

City Commission of Arkansas City Special Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in special session at 5:30 p.m. July 25, 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 Dan Jurkovich, Commissioner Charles Tweedy III, Commissioner Jay Warren and Commissioner Karen Welch.

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, Fire Chief Bobby Wolfe and Police Chief Dan Ward.

Citizens in attendance included Ken Ghram, Kanyon Gingher, Ark City Daily Bytes reporter Jeni McGee and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter Cody Griesel.

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

New Business

Notice of Budget Hearing **Resolution No. 2017-07-3121**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution approving the Notice of Budget Hearing for publication.

Finance Director Cornwell presented the newest draft of the 2018 budget, which now includes a 2-percent cost-of-living adjustment for all employees, and shows some expected income from land sales and hospital repayment.

She said the first task is to decide the maximum amount of taxes that can be levied, which will be published in the newspaper as part of the Notice of Budget Hearing. The commission also will need to select a hearing date.

City Manager Hernandez showed how the mill levy in 2004, which was 67.794 mills, has increased to a proposed 69.999 mills in 2018. That is just a 3.25-percent increase over 14 years, or 0.22 percent per year since 2004.

In that same time frame, Cowley County has increased taxes by 33.67 percent, USD 470 by 32.8 percent and Cowley College by 8.14 percent. Those numbers are based on increases from 2004 through 2017.

The 3.25-percent increase has been outpaced by inflation (28 percent) over that same period, Hernandez said. If the City had kept up with inflation, its estimated 2018 budget of \$3.793 million actually would be \$4.5 million.

In all, the increase from 2004 to 2018 is just \$267,710, or \$17,847 per year, which equates to \$1.42 per citizen.

Commissioner Tweedy made a motion to set the budget hearing for 5:30 p.m. August 15. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Oestmann declared the motion approved.

City Commission of Arkansas City Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jurkovich made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, with an estimated tax rate of 69.999 mills and maximum budget authority for expenditures of \$28,267,750.

Commissioner Tweedy seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the resolution approved and given Resolution No. 2017-07-3121.

Madison Avenue Water Lines **Resolution No. 2017-07-3122**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution authorizing the City to negotiate a contract agreement with Nowak Construction, of Goddard, for the Madison Avenue water line improvement project using an open-cut approach, for an amount not to exceed \$124,278.00.

Public Works Director Broce said Nowak is wrapping up Valley Road and could start this 12-inch line very soon.

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

A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the resolution approved and given Resolution No. 2017-07-3122.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tweedy moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Oestmann declared the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

THE ARKANSAS CITY
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

Duane L. Oestmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer