

City Commission of Arkansas City — Special Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in special session at **8 a.m. Friday, July 9, 2021**, in the City Manager's Office at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave. in Arkansas City.

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

City employees present at the meeting were City Manager **Randy Frazer**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Finance Director **Jennifer Waggoner**, Accountant **Amy Roberts**, Interim Fire Chief **Les Parks**, Police Chief **Eric Burr**, Public Services Superintendent **Tony Tapia** and Building Official **Mike Bellis**.

Also in attendance was Beautification and Tree Advisory Board member **Harrison Taylor**.

Business

2022 Budget Discussion

There was an extended discussion of whether to notify the Cowley County Clerk of the City's intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Under a new state law (**SB 13/HB 2104**), this would require notifying the clerk by **July 20**, placing a notice on the City website and in the Cowley CourierTraveler by **September 10** (and 10 days prior to the hearing), and conducting both a tax rate and budget hearing by **September 20**, giving taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget.

At that time, the City Commission would have to adopt a resolution or an ordinance to exceed the **Revenue Neutral Rate** (RNR), then adopt the proposed budget and certify by **October 1** to the County Clerk the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied by the City for **2022**.

After much discussion of the City's needs — including but not limited to performing deferred maintenance, raising salaries to remain competitive in recruiting employees, possibly purchasing or leasing an asphalt laydown machine to perform more intensive street repairs and numerous other important projects that have been delayed for several years — the commissioners expressed a verbal consensus that the City should, at a minimum, exceed the RNR and hold the levy at **71 mills**.

Several commissioners advocated for raising the mill levy to around **74 mills**, but no formal action was taken and no final decision has been made yet. Further action by the City Commission will be needed to notify the County Clerk of the decision to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate in **2022**.

Adjournment

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Rogers declared the special call meeting adjourned at **9:04 a.m.**

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THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

Scott Rogers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer