the Legislative/Finance Committee has come up with recommendations. Council members felt that it was appropriate for the Legislative/Finance Committee to continue their discussion of the issue and keep the other members informed through minutes of their meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee meetings scheduled for the next two weeks include:

Planning Commission	11/07/2000	8:00 p.m.
Park & Recreation Committee	11/08/2000	7:00 p.m.
Sister City (cancelled)	11/13/2000	7:00 p.m.
PVAC Budget Worksession	11/15/2000	6:00 p.m.
Golden Anniversary	11/15/2000	7:00 p.m.
Council Committee of the Whole	11/20/2000	6:00 p.m.
Council Meeting	11/20/2000	7:30 p.m.

The Prairie Village Arts Council is pleased to feature the work of Barbara Frets and Jane Pronko during the month of November. There will be an opening reception on Friday, November 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Remember to Vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7th.

The Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 27th at 6:30 at the Municipal Building. Donations to the Holiday Tree Fund will be utilized in assisting Prairie Village families and Senior Citizens needing help paying for their heating and electric bills during the cold winter months, as well as with home maintenance throughout the year. Your tax-deductible contributions are appreciated.

The Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Gala will be held on Friday, December 15th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Homestead Country Club. The party will be in the lower level, use the west entrance.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Monday, November 13th at 2 p.m. for the Station Development Office project at 75th & Reinhardt.

Recess

Nancy Vennard moved pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(2) that the Governing Body recesses into Executive session for a period not to exceed fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing with the City Attorney, a legal matter pertaining to the status of litigation. The motion was seconded by Al Herrera, and passed unanimously. The meeting was recessed at 8:35 p.m.

Mayor Shaffer reconvened the meeting of the City Council at 8:50 p.m. Mayor Shaffer announced that there would be a brief reception in honor of Chantal Schaller of Schaerbeek, Belgium.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Joyce Hagen Mundy
City Clerk