



City of Arkansas City

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM – 400 W Madison Ave, Arkansas City, KS

Call to Order

Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Andy Paton, Mary Benton, Charles Jennings, Paisley Howerton, Ian Kuhn, Lloyd Colston, Cody Richardson

ABSENT: Karla Gallegos, Joni Curl

Staff present at roll call was Principal Planner Josh White and Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson.

Also present at roll call via GoToMeeting was David Brazil representing the Community Health Center in Cowley County and Cody Corbet representing Cox Communications.

Public Comments

Persons who wish to address the Planning Commission regarding items not on the agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any presentation is for information purposes only. No action will be taken.

No comments from the public were received for items not on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

1. Meeting Minutes, **August 10, 2021 meeting.**

Motion made by Benton, Seconded by Kuhn to approve the meeting minutes as written.

Voting Yea: Chair Paton, Benton, Jennings, Howerton, Kuhn, Colston, Richardson

Comprehensive Plan

2. **Comprehensive Plan discussion on Community Health & Infrastructure**

White resumed discussion on community health. He introduced David Brazil of the Community Health Center in Cowley County. He spoke of what his organization does. He also said they are still actively trying to establish a clinic in the former Lincoln School. This would provide medical care to the residents on the south side of town. Brazil also pointed out that the Community health section of the current plan had a lot of good information in it. He is willing to help us to develop goals for this chapter. He said he would send White a statement on his organization for the chapter. Brazil also indicated that mental health is being incorporated into their services as discussion had gone to mental health. Since Brazil was the only guest present relating to community health, White transitioned to discussion of Infrastructure and Transportation. Cody Corbet of Cox Communications spoke of some upcoming plans. Cox is continually working to enhance the reliability and speed of internet in Arkansas City. White and Lawson provided an update on Water, Sewer and Storm water. Lawson noted that a tour of the Water Treatment Facility could be set up prior to the next meeting. Planning Commissioners agreed this would be beneficial. White said he would make this part of the plan for the next meeting. White introduced the possibility of changing the fee structure as the current structure does not adequately fund the Storm water Fund. Storm water covers more than just drainage, it also covers flood control and the levee system can be expensive to maintain. The new structure would likely be based on impervious area and commercial property owners could get reductions based on the

storm water control systems installed on their properties. Residential would be based on a flat rate still. Planning Commissioners agreed this was needed but wanted to make sure that the rate payers understood what was happening. White assured them that outreach would be part of the transition. Discussion then turned to transportation. White and Lawson spoke of the transportation plan and how the Planning Commission would contribute. The necessary public meetings would likely be conducted by the Planning Commission. White noted that there is no adequate funding stream for streets. Funding has to come from federal and state gas tax and that only funds basic maintenance generally. New projects would require grants or bonds funded by a sales tax. White promised to bring information on what a sales tax could generate in a year as well as a street surface map and classification map to the next meeting. Next month, there will be continued discussion on infrastructure and transportation.

Adjournment

Motion made by Jennings, Seconded by Benton to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Yea: Chair Paton, Benton, Jennings, Howerton, Kuhn, Colston, Richardson