

# City Commission of Arkansas City - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in regular session at **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 15, 2019**, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave in Ark City.

Mayor **Jay Warren** called the meeting to order. Commissioners also present at roll call were Commissioner **Kanyon Gingher**, Commissioner **Duane L. Oestmann** and Commissioner **Karen Welch**. Commissioner **Dan Jurkovich** joined the meeting in progress at **5:34 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**, Police Chief **Dan Ward**, Arkansas City Police Department Capt. **Mark McCaslin**, Fire Chief **Bobby Wolfe**, and Human Resources Manager **Marla McFarland**.

Citizens in attendance included Second Class Boy Scouts **Ben Thompson** and **Joe Thompson**, as well as their mother, **Wendy Thompson**.

Mayor Warren offered the opening prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

## Agenda Approval

At Mayor Warren's request, Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of appointing Glen Morrison to the Retired Citizens Advisory Council under Item 3 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion.

Mayor Warren said he would like to postpone the appointment indefinitely. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Warren declared the agenda amended and approved.

## Recognition of Visitors

Commissioner Gingher recognized and introduced Second Class Boy Scouts **Ben Thompson** and **Joe Thompson**, who attended the meeting in order to earn their merit badges for government.

## Consent Agenda

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the following:

1. Approving the **January 7, 2019**, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Approving the 2019 **Land Bank** annual report and inventory of property.
3. Ratifying Mayor Warren's reappointments of **Jean Snell** to the **Historic Preservation Board**, **Ruben Garcia** and **Gary Hale** to the **Northwest Community Center Advisory Board**, **Tammy Lanman-Henderson** to the **Outstanding Student Award Committee**, **Mary Benton** to the **Planning Commission** and **Board of Zoning Appeals**, **Angela Bruce** to the **Public Building Commission**, and **Jerry Campbell** and **Chris Dancy** to the **Retired Citizens Advisory Council**.

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Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Warren declared the consent agenda approved.

## Old Business

### New Westar Energy Franchise Ordinance No. 2019-01-4480

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a second reading of an ordinance adopting a new electric franchise with **Westar Energy**. The current franchise agreement expired at the end of 2018.

Commissioner Jurkovich joined the meeting in progress at **5:34 p.m.**

Commissioner Gingher made a motion to approve the ordinance, setting the length of agreement as **five years** and continuing the franchise fee of **5 percent**. Mayor Warren seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jurkovich asked why only five years. Commissioner Gingher said it would not tie future commissioners to their decision and provides time for turning around the medical center.

Commissioner Jurkovich asked why the agreement could not be terminated early. City Attorney Niles said that Westar Energy would have to agree to any changes to the legally binding contract.

A roll call vote resulted in four yea votes and one nay vote, with Commissioner Oestmann dissenting. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved and given **Ordinance No. 2019-01-4480**.

## New Business

### Re-Establishing Study Sessions Resolution No. 2019-01-3231

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution re-establishing the practice of having regular **study sessions** prior to regular City Commission meetings, and scheduling public meetings of the Governing Body at noon on the Fridays immediately prior to the first and third Tuesday of each month for this purpose.

City Manager Hernandez said he thinks it would be a good practice to bring back regular study sessions, but the commissioners always can look at individually canceling them as needs dictate.

If this resolution is approved, he said, the next regular study session would be at **noon February 1**.

Commissioner Jurkovich made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Gingher seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Warren declared the resolution approved and given **Resolution No. 2019-01-3231**.

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## City Manager Updates

City Manager Hernandez reminded the commissioners of the following upcoming events:

- The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration of Unity event will be at **3 p.m. January 20** at Cowley College's Robert Brown Theatre, 215 S. Second St. Mayor Warren is set to speak.
- Local Government Day is **January 23** in Topeka, but Hernandez is not able to attend due to vacation travel plans. He asked any commissioners interested in going to contact City staff.
- The Fifth Thursday Art and Music Crawl originally scheduled for **January 31** has been canceled. Hernandez said Burford Theatre Arts is in the process of taking this event over from the Ark City Chamber of Commerce, but needs more time to prepare for the first event.
- The annual Chamber of Commerce banquet is from **6 to 9:30 p.m. February 2** at Chestnut Avenue Venue, located at 3120 E. Chestnut Ave. in Parkerfield. Hernandez said any commissioners interested in attending should contact City staff so a table can be reserved.

## Other Business

City Manager Hernandez said the **Compass Point Addition** project is getting ready to proceed and told commissioners he will bring exhibits for its special assessments to the next study session.

He also informed commissioners that the Crestwood Drive bridge would be closed to through traffic for replacement starting **January 21**. The project is expected to last for at least three months.

Chief Ward gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Arkansas City Police Department's **2019 Plan**.

He said the department is focused on staying fully staffed, while continuing to increase its diversity and recruiting with the future in mind. He outlined plans for crime and traffic accident reduction.

Ward summarized many of ACPD's new initiatives to connect with the community, including Coffee with a Cop, Popsicle Patrol, the Cops in Schools lunch program, Serial Number September, Welcome Back to School "high fives," a bicycle registration rally, a lip syncing video that went viral, the relaunched Neighborhood Watch program, National Night Out, DARE and DARE Camp, Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE), and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

In the now-integral realm of social media outreach, he said, ACPD's Facebook followers increased from 4,400 to more than 5,600 in 2018, while its Twitter feed now has more than 7,000 followers.

Ward previewed what will be a "changing of the guard" in 2019 — Capt. Mark McCaslin's retirement, currently set for **February 28**, will set off a chain reaction of promotions that will result in a new captain, a new lieutenant, a new sergeant and the hiring of a new officer. He also has budgeted for an additional lieutenant's retirement this year, plus adding another sergeant position.

His first five-year plan (2015-2019) is now nearing its end and ACPD will develop a 2020-2024 plan.

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In 2019, Ward summarized, the Arkansas City Police Department's major goals will be to:

- Complete the CALEA accreditation process.
- Expand the relaunched Neighborhood Watch program.
- Continue the practices of "hot spot" policing and intelligence-led policing.
- Increase efforts to solve problems through community partnerships to "harden" targets.
- Complete the aforementioned five-year plan for the period of 2020 through 2024.
- Prepare the next generation of leaders and senior officers at the Police Department.

Ward answered all of the commissioners' questions about the department and local crime trends.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner Jurkovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Warren declared the meeting adjourned at **5:55 p.m.**

## **THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS**

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Jay Warren, Mayor

## **ATTEST:**

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Lesley Shook, City Clerk

## **Prepared by:**

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Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer