

City Commission of Arkansas City Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. August 15, 2017, in the Commission Room at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave., in Arkansas City.

Mayor Duane L. Oestmann called the meeting to order. Those also present at roll call were Commissioner Charles Tweedy III, Commissioner Jay Warren and Commissioner Karen Welch.

Commissioner Dan Jurkovich joined the meeting in progress at 5:31 p.m.

City employees present at the meeting were City Manager Nick Hernandez, City Attorney Tamara Niles, City Clerk Lesley Shook, Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson, Finance Director Kathy Cornwell, City Treasurer Jennifer Waggoner, Public Works Director Eric Broce, Assistant Public Works Director Mike Crandall, Fire Chief Bobby Wolfe, Police Chief Dan Ward and Human Resources Manager Marla McFarland.

RISE Cowley was represented by coalition member Tom Langer, of the City-Cowley County Health Department.

Citizens in attendance included Kanyon Gingher and Ark City Daily Bytes reporter Jeni McGee.

Commissioner Warren offered the opening prayer. Mayor Oestmann led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Tweedy made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the agenda approved.

Recognition of Visitors

Tom Langer, City-Cowley County Health Department administrator and public health officer, gave a presentation on behalf of the RISE Cowley health coalition, of which the City of Arkansas City is one of several area members.

RISE Cowley recently received a \$100,000 "Pathways to a Healthy Kansas" implementation grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. It also has access to \$400,000 in additional, noncompetitive achievement grant funding.

Langer talked about how poorly Cowley County ranks in most statewide health rankings and why. He said the goal of Pathways is to, over the next three years, change attitudes and physical factors to improve the rankings.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Tweedy made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, including the following:

1. Approving the August 1, 2017, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Ratifying Oestmann's reappointments of Kevin Cox and J.W. Lozano to the Historic Preservation Board.

Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the consent agenda approved.

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Old Business

2018 Budget Hearing/Adoption Ordinance No. 2017-08-4435

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance adopting the 2018 budget for the City of Arkansas City. Mayor Oestmann opened a public hearing. No one spoke. Mayor Oestmann closed the hearing.

Commissioner Tweedy asked whether a certain amount of money should be set aside for the Beautification and Tree Advisory Board for events such as Fall and Spring Cleanup Days, Arbor Day, and other cleanup programs.

Finance Director Cornwell said \$1,000 to \$5,000 had been set aside in past years, but never was spent. That amount was taken out of this budget. City Manager Hernandez said it would help if specific programs are funded.

Hernandez said the City can track all of the expenditures in 2018 from its various funds related to cleanup efforts and present that information to the City Commission during the 2019 budget process next summer.

He also talked about the budding lawnmower checkout program and his idea for a possible community paint bank.

Mayor Oestmann made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, with external agency funding. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five aye votes and no nay votes.

Mayor Oestmann declared the ordinance approved and given Ordinance No. 2017-08-4435.

New Business

Personnel Policy Updates

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion four personnel policy updates — Criminal Activity/Arrests, Standards of Conduct, Workplace Bullying, and Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace.

Human Resources Manager McFarland said the policies are relatively straightforward. They relate to appropriate behavior in the workplace and establish standards for criminal activity, misbehavior, and drug use.

She promoted an upcoming anti-harassment/anti-discrimination training and invited commissioners to attend it.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the personnel policy updates. Commissioner Jurkovich seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Oestmann declared the motion approved.

Weed Mowing Charges Ordinance No. 2017-08-4436

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance levying special assessments for code enforcement activities related to unpaid noxious weed mowing charges.

City Manager Hernandez said the City has abated \$24,125.00 worth of mowing with its contractor. Most of these charges never are paid or recouped by the City, even after they are assessed to the property's tax bill.

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Commissioner Tweedy made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mayor Oestmann seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five aye votes and no nay votes.

Mayor Oestmann declared the ordinance approved and given Ordinance No. 2017-08-4436.

Refuse Abatement Charges **Ordinance No. 2017-08-4437**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance levying special assessments for code enforcement activities related to unpaid refuse abatement charges.

Commissioner Jurkovich made a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Tweedy seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five aye votes and no nay votes.

Mayor Oestmann declared the ordinance approved and given Ordinance No. 2017-08-4437.

Certificate of Special Assessment for **Dangerous Structure Demolition**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a Certificate of Special Assessment for a dangerous structure demolition at 1419 S. Summit St., for a total cost of \$5,000.00.

Commissioner Jurkovich made a motion to approve the Certificate. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the motion approved.

League of Kansas Municipalities **Annual Business Meeting**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion the voting delegates to the League of Kansas Municipalities' annual business meeting on Sept. 16-18 in Wichita. The theme is "Resilience: Building a Responsive Community."

Commissioner Welch made a motion to appoint City Manager Hernandez, Commissioner Jurkovich and Commissioner Warren as voting delegates, with herself and Commissioners Tweedy and Oestmann as alternates.

Commissioner Tweedy seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the motion approved.

Municipal Court Ordinance **Ordinance No. 2017-08-4438**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 91-12-3554.

City Attorney Niles said current law requires Arkansas City Municipal Court to be held at least four times a month.

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Niles said amending the ordinance to require municipal court only as dictated by the judge's contract will allow the City to cancel court during the four weeks the judge takes vacation, without having to hire a pro tem judge.

She said this should save the City up to \$2,000 per year in reduced personnel costs. City Manager Hernandez said his eventual goal is to have municipal court just twice a month, which would be in the next judge's contract.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion.

A roll call vote resulted in five aye votes and no nay votes. Mayor Oestmann declared the ordinance approved and given Ordinance No. 2017-08-4438.

City Manager Updates

Police Chief Ward presented the Arkansas City Police Department's 2016 annual report to the commissioners.

He said the delay in presenting the report is due to a delay in receiving crime statistics from the state. In general, crime rates rose in 2016 in Arkansas City, which Ward attributed to ongoing staffing issues at the time.

The good news, he said, is that the department has been fully staffed for all of 2017, and once the final new officers leave field training, he will have two full-time positions devoted to community policing and swing shifts.

While the emphasis on getting to full staffing levels negatively impacted the ability of ACPD to suppress crime and traffic accidents, Ward said that will be a renewed focus for the rest of this year and also heading into 2018.

He also praised recent hiring that has increased departmental diversity, bringing on female, African-American and bilingual Hispanic officers, which better reflects the composition of the community that ACPD serves.

All officers on patrol now have their own Tasers and body-worn cameras, and training is at an all-time high.

City Manager Hernandez reminded the commissioners that the September 5 meeting will be the mayoral transition meeting. Vice Mayor Jurkovich said he would be absent from that meeting due to a prior conflict.

Hernandez said the mayoral transition ceremonies would be rescheduled for September 19 so he is available.

Hernandez also mentioned that the City will have the smallest published increase in its 2018 mill levy of the four local governmental entities — Cowley College added 1.5 mills for capital improvements; Cowley County increased its mill levy by 1.5 mills, as well; and the Arkansas City Public School District raised its mill levy slightly.

He also updated the commissioners on Cowley First's plan to have offices in both Ark City and Winfield. The Strother Field office Cowley First currently occupies will be abandoned by December, saving on rent changes.

Adjournment

Commissioner Warren moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tweedy seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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THE ARKANSAS CITY
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

Duane L. Oestmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer