



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

**August 18, 2021**

The Mission City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Appletoft. The following councilmembers were in attendance: Ken Davis, Sollie Flora, Debbie Kring, Kristin Inman, Hillary Thomas and Trent Boultinghouse. Councilmember Schlossmacher and Councilmember Rothrock were absent.

The Mayor explained that in consideration of on-going COVID-19 health concerns, the meeting was also offered virtually through Zoom if preferred. 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. For those participating virtually, they had the option of utilizing the "chat" feature to voice their comments which would be read aloud. The members of the public in-person, were encouraged to raise their hand and stay at their seats to be called on. Mayor Appletoft requested that anyone commenting to state their name and city of residence as well as to be conscientious of others talking and to speak clearly and slowly.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no Public Hearings.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

#### **Introduction of Mission Police Officer Kayla Walker**

Chief Madden introduced new Police Officer Kayla Walker to the Council. Officer Walker previously worked in private security, earned her way to a supervisory position, with the goal to utilize the experience to transition into law enforcement. She was inspired by her father who served as a law enforcement officer and continues to serve in a non-sworn capacity at a local police department. Officer Walker grew up in Roeland Park and graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School. Chief Madden complimented Officer Walker on her communication skills, adding that she is in the final stages of her field training program.



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### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 4a. Minutes of the July 21, 2021 City Council Meeting
- 4b. CFD2 Street Solicitation Application
- 4c. Neff Property Sinkhole Repairs
- 4d. Resolution Ratifying Emergency Expenditures – 52nd and Lamar Stormwater

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Appletoft explained that all of the items considered by the Committees this month were placed on the Consent Agenda for approval. As a result, neither Councilmember Kring nor Councilmember Boultinghouse needed to provide their reports.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Updated COVID-19 Masking Protocols**

Ms. Smith explained that with the surge of COVID-19 cases, the CDC issued updated guidance with respect for mask wearing. The CDC recommends masks indoors for those living in areas of substantial or high transmission, regardless of vaccination status. Johnson County and the Kansas City metro currently meet this threshold. Although the vaccine significantly reduces the risk of severe illness and hospitalization, preliminary findings from the CDC now suggest that fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the



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Delta variant can still spread the virus to others.

Effective immediately, the City returned to mandatory masking at all times for City employees while indoors (unless alone in workstation or office) or in a vehicle with another person. This was communicated via email and followed up with department meetings to review and discuss the changes and provide staff with an opportunity to ask questions.

During the August 4 Finance & Administration Committee meeting, staff presented several additional masking protocol decisions for Council discussion, including:

- Masking for the public will not be required in the following situations:
  - When in the public area of the City Hall, Police and Public Works facilities
  - Inside a rental space at the Community Center
  - When exercising at the Community Center
  - When attending a public meeting (i.e. Council meetings)
- Masking for the public will be required in the following situations:
  - Fingerprinting services in the Police Department
  - When in non-public areas of City facilities
  - In all common areas of the Community Center

Councilmember Davis expressed concern about the current situation with the virus and made a motion to include required mask wearing for the public and staff in public meetings.

Councilmember Thomas agreed with Councilmember Davis and asked the reasoning behind requiring masks in the common areas of the Community Center but not in the City Hall, Police and Public Works facilities. Ms. Smith explained it was due to the volume of traffic as well as employees in the other facilities have the option to interact with the public behind a barrier. Ms. Thomas made an additional motion to reflect modifications.



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**Moved by Thomas, seconded by Flora** to approve the COVID-19 protocols in accordance with staff recommendations with the modification to require masks for the public, in addition to Council and staff, during public meetings as well as in public areas, including lobbies, bathrooms, and courtrooms of City Hall, Police and Public Works Facilities. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Kring, Thomas, Inman. **Motion Carried.**

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

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Appletoft put before the City Council the appointment of Kim Weir (Ward III), for the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission, with a term expiring December 31, 2022.

**Moved by Kring, seconded by Davis** to appointment Kim Weir (Ward III), for the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission, with a term expiring December 31, 2022. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Inman, Kring, Flora, Thomas. **Motion Carried.**

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

Ms. Smith reported that sales tax performance continues to be strong and the departments are doing a great job managing expenses. The County sales and use tax is also doing well. The City has a total of \$14.8 million of cash and investments on hand. That represents \$5.2 million in the general fund and a large portion in the capital infrastructure funds.

The major expenditures from July include emergency sinkhole repairs, installation of the park monument signs and wayfinding signs throughout the Community. Ms. Smith thanked staff and everyone involved for their efforts in moving the signage project forward.



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The Racial Equity and Cities pilot program, from United Community Services, will begin with a cities cohort meeting in September. The Council work session was cancelled for August 25. The City also hosted a successful first sales tax town hall meeting on August 17, both in-person and virtually, with residents from the community participating and asking questions about the upcoming election. There will be another town hall on the street sales tax election on August 26.

Councilmember Kring thanked Brian Scott and staff for the recent project update and asked if it could be a regular report.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

### **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](http://missionks.org).

**Moved by Davis, seconded by Kring** to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.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