



## **MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 17, 2021**

The Mission City Council met virtually for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Appletoft. The following councilmembers participated virtually: Trent Boultinghouse, Ken Davis, Sollie Flora, Debbie Kring, Arcie Rothrock, Nick Schlossmacher, Kristin Inman and Hillary Thomas.

The Mayor stated that because of the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, the meeting was held virtually via ZOOM. The Mayor, City Councilmembers and staff all joined remotely. The public was invited to participate in the meeting by using the instructions included in the City Calendar item listed on the front page of the website. The public could join or just listen, or join with audio and/or video using a webcam or smartphone. The public was allowed to make comments through the "chat" feature and was informed that comments are visible by the group. Members of the public were requested to state their name and city of residence when making a public comment. Mayor Appletoft also asked all to be conscientious of others talking and to speak clearly and slowly.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Stormwater Management Plan**

Mayor Appletoft explained that there was one public hearing which was related to the City's Stormwater Management Plan. The Plan was posted to the City's website and was available for public comment. He opened the hearing and asked if there were any members of the public that would like to speak and instructed for their comment to be noted in the 'chat' feature. There was no comment, Mayor Appletoft formally closed the hearing.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

#### **SevenDays Supportive City Proclamation**

Mayor Appletoft presented the first proclamation which recognizes the Faith Always Wins Foundation that is working to make a difference against hateful acts through kindness and interfaith dialogue. He explained that this year, SevenDays Make a Ripple, Change the World, will be from April 13-25. During these two weeks, the Faith Always Wins Foundation planned events that promote the importance of kindness, respect, and understanding, values that our community embraces not only during



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these two weeks but at all times. Mayor Appletoft added that their activities, like those of others, have been impacted by the COVID-19 situation, and they have transitioned to virtual events for 2021. The proclamation and updates on the various events will be shared on social media.

### **Fair Housing Month Proclamation**

Mayor Appletoft stated that the second proclamation recognized Fair Housing Month in Mission. April 2021 marked 54 years since the signing of the Federal Fair Housing Act. He emphasized that it is important to recognize and raise awareness of each individual's rights under fair housing. Mayor Appletoft concluded that we are committed to equal housing opportunities in our community and he is honored to proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Mission.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Davis recognized that Councilmember Rothrock joined the meeting.

**Moved by Davis, seconded by Kring** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

- 4a. Minutes of the February 17, 2021 City Council Meeting
- 4b. Public Works Capital Equipment Purchases

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Kring reported that the Finance & Administration Committee met on March 3rd and considered a total of three items. The acceptance of the meeting minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda and there were two additional items to consider on the Regular Agenda.



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### **Rent/Mortgage Assistance Program Partnership**

Councilmember Kring stated that the City Council recognizes the potential impacts of COVID-19 in relation to eviction and foreclosure risks for vulnerable residents due to economic hardships. In an effort to provide support and assistance, a COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief fund of \$15,000 was established during last summer's budget process. Mission has a diverse socio-economic makeup, and the City Council supported finding a way to help protect our residents, particularly those in multi-family housing, from being forced out of their homes, and perhaps the city, due to an inability to make a rent or mortgage payment.

Through conversations with United Community Services, it was suggested that Catholic Charities could assist the City with their program implementation. Catholic Charities has a history of experience with rent and mortgage assistance programs, has the ability to connect clients with other emergency services and can aid in supporting property owners and landlords with identifying tenants in need of assistance. Catholic Charities will not collect any administrative fees which will allow for 100% of the funds to be distributed to Mission residents. Staff recommended that the City proceed to partner with them to begin identifying eligible participants and distributing the committed funds.

Councilmember Thomas thanked Ms. Smith for her hard-work in making this program possible and hopes to assess its effectiveness in meeting families' needs to determine if it should be continued for the next budget season.

**Moved by Kring, seconded by Davis** to authorize the City Administrator to engage Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc. to implement and administer the distribution of \$15,000 in rent or mortgage assistance funds to Mission residents in accordance with the defined program parameters. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

### **Racial Equity in Cities Program**

Councilmember Kring explained that the City is committed to continuing anti-bias, diversity and inclusion training for staff and the Governing Body. We understand that maintaining and enhancing a culture that recognizes the humanity and dignity of every person throughout our community will require focus, dedication, and resources that we don't currently have. As part of our continued work surrounding racial equity



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initiatives, opportunities for education and partnerships were explored with United Community Services.

In February, the Council heard a presentation from Kathryn Evans of Rooted Strategy who is working with UCS to develop a pilot program called "Racial Equity in Cities." The goal of the program is to recruit 5-6 jurisdictions who will work together with UCS and their identified facilitators to accomplish a number of objectives around issues of racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Cohort members will work both individually and collectively to address these issues, to implement training, and to build in-house capacity in order to progress forward without the on-going support of UCS. Staff believes this pilot program will provide a structured and effective way to begin to identify and prioritize needs and issues within our specific community and would recommend that Mission join as a member of the program.

Councilmember Rothrock stated that she is excited for the City to participate and believes it will be very beneficial, adding the focus of the program should be reviewing the experiences and benefits of all people, from every walk-of-life.

Ms. Smith explained that the next step would be to follow-up with UCS and to form the cohort group consisting of ten people. She encouraged the Council to consider and review who might be good candidates for that list, so we are ready to go when UCS has their consultants on board.

Councilmember Flora commented that the community members that participated in the focus group were very engaged and it is best to consider everyone in this process, so that would be a good starting point.

**Moved by Kring, seconded by Flora** to authorize the City to participate in a pilot program coordinated by United Community Services (UCS) to provide strategic planning services and technical assistance around issues of diversity, racial equity and inclusion at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Flora commented that the Community Development Committee also met on March 3rd and considered two items. These included acceptance of the Committee minutes and the Public Works' capital equipment purchases which were



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all approved under the Consent Agenda. There were no additional items for consideration.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to consider.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Boultinghouse reported that, along with Councilmember Flora, they participated in the National League of Cities's Congregational City Conference. The Conference was virtual and they had productive meetings with groups from Senator Moran, Senator Marshall and Representative Davids' teams, on behalf of Mission. Councilmember Boultinghouse added they will be assessing if there are any items that will develop from their conversations and looks forward to the event next year, hopefully in-person.

Councilmember Rothrock reported that The Mission Community Food Pantry had a successful event the previous week and served approximately 90 families. The next event will be on March 25th and she hoped to see everyone there.

Councilmember Kring thanked the Police and Fire Departments, along with everyone who responded so efficiently to the First Baptist Church of Mission fire. She commented that they all did a wonderful job and she received a lot of positive feedback from the community.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Appletoft explained that there were several appointments to consider for two of the commissions. He added that the service of these community volunteers is greatly appreciated and the Council looks forward to their contributions in guiding important decisions, which have a direct and positive impact on the City.

### **Sustainability Commission**

Mayor Appletoft put before the City Council the appointment of James Tormohlen (Ward IV), for the Sustainability Commission, with a term expiring December 31, 2022.



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**Moved by Kring, seconded by Flora** to appoint James Tormohlen (Ward IV), for the Sustainability Commission, with a term expiring December 31, 2022. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

### **Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission**

Mayor Appletoft put before the City Council the appointments of Amy Warren (Ward II) and Emily Rollheiser (Ward IV), for the Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission, with terms expiring December 31, 2022.

**Moved by Davis, seconded by Thomas** to appoint Amy Warren (Ward II) and Emily Rollheiser (Ward IV), for the Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission, with terms expiring December 31, 2022. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Smith reported on the February 2021 Internim Financials included in the packet and highlighted the following items:

- Sales Tax collection, both General Sales and General Use Tax, continue to perform where the City was last year which was ahead of estimated budgets
- A table and executive summary was provided for the last five years at the Community Center regarding self-sufficiency/cost recovery
- American Rescue Plan was signed recently and Mission will receive federal funding estimated between \$1.2-1.3 million dollars and can be used to replace revenue that were impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Ms. Smith also reminded the Council and the public of the official launch of the new website on April 1st and shared information on the March 24 Council worksession on the City's employee classification and compensation system.

She also reported for the public's benefit that the Powell Center recently reopened on Saturdays, and that beginning on Monday, March 22, the walking track will reopen using a reservation system.



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### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Appletoft explained that the Council had a need to convene into an executive session for consultation with the City Attorneys on matters deemed privileged. The Governing Body and those individuals named in the motion were required to leave the virtual legislative meeting and join a virtual executive session for the allotted time of twenty-minutes. Mayor Appletoft reminded the public that the Governing Body cannot take any binding action in an executive session.

**Moved by Boultinghouse, seconded by Davis** for the City Council to recess to executive session under K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(2), consultation with attorney on matters deemed privileged. Also attending the meeting will be City Administrator Laura Smith, City Attorney Dave Martin and City Attorney Michael Seck. The open meeting will resume virtually via Zoom at 7:47p.m. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

Council adjourned to executive session at 7:27p.m. and reconvened in the regular legislative meeting at 7:47p.m. Additional time was not needed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Appletoft announced that the public video from tonight's meeting will be available through a link on the City's website - missionks.org.

**Moved by Davis, seconded by Kring** to adjourn the meeting at 7:47p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Audrey McClanahan, City Clerk.

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Ronald E. Appletoft, Mayor

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Audrey M. McClanahan, City Clerk