

# City Commission of Arkansas City – Regular Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in virtual regular session at **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2020**, via the [GoToMeeting](#) platform due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Mayor **Karen Welch** called the virtual meeting to order. Commissioners also present at roll call were Commissioners **Kanyon Gingham, Duane L. Oestmann, Scott Rogers** and **Jay Warren**.

City employees participating were City Manager **Nick Hernandez**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, City Clerk **Lesley Shook**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall**, Finance Director **Kathy Cornwell**, Fire Chief **Bobby Wolfe** and Police Chief **Dan Ward**.

RISE Cowley was represented by grant coordinator **Becky Reid**. Citizens observing included **Brandon Every, Randy Frazer** and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter **John Shelman**.

## **Agenda Approval**

Mayor Welch made a motion to amend the agenda by deleting **Item 2** under the **Consent Agenda**, adding a resolution canceling the May 9 budget retreat as **Item 2** under **New Business**, and also adding Becky Reid under **Comments from the Audience**, which would be moved up to **Section V**, between New Business and City Manager Updates. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the agenda amended as stated. Commissioner Oestmann then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the agenda approved as amended.

## **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Welch read a statement summarizing her five proclamations and highlighting the impact of prayer, public servants, nurses, police, EMS workers, and South Central Kansas Medical Center in light of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and recent death of a Kansas police officer.

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

1. Approving the **April 17, 2020**, special meeting minutes; **April 21, 2020**, regular meeting minutes; and **April 27, 2020**, special meeting minutes as written.
2. Mayor Welch's proclamations:
  - a. Proclaiming **May 7, 2020**, as a **Day of Prayer** in Arkansas City;
  - b. Proclaiming **May 3-9, 2020**, as **Public Service Recognition Week** in Arkansas City;
  - c. Proclaiming **May 6-12, 2020**, as **National Nurses Week** and **May 10-16, 2020**, as **National Hospital Week** in Arkansas City;
  - d. Proclaiming **May 10-16, 2020**, as **National Police Week** and **May 15, 2020**, as **Peace Officers Memorial Day** in Arkansas City;
  - e. Proclaiming **May 17-23, 2020**, as **National EMS Week** in Arkansas City.

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Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the consent agenda approved as presented.

## **New Business**

### **C Street Canal Repair Project** **Resolution No. 2020-05-3327**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution authorizing the City to accept the bid submitted by Waller Construction, of Ponca City, Oklahoma, for the C Street Canal repair project, for an amount not to exceed **\$19,070.00**.

City Manager Hernandez said these repairs had been discussed and recommended by the Traffic Safety Committee during its last two regular meetings. Due to the temporary closure of the pedestrian bridge north of Arkansas City Middle School, the need for improvements is paramount.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Gingher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the resolution approved and given **Resolution No. 2020-05-3327**.

### **Canceling 2020 Budget Retreat** **Resolution No. 2020-05-3328**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution canceling a public meeting of the Governing Body at **8 a.m. Saturday, May 9, 2020**, at Commissioner Warren's cabin, located at 2776 272nd Road, west of Arkansas City, and repealing **Resolution No. 2020-03-3319**.

Mayor Welch made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Gingher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the resolution approved and given **Resolution No. 2020-05-3328**.

## **Comments from the Audience**

**Becky Reid**, grant coordinator for RISE Cowley, provided the commissioners with an overview of the past three years of work by the countywide health coalition as part of "Pathways to a Healthy Kansas," a grant program from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas that brought **\$500,000** to Cowley.

She said Public Information Officer Lawson is finalizing a grant for Poplar Walking Trail lighting.

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Reid said **\$25,000** remains in the Community Policy track that is available to Arkansas City for the funding of a transportation master plan and asked if the commissioners would support such a plan.

She said the City Commission would have to adopt a resolution of support at its **May 19** meeting in order to apply for the grant. The verbal consensus was for staff to proceed with drafting this.

Lawson added the plan would ideally look at new and existing trails, sidewalks, and street projects.

Commissioner Rogers said he would like to see broad community input in the plan's development.

### City Manager Updates

City Manager Hernandez provided the commissioners with the following reminders and updates:

- The next virtual meeting of the Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee will be at **noon May 7** via GoToMeeting. Meeting login information is available upon request.
- The next RISE Cowley health coalition meeting will be at **10 a.m. May 12** via Zoom.
- The next monthly Cowley County Legislative Committee meeting is currently scheduled at **noon May 12** at the Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce office, located at 123 E. Ninth Ave. It has not been announced if this meeting will proceed as scheduled or be virtual, though.
- The City Commission's next virtual study session will be at **noon May 15** via GoToMeeting.

Hernandez said there would be a new franchise agreement with Kansas Gas Service on the **May 19** agenda. He said the Paris Park Pool should be able to open **June 1** with a capacity of **90 people**.

Public Information Officer Lawson added that the Safe Kids car seat check lane event and Cowley County Service Alliance meeting listed on the agenda both had been postponed indefinitely.

### Other Business

Police Chief Ward presented a brief overview of the police department's **2019 annual report**. He said 2019 was the "year of change," featuring multiple retirements, promotions and reorganizations.

Ward highlighted the growing diversity of the department — now six of its 26 officers are female.

### Adjournment

Commissioner Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Oestmann and Commissioner Rogers both seconded the motion at the same time. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the meeting adjourned at **6:11 p.m.**

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## THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

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Karen Welch, Mayor

### ATTEST:

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Lesley Shook, City Clerk

### Prepared by:

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Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer