

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 1, 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 Commissioners **Kanyon Gingham, Duane L. Oestmann, Jim Sybrant** and **Karen Welch**.

City employees present 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**, Police Chief **Dan Ward**, Environmental Services Superintendent **Rod Philo**, Human Resources Manager **Marla McFarland** and Principal Planner **Josh White**.

Citizens in attendance included **Travis Pearman, Grant Rogers, Dr. Scott Rogers, Jaydon Shelman** and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter **John Shelman**.

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

Agenda Approval

At City Manager Hernandez's request, Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to amend the agenda by moving the **Water Rights Evaluation** discussion from Item 3 under Other Business to Item 1 under Old Business as a second reading of the resolution that was presented **September 17**.

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

Mayor Warren declared the agenda approved as amended.

Awards and Proclamations

Mayor Warren issued a proclamation that **October** is **Community Planning Month** in Arkansas City. Principal Planner White accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Warren issued a proclamation that **October 6-12, 2019**, is **Fire Prevention Week** in Arkansas City. Fire Chief Wolfe accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Fire-EMS Department.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Approving the **September 17, 2019**, regular meeting minutes as written.

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

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Old Business

Water Rights Evaluation Resolution No. 2019-10-3287

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a second reading of a resolution authorizing a City agreement with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., to provide Professional Engineering Services for Water Rights Evaluation, for an amount not to exceed **\$23,552.00**.

Environmental Services Superintendent Philo said he had not heard back from the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) until that earlier that afternoon, when KRWA informed him that the only item in the scope of services it could perform would be preparing the application.

Because of that, Philo and City Manager Hernandez recommended that Burns & McDonnell be selected to complete up to 10 Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) Surface Water Right Application Forms, along with supporting documentation to accompany the forms.

The proposed agreement also requires Burns & McDonnell to provide a projected estimate of water demands through **2040**, based on City-provided water use information and Census population data.

Commissioner Sybrant raised the issue of future expansion at Creekstone Farms, which could increase its water usage in the next six to 12 months. He asked Philo about several priority capital improvement items, including a new pump station for the North Pressure Zone, continued replacement of water wells, and possible additional elevated storage at the Bryant or Goff locations.

Commissioner Sybrant said expanding water rights is just one piece of the equation, but stressed its importance after Philo said increased Creekstone usage could stress the City's current rights.

Commissioner Gingher thanked Philo for reaching out to KRWA to explore other possible options.

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

Mayor Warren declared the motion approved and given **Resolution No. 2019-10-3287**.

City Manager Updates

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

- He said he was trying to end this meeting by **6 p.m.** so that the commissioners can attend some of the National Night Out block parties from **6 to 8:30 p.m.**
- The next meeting of the Cowley County Service Alliance will be at **5:30 p.m. October 3** at First United Methodist Church, located at 1000 Millington St. in Winfield.

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- Fall Cleanup Day will start at **8 a.m. October 5** with breakfast for volunteers at Ben Givens Center City Park, 101 N. Summit St. The cleanup will be from **9 a.m. to noon. (Note: This event was canceled due to storms.)** Also, Citywide Pickup Week will be on **October 7-11.**
- The next RISE Cowley health coalition meeting will be at **10 a.m. October 8** in the extension assembly room at the Cowley County Courthouse, located at 911 Fuller St. in Winfield.
- The next monthly Cowley County Legislative Committee meeting will be at **noon October 8** at the Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce office, located at 106 S. Summit St.
- The next monthly meeting of the Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee will be at **1:30 p.m. October 10** at the Water Treatment Facility, located at 400 W. Madison Ave.
- There will be a forum for candidates for the City Commission at **7 p.m. October 10** in the Wright Room at Cowley College's Brown Center. The City election is **November 5.**
- The City of Arkansas City will be host to a fall employee appreciation breakfast from **6 to 8:30 a.m. October 11** at the Northwest Community Center, located at 615 W. Birch Ave.
- The next quarterly Traffic Safety Committee meeting will be at **10 a.m. October 11** in the city manager's office at City Hall, located at 118 S. Summit St.
- The next City Commission study session will be at **noon October 11** in the city manager's office at City Hall. The topic will be finalizing the Hike-Bike Trail Extension Phase 2 route.

Other Business

City Manager Hernandez said the Traffic Safety Committee during a special meeting on **September 27** endorsed applying for funding through the new Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Cost Share Program for the North Summit Street reconstruction project.

Hernandez provided some history on why this reconstruction project was shelved in **2009-2010.**

He said he still envisions a mill and overlay from Radio Lane to Skyline Road, with some sidewalk and signalization improvements in that corridor as well, and a full-blown reconstruction from Kansas Avenue to Radio Lane, with either an expansion to five lanes or a reduction to three lanes.

Hernandez said he anticipates receiving cost estimates for both proposals back from TranSystems around **October 4** and said he would need to schedule a special call meeting early in the following week to go over those options with the City Commission. The deadline to apply is **October 11.**

Hernandez said the City could hear back as soon as the end of October whether it will receive funds.

Commissioner Oestmann said he is in favor of looking at three lanes, in order to have sidewalks on both sides of Summit between Kansas and Radio Lane, and he likes the Osage Avenue crosswalk.

Commissioner Sybrant said he was concerned about the potentially large cost of such a project, but Hernandez said the water system is funded from water revenues and would not affect this. Also, Commissioner Sybrant said he has a conflict of interest concerning property he owns on Summit.

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City Manager Hernandez said **48%** of the City's sales tax revenues come from the Summit corridor.

Commissioner Sybrant asked Hernandez if three lanes or five lanes would help or hurt the economic strength of the area. Hernandez said he thinks three lanes definitely help with safety.

Travis Pearman, who is a candidate in the upcoming City election, asked to speak and said he was opposed to the proposed project. He questioned whether safety is a major issue in the Summit corridor between Kansas Avenue and Radio Lane, and said the City's cost share would be too high.

Mayor Warren closed the discussion and said further discussion could occur at the special meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Oestmann 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 **6:19 p.m.**

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

Jay Warren, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer