



**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE
May 20, 2019**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas. Mayor Mikkelson presided.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called by the City Clerk with the following Council Members in attendance: Chad Herring, Jori Nelson, Serena Schermoly, Ron Nelson, Tucker Poling, Andrew Wang, Sheila Myers, Brooke Morehead, Dan Runion, Courtney McFadden, Ted Odell and Terrence Gallagher. Staff present: Tim Schwartzkopf, Chief of Police; Major Byron Roberson; Melissa Prenger, Public Works; Wes Jordan, City Administrator; Jamie Robichaud, Deputy City Administrator; Alley Porter, Assistant City Administrator; Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director; Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brooke Morehead made a motion to approve the agenda for May 20, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS & SCOUTS

No students or scouts were in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bob LaPorte, 7641 Tomahawk Road, shared concerns about the condition of rental properties on his street. He noted that both the interior and exterior of these homes are in poor condition, and asked that the City increase its code enforcement of rental homes.

Pam Taylor, 7645 Tomahawk Road, stated that she had been inside the rental properties on the same street and had seen numerous health and safety issues. She urged the City to perform interior inspections of rentals as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Mikkelson asked if there were any items to remove from the consent agenda for discussion.

Terrence Gallagher moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda of May 20, 2019 as presented:



1. Approval of the regular City Council meeting minutes – May 6, 2019
2. Approval of expenditure ordinance #2978
3. Consider appointment of Nancy Robinson to Environmental Committee
4. Consider approval to hire H&H Roofing and Restoration for the Salt Barn roofing project

A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: Herring, J. Nelson, Schermoly, R. Nelson, Poling, Wang, Morehead, Runion, McFadden, Odell and Gallagher.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Herring shared that the Parks and Recreation Committee met on May 8th at Meadowbrook Park and were given a tour of the clubhouse facility as well as the grounds.
- Mrs. Morehead stated that the first “Chamber in the Chambers” music series took place on Friday, May 10th at City Hall. The quartet Opus 76 performed classical music for over an hour for attendees, which included Mrs. Morehead, Mrs. Schermoly, and the Mayor.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Mikkelson reported the following:

- Graduations at both Shawnee Mission East and Kansas City Christian School were held the week of May 13th.
- The Shawnee Mission East boys tennis team won the Kansas state title, and the girls swim team finished second in the state.
- The Mayor and staff attended the Peace Officer Memorial Service at City Hall on Wednesday, May 15th.
- The Touch-a-Truck event was also held on May 15th.
- The City hosted the northeast Johnson County mayors at a meeting at the Kessler in Meadowbrook.
- The 3rd Annual “Doggie Dash” event was held on Saturday, May 11th.
- Mrs. Morehead recognized a Prairie Village high school graduate named Tom Joyce, who received an appointment to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Safety

- Chief Schwartzkopf stated that the Police Department would participate in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, which will stop at Johnny’s restaurant on May 28th at 11:00 a.m. A brief presentation will be given.
- The Chief and Major Roberson will attend a fast-breaking dinner for the Ramadan holiday at the Dialogue Institute in Kansas City, KS. The Police Department has attended the event several times.
- The Chief thanked the Mayor for his comments at the Peace Office Ceremony.



Public Works

- Melissa Prenger said that several construction projects were beginning in the City, and would be implemented throughout the summer.

Administration

- Wes Jordan stated Councilmembers had received an invitation to attend the Northeast Johnson County Chamber end-of-session briefing on May 31st.
- All local elected state officials will be present at the June 3rd City Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Schermoly spoke about her concerns with the condition of rental properties in the City. She suggested that the Governing Body should consider what City staff can do to better enforce codes, particularly code violations inside rental homes. She added that the City should be able to do more than state law limits, and shared photos that showed the condition of some rental houses in Prairie Village.

Mr. Poling stated that the City of Roeland Park enacted policy changes to better address these problems within the last 3-4 years. Mr. Runion added that the Council should authorize a maximum expenditure amount for staff to speak to counsel about what can legally be done by the City. Mr. Gallagher asked Mrs. Robichaud how code violations were currently handled. She stated that when violations are reported to Codes Enforcement Officers, the violations are addressed. However, state statute requires permission from tenants before staff can enter homes to perform interior inspections.

Mrs. Schermoly made a motion to direct staff to research the feasibility of conducting interior inspections on rental properties as part of the rental licensing requirements, and to allot \$1,000.00 to discuss options with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Morehead made a motion that the City Council move to the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Schermoly and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Preliminary 2020 budget and capital infrastructure program budget presentation



Mr. Runion, Chairman of the Finance Committee, made opening remarks, stating that the proposed budget included a reduction of the mill rate and an increase to the police pension fund. He added that all programs were fully funded based on staff requests. Under the budget, the General Fund balance would total \$5.1 million dollars at the end of 2020, leaving the City in a strong financial position even in the event of an economic downturn.

Lisa Santa Maria presented the overall City budget and noted that proposed General Fund expenditures for 2020 represent a 2.2% increase over 2019, and include a reduction of the mill rate by one mill. The fund balance would stay at 25% of the total budget, and the operations budget would remain flat with a \$500,000 contingency fund. Mrs. Santa Maria continued by presenting budget information for each fund and department.

Wes Jordan covered personnel services, stating that the budget included a merit pool increase of 4%, based on discussion with the City's pay plan consultant and other city administrators who were forecasting increases of 3% to 5%. Further, proficient employees could expect to reach the midpoint of their salary range after seven years of employment, equating to approximately 0.5% to 1.75% per year. Lastly, Mr. Jordan stated that a health insurance increase of 12.5% had been budgeted based on information received from Midwest Public Risk.

Mr. Runion said that the recommendation for the Police Pension Fund contribution was an increase from \$750,000 to \$850,000. This change was based on information provided by an actuary to the Pension Board.

Melissa Prenger reviewed the 2020 proposed Public Works budget. She noted that the department tracks the condition of City infrastructure, including pipes, curbs and roads. For the budget, Public Works generally focuses on collector and residential streets as part of the paving program. She shared that approximately 12% of the City's streets are in "poor" condition, and will need to be resurfaced or reconstructed in the next few years. \$3,000,000 per year has been allocated to address poor streets, which will keep the percentage flat through 2025.

Mrs. Prenger next discussed the 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). CIP projects include park infrastructure, tennis court resurfacing, and pool slide repairs. Additionally, two major drainage projects are scheduled in 2020, as are street rehabilitation programs, concrete repair, bike plan implementation and electric vehicle charging stations.

Mr. Odell asked for further information about the vehicle charging stations. Mr. Jordan stated the \$20,000 budgeted was based on an estimate provided by KCP&L. The location had not yet been determined, but options include City Hall or a City park. Mr. Wang questioned the necessity of charging stations, specifically the installation costs, since it would be unlikely they would benefit many Prairie Village residents. Mr. Runion noted that the charging station project was initially part of a decision package that was approved by the Finance Committee. Other Councilmembers shared their support and opposition to the electric vehicle charging stations.



At the conclusion of Mrs. Prenger's presentation, Mr. Runion made a motion to approve the budget, and Mr. Nelson seconded.

Mr. Poling noted that the tax savings per family in Prairie Village as a result of the proposed mill reduction would total \$39 per year, whereas commercial property owners in the City would see much more significant savings. He added that the property tax lid would make it difficult to raise the mill rate in the future if necessary.

Mr. Poling made an amendment to delete the property tax mill rate reduction included in the proposed budget, and keep it at its current rate or 19.314. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion.

Ms. Nelson shared concerns about the "dark store theory", which would significantly reduce property tax payments from large retail stores in the City. She stated that the mill rate should remain at its current level to prepare for financial losses that could result from this approach as well as an economic recession. She suggested possible uses for the money saved from reducing the mill levy, such as curbside leaf pickup for residents.

The Mayor noted that the mill reduction was the only thing that could be done to benefit every homeowner in the City. He suggested that, while the savings from the mill rate reduction is small, the extra money is extremely important for some families. He added that the tax cut would not be permanent, as Council sets the mill rate each year. Finally, the Mayor stated that infrastructure projects, public safety projects and bond payments are exempt from the tax lid law.

Mrs. McFadden noted that her street was in poor condition for many years before it was repaired. She suggested that the additional funds could be better spent on infrastructure projects and street repairs to reduce the percentage of roads in the poor category. Mr. Herring and Mrs. Schermoly added their support for using the mill rate funds for residential street repairs. Ms. Nelson said that a portion of the money could be added to the contingency fund.

Mrs. Myers called the question, which passed 11-1 with Mrs. McFadden in opposition.

The amendment made by Mr. Poling passed 8-4, with Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Morehead, Mr. Runion and Mr. Odell in opposition.

The original motion as amended passed 8-4, with Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Morehead, Mr. Runion and Mr. Odell in opposition.

Mrs. Santa Maria stated she would provide a revised budget at the next Council meeting. Mr. Jordan said the only remaining item was to consider Republic Services' request to increase the fee for recycling services \$1.60 per month per household. Mayor Mikkelson stated that he was not comfortable adding the additional fee, but said that if Republic could offer the City additional value in return, such as a guaranteed increase in recycled



materials delivered to recycling centers, the increase could be something the Council would consider in the future.

No motion was made to vote on the additional payment to Republic Services.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Council Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Nelson moved the City Council end the Council Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were included in the Council packet.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Adam Geffert
City Clerk