

# 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, June 15, 2021**, in the Commission Room 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 Commissioner **Kanyon Gingher**, Commissioner **Jay Warren** and Commissioner **Karen Welch**. (Commissioner **Duane L. Oestmann** was absent due to a medical issue.)

City employees present at the meeting were City Manager **Randy Frazer**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, Deputy City Clerk **Amanda Evinger**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall**, Interim Police Chief **Eric Burr**, Interim Fire Chief **Les Parks**, Building Official **Mike Bellis** and Principal Planner **Josh White**.

Citizens in attendance were **Sue Lancaster**, **Thomas Langer**, **Shannon Martin**, **Diana Spielman**, **Harrison Taylor** and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter **John Shelman**.

Commissioner Warren offered the opening prayer. Mayor Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Agenda Approval

Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gingher seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Rogers declared the agenda **approved** as presented.

## Awards and Proclamations

Mayor Rogers issued a proclamation that **July 2021** is **Public Health Month** in Arkansas City.

Public Health Officer Thomas Langer received a copy of the proclamation, as well as another countywide proclamation document, on behalf of the **City-Cowley County Health Department**.

## Consent Agenda

Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the following:

1. Approving the **June 1, 2021**, regular meeting minutes as amended.
2. Approving **Resolution No. 2021-06-3413**, adopting the **Kansas Homeland Security Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan**.
3. Approving **Resolution No. 2021-06-3414**, authorizing the City to approve **Addendum #3** to an existing agreement with **Rural Fire District No. 5** to extend the term of that contract to provide fire services.
4. Ratifying Mayor Rogers' appointments of **Jason Brewer** and **Jill Smith** to the **Outstanding Student Award Committee**.
5. Ratifying Mayor Rogers' reappointments of **Jason O'Toole** to the **Arkansas City Recreation Commission** and **Debi Clark** to the Cowley County **Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board**.

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

Mayor Rogers declared the consent agenda **approved** as presented.

## **New Business**

### **150<sup>th</sup>/Tacolalah Beer Garden** **Ordinance No. 2021-06-4533**

Deputy City Clerk Evinger presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance exempting the application of **K.S.A. 41-719(d)** to allow the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor at a designated area of Wilson Park during the City's **150<sup>th</sup> Celebration** from **6 to 11 p.m. Friday, July 16, 2021**, and during the **2021 Tacolalah Festival** from **4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 17, 2021**.

Public Information Officer Lawson said the organizers of the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration — **Visit Ark City**, the **City, Burford Theatre Arts** and the **2021 Tacolalah Committee**, comprising representatives of five City boards and 4 Friends, LLC — have asked to sponsor a beer garden to sell and serve alcohol at Wilson Park during the Burford's BackRhodes concert on **July 16** and Tacolalah on **July 17**.

Tacolalah hopes to support further development of the Wilson Park Master Plan using any funds raised from this festival. Proceeds from the beer gardens will go to support the ongoing mission of Burford Theatre Arts. Lawson said the organizers have provided reasonable assurances that they will take all necessary precautions to ensure the property is used in full compliance with applicable state and local laws, as well as any applicable health orders.

Commissioner Gingher asked **Shannon Martin**, director of Burford Theatre Arts, if those younger than 21 would be allowed inside the perimeter. She asked that this be allowed and explained all of the precautions Burford Theatre Arts will take to prevent underage drinking. Interim Police Chief Burr said he did not see any issues with Martin's proposal and said officers would be there in force.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Gingher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Rogers declared the ordinance **approved** and given **Ordinance No. 2021-06-4533**.

### **Vacating Compass Point Drive** **Ordinance No. 2021-06-4534**

Deputy City Clerk Evinger presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance authorizing the vacating of all of **Compass Point Drive** within the replat of **Compass Point Addition**.

Principal Planner White said Sarah and Brandon Jellings had filed a request to vacate Compass Point Drive in the replat of Compass Point Addition. All adjacent property owners were notified.

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White said the intent of the replat was to return the streets to private control, but an error was made in the platting process. The Technical Advisory Committee noted that there are a number of utilities present in the area and a utility easement would be needed for the area as the various utilities will need to continue to have access. White recommended approval of the request.

He said the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of this vacation, subject to the reservation of the access and utility easement, at its meeting on **June 8**.

Mayor Rogers made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Rogers declared the ordinance **approved** and given **Ordinance No. 2021-06-4534**.

### **Multimodal Transportation Master Plan**

Deputy City Clerk Evinger presented for discussion a resolution approving an agreement by and between the City and **TranSystems Corporation**, of Wichita, for Professional Services to design and construct a **Multimodal Transportation Master Plan** for the City, utilizing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant funds, for an amount not to exceed **\$25,000.00**.

Public Information Officer Lawson said the City Commission on **May 5, 2020**, indicated support for a "Pathways to a Healthy Kansas" grant application, through RISE Cowley, in the amount of **\$25,000.00** for a Master Transportation Plan. On **May 19, 2020**, the Commission approved **Resolution No. 2020-05-3331**, approving the hiring of a technical consultant prior to **December 15, 2020**, to develop a Master Transportation Plan for the City, utilizing these awarded grant funds.

With the consent of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BSBSKS), which has disbursed the grant funds, this deadline was extended to **June 15, 2021**, via the passage of **Resolution No. 2020-12-3377** on **December 15, 2020**. But Lawson asked for the item to be tabled and said BCBSKS signed off.

If the attached agreement is approved, Lawson said the work would kick off at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting on **July 16**. A special meeting may be convened sooner. While TranSystems gathers, collects and analyzes data, the City will be responsible for surveying citizens, convening public meetings and collecting other forms of community engagement to go into this plan.

**Harrison Taylor**, 525 N. Fourth St., spoke about traffic safety issues throughout Arkansas City. He advocated for not only the Multimodal Transportation Master Plan, but also urged better attendance at future Traffic Safety Committee meetings, a philosophy of traffic management in town that is based on community input and not outside engineering expertise, and changing the "custom" that east-west avenues yield to the north-south streets which have higher traffic volumes.

Mayor Rogers made a motion to table the resolution until **July 6**. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Rogers declared the resolution **tabled**.

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## Comprehensive Fee Schedule Resolution No. 2021-06-3415

Deputy City Clerk Evinger presented for discussion a resolution adopting by reference the City's **2021 Comprehensive Fee Schedule** and repealing **Resolution No. 2021-03-3390**.

City Manager Frazer said the proposed change would provide a 50-percent discount on permit fees for all contractors who build **10 to 25** dwelling units within the same development project, while the permit fees would be completely waived for projects in which **26** or more dwelling units are built.

The same discounting plan would apply to City utility fees as well, Frazer said. But in both cases, the dwelling units must be completed and move-in ready at the end of a 24-month period, and under no circumstances would Neighborhood Revitalization Program fees be waived by the City.

Commissioner Gingher made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Rogers declared the resolution **approved** and given **Resolution No. 2021-06-3415**.

## City Manager's Report on Upcoming Activities

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

- The monthly **Cowley Indoor Market** will have its next event from **5 to 8 p.m. June 16** at Burford Theatre Arts, located at 118 S. Summit St. in downtown Arkansas City.
- The next **Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce coffee** will be at **10 a.m. June 17** in the cafeteria at South Central Kansas Medical Center, located at 6401 Patterson Pkwy., followed by a special ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the SCK Health's new birthing and maternity unit at the hospital.
- The **Ark City Community Band** will continue its historic 150<sup>th</sup> consecutive season with a concert starting at **7:30 p.m. June 17** under the rotunda at Wilson Park. Concerts follow each Thursday at the same time and place through **July 15**, a special 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert.
- Frazer reminded commissioners about the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) **Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference**, which is **June 18-19** in Lawrence.
- Robin Henderson, chairwoman of the Beautification and Tree Advisory Board, is organizing a special **Juneteenth celebration** from **10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 19** at Lovie Watson Park. It features vendors, information booths, a pop-up StoryWalk around the trail, food and more!
- That event will be followed by the Fire-EMS and Police Departments' "**Pop in the Park**" from **5:30 to 7 p.m. June 19** at Wilson Park, 701 N. Summit St. Stop by for a free cold beverage!
- Presbyterian Manor will be host to its annual **Karl Faidley Summer Solstice Ball Drop** fundraising event from **6 to 8 p.m. June 21** on the front lawn of the manor, 1711 N. Fourth St.
- The **Arkansas City Farm and Art Market** will continue its 2021 season from **4 to 6:30 p.m. June 22, June 29** and **July 6** at the Wilson Park rotunda, located at 701 N. Summit St.

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- The Arkansas City Police Department will be host to its “**Coffee with a Cop**” from **2 to 4 p.m. June 24** at Lake View Estates, located at 801 W. Taylor Ave.
- The annual **Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce** banquet will be replaced this year by a **BBQ bash** from **5 p.m. to 10 p.m. June 25** at Chestnut Avenue Venue, located at 3120 E. Chestnut Ave. (**NOTE: This event later was moved to Burford Theatre Arts, 118 S. Summit St.**)
- The next **City Commission study session** was scheduled at City Hall at **noon July 2**, which is just prior to the three-day Independence Day weekend. The city commissioners indicated they wished to cancel this study session unless some pressing matter comes up.
- The City’s annual **community fireworks display** will start around **9:30 p.m. July 4**. It will be followed by a special **Independence Day concert** by the Ark City Community Band starting at **7:30 p.m. July 5** under the rotunda at Wilson Park, located at 701 N. Summit St.
- City Hall and other offices will be closed all day **July 5** in observance of Independence Day.
- Frazer said the **Paris Park Pool study report** was passed out to each commissioner to review.
- He also updated them on the **Cowley First workforce gap analysis** he attended **June 14**.
- Frazer hopes to have the City’s **Housing Assessment Tool** wrapped up by around **June 22**.

## Adjournment

Commissioner Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Rogers declared the meeting adjourned at **6:25 p.m.**

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

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Scott Rogers, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Lesley Shook, City Clerk

**Prepared by:**

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Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer