

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, October 20, 2020**, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave. in Ark City.

Mayor **Karen Welch** called the meeting to order. Commissioners also present at roll call were Commissioner **Duane L. Oestmann**, Commissioner **Scott Rogers** and Commissioner **Jay Warren**. Commissioner **Kanyon Ginger** joined the meeting in progress at **5:35 p.m.**

City employees present at the meeting were City Manager **Randy Frazer**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, City Clerk **Lesley Shook**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall**, Police Chief **Dan Ward**, Environmental Services Superintendent **Rod Philo**, Public Services Superintendent **Tony Tapia** and Principal Planner **Josh White**.

Citizens in attendance were **Jim Sybrant**, **Harrison Taylor** and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter **John Shelman**. RISE Cowley was represented by **Jodi Pew**, **Mendy Pfannenstiel** and **Dennis Rittle**.

Commissioner Warren offered the opening prayer. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval

At City Manager Frazer's request, Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to amend the agenda by adding an interlocal agreement to join the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) in south-central Kansas as **Item 4** under **New Business**. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion.

A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the agenda **amended** as requested. Commissioner Rogers then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Commissioner Oestmann seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the agenda **approved** as amended.

Recognition of Visitors

Public Information Officer Lawson gave an overview of the various grants the City had received as part of Phase 1 of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas' **Pathways to a Healthy Kansas** grant program:

- **\$25,000** to hire a technical consultant prior to **December 15, 2020**, to assist with the development in **2021** of a Master Transportation Plan for Arkansas City;
- **\$15,168.59** to purchase 22 new LED light poles to install around the Poplar Walking Trail;
- **\$10,000** to fund a new nutrition program for Arkansas City Police Department personnel.

He introduced fellow steering committee members **Mendy Pfannenstiel** and **Dennis Rittle**, as well as RISE Cowley's new grant coordinator for Phase 2 of Pathways, **Jodi Pew**. All of them then posed for a photo with Mayor Welch, the commissioners and a "giant check" in the amount of **\$40,168.59**.

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Comments from the Audience

Harrison Taylor, 525 N. Fourth St., again addressed the commissioners about speeding on residential streets, particularly the north-south streets in his neighborhood such as Fourth Street.

He acknowledged and thanked the police department for its increased patrols and speed monitoring in his neighborhood, but recommended four-way stops as a more permanent solution.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the following:

1. Approving the **October 6, 2020**, regular meeting minutes as written.

Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the consent agenda **approved** as presented.

New Business

Uniform Public Offense Code Ordinance No. 2020-10-4522

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance adopting by reference the **2020 Uniform Public Offense Code** (UPOC) and incorporating it into Ark City Municipal Code.

City Attorney Schwartz said the three main changes are a provision regarding criminal use of weapons that will be removed from Municipal Code due to state preemption, the ability to prosecute (or dismiss) violations of public health orders in Municipal Court and a new UPOC provision that criminalizes selling or providing tobacco products to anyone 21 years old or younger.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, minus any references to “Tobacco 21” violations, which are not currently a part of Kansas law. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved** and given **Ordinance No. 2020-10-4522**.

Compass Point Addition NRP Resolution No. 2020-10-3365

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution authorizing the **Neighborhood Revitalization District** rebate for a blighted area within the City, so that it is financially feasible to build affordable housing within the **Compass Point Addition**.

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Principal Planner White said the developers requested a 90-percent property tax rebate for 10 years, instead of the current 70 percent for seven years, and he recommends doing so to spur construction.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, but with a cap of **\$250,000.00**. Mayor Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved** and given **Resolution No. 2020-10-3365**.

Schedule NRP Public Hearing **Resolution No. 2020-10-3365b**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution approving the notice of public hearing for publication and setting the date for a public hearing at **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 3, 2020**, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave., to consider revisions to the City's 2021 **Neighborhood Revitalization Plan** (NRP).

Principal Planner White said the NRP must be ratified by other entities before taking effect in **2021**.

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Gingerh seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved** and given **Resolution No. 2020-10-3365b**.

REAP Interlocal Agreement **Ordinance No. 2020-10-4523**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance authorizing the City to enter into an Interlocal Agreement concerning membership in the **Regional Economic Area Partnership** (REAP) of local governments in south-central Kansas.

City Manager Frazer said the annual cost of membership in REAP for **2021** would be **\$4,899.00**.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved** and given **Ordinance No. 2020-10-4523**.

City Manager Updates

Public Information Officer Lawson handed out the latest City-Cowley County Health Department guidelines for safe Halloween trick-or-treating practices.

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City Manager Frazer then provided the commissioners with the following reminders and updates:

- Exactly six months after Earth Day, the City will have a “makeup Arbor Day” tree planting at **4 p.m. October 22** in Ranney Park, located at 324 E. Poplar Ave., prior to a Beautification and Tree Advisory Board meeting. Commissioners are invited to come for a photo!
- For the first time ever, in-person advance voting in the state and federal general election is available in Arkansas City! Voting will be from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 26** and from **7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 27-30** at the Water Treatment Facility, 400 W. Madison Ave.
- The next City Commission study session is at **noon October 30** in the Commission Room.
- There will be a Trick or Treat event from **6 to 9 p.m. October 31** in downtown Ark City.
- For those who do not vote in advance, Election Day for state and federal elections is from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m. November 3** at Central Christian Church, located at 206 W. Central Ave.
- Frazer passed out new **budget books** and said 2020 budget adjustments will be needed soon.

Other Business

Environmental Services Superintendent Philo updated the commissioners about and explained ongoing hydrant flushing efforts to raise chlorine residuals on some dead-end water line segments.

Adjournment

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor. Mayor Welch declared the meeting adjourned at **6:12 p.m.**

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

Karen Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer