



MINUTES OF THE MISSION FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

June 1, 2022

The Mission Finance and Administration Committee met at the Powell Community Center and virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. The following Committee members were present: Ken Davis, Trent Boultinghouse, Hillary Thomas, Debbie Kring, Lea Loudon, Mary Ryherd, and Ben Chociej. Councilmember Kristen Inman and Mayor Flora were absent. Councilmember Boultinghouse called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

The following staff were present: City Administrator Laura Smith, Deputy City Administrator Brian Scott, Assistant City Administrator/Interim City Clerk Emily Randel, Public Works Director Celia Duran, Parks & Recreation Director Penn Almoney and Chief Dan Madden.

Public Comments

Councilmember Boultinghouse reminded the public they could participate via the chat feature on Zoom. All comments would be visible to the group.

There were no public comments.

Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

Acceptance of the May 4, 2022 Finance and Administration Committee Minutes

Minutes of the May 4, 2022 Finance and Administration Committee Meetings were provided to the Committee. There being no objections or corrections, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Resolution Approving Parks and Recreation Sales Tax Ballot Language

Ms. Smith reminded the Committee that Mission currently has a three-eighths percent citywide retailers' sales tax which is dedicated to the acquisition, construction, equipping, operation, maintenance, and debt service for parks and recreational facilities. The sales tax was approved by voters in the November 2012 general election, took effect in April 2013 and will sunset in March 2023.

Continued progress for Mission's park system, especially with respect to the outdoor park system, hinges on successful renewal of the parks and recreation sales tax. Through citizen feedback collected through the DirectionFinder Survey process in 2021, residents continue to express a desire for investment in high-quality, well-maintained park facilities and popular, well-attended recreation and enrichment programs. Over the last 18-24 months, efforts have been focused on building out a plan for continued investment in Mission's parks.



Information regarding the current sales tax including its history and what projects have been completed since its inception has been reviewed and discussed in Committee meetings and work sessions leading up to this point. Since implementation, the dedicated sales tax has generated approximately \$7.79 million in revenues which has been used for: replacement of the Mission Family Aquatic Center, deferred maintenance at Powell Community Center, creation of a Parks Master Plan, maintenance and expansion of the trail network, development of conceptual plans for outdoor park improvements and a start on implementation of some of these improvements.

In February, Council directed staff to coordinate with the Johnson County Election Office to plan for a mail ballot election to occur on September 20, 2022 for renewal of the dedicated parks and recreation sales tax. Following a presentation to the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission in May 2022, they are recommending that the Council consider renewing the parks and recreation sales tax at the rate of $\frac{3}{8}$ -percent.

All of the work leading up to this point has resulted in the preparation of the Resolution included in the packet. Based on the needs and priorities identified through on-going review and analysis, direction was provided following the May 25 Council work session for staff to prepare the documents seeking renewal of the parks and recreation sales tax at the current rate of $\frac{3}{8}$ -percent for a period of ten years via a mail ballot election on September 20, 2022. If approved, the renewed sales tax would take effect April 1, 2023 and sunset on March 31, 2033.

Ms. Smith indicated that the 2012 ballot language was written broadly to include the acquisition, construction, improvement, equipping, operating and maintaining of parks and recreational facilities along with the payment of debt service associated with any bonds issued for the same. This provided the most flexibility in how funds could be used throughout the life of the sales tax. In discussions leading up to this point, Council has expressed continued support for this approach and the Resolution reflects that preference.

Councilmember Davis indicated he had opportunity to watch the work session and to review the information from the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission. Although he is supportive of renewal of the tax, he stated he remains in the minority in his belief that the rate should be reduced to $\frac{1}{4}$ -percent rather than $\frac{3}{8}$ -percent. As he has expressed in previous meetings, it is his position that the City's overall (cumulative) sales tax should be reduced back to what it was prior to renewal of the dedicated street sales tax.

Councilmember Kring asked if Councilmember Davis could propose a different rate since he is opposed to the rate being proposed.

Councilmember Davis stated that if he was interested he could suggest an amendment to the Resolution at the Council meeting in June 15, but believes that since he feels it is the minority view he doesn't want to waste the Council's time.

Councilmember Kring noted that she believes the timing on the ballot is perfect in concert with the fact we are fully staffed at the pool, work at Mohawk and other parks is happening and people are able to really see the things that their tax dollars are funding. She stated that as long as the



overall sales tax rate was not going higher than where it is today, she was comfortable with the $\frac{3}{8}$ -percent recommendation.

Councilmember Thomas stated that while she agrees with keeping the ballot language as broad as possible, she would like to see more “back of house” policy or controls regarding what is spent for maintenance at the Powell Community Center versus Mission’s outdoor parks.

Councilmember Boultinghouse spoke in favor or renewal. He had submitted comments for the May 25 work session which he was unable to attend in support of the $\frac{3}{8}$ -percent rate. He believes that with our larger day time population and other outside visitors, this provides a unique opportunity to make investments benefitting 100% of our Mission residents without asking them to shoulder 100% of the cost.

Councilmember Chociej recommended that the Resolution be forwarded to the City Council for approval. All agreed and this item will appear on the Regular Agenda.

License Plate Reader Grant Submission

In late 2021, Senator Moran’s office contacted Chief Madden regarding possible funding opportunities for law enforcement projects in the City of Mission. Based on previous budget considerations for the Department, the Chief reached out to a local vendor to discuss preliminary budget numbers for license plate reader technology. Based on the projected cost per camera, crime map data was used to determine potential locations to install this technology and Chief Madden responded to the Senator’s office with a request for \$140,000 in funding to acquire and install license plate reader technology.

Automated license plate readers (ALPR) systems are used in nearly every city across the metropolitan area. These systems allow for real time and investigative uses which can both prevent crimes or be used to identify potential suspect vehicles if a crime occurs. They provide reliable and unbiased data to law enforcement.

ALPR systems are cameras capable of identifying license plates on vehicles that pass by their locations. Each time a vehicle passes by an ALPR camera, a photo is taken of the license plate and the rear of the car. The license plate is instantly checked through both national and regional crime databases, to see if it is reported stolen or connected to a person with a felony warrant. If the license plate has an entry, all officers receive an alert on their in-car computer with the photo of the license plate. Officers can then move into the area to try to locate the vehicle. Many crimes are committed using stolen vehicles. Being able to respond in “real time” with a police presence can help to reduce the opportunity for additional crimes to occur in our community.

Another feature of the ALPR systems is the ability to manually enter a license plate into the system, so it alerts officers if the vehicle travels through our City. For example, if Overland Park



puts out a “Be On The Lookout” (BOLO) for a vehicle involved in an aggravated robbery that includes a license plate, officers can manually enter that license plate into the system. If that vehicle passes by one of Mission’s ALPR locations or an ALPR in any other jurisdiction, officers receive an instant alert putting them on notice that a suspect vehicle is in their jurisdiction.

The ALPR system does not relieve our officers of manually/visually validating the information in the field before making any stop. The Chief expressed his desire to use the technology for felony warrants, stolen vehicles, missing persons, etc. He is not interested in setting up the system to look for traffic warrants or other misdemeanor warrants. He believes the ALPRs act as a “force multiplier” for the Department.

Another area where ALPRs are invaluable is investigations. If there is a situation where multiple vehicles are burglarized in an area between a certain time, officers and/or detectives have the capability to query all license plates that passed by an ALPR location within a certain timeframe. That information can be used to try to develop a suspect. This scenario plays out in many ways, for a variety of criminal investigations but can also be used to locate missing persons, vehicles associated with AMBER Alerts and other situations that aren’t necessarily criminal in nature.

The funding request is based on the installation of twenty-one ALPR cameras and associated equipment. A review of crime data, as well as traffic information was used to develop the preferred locations for the cameras. Concentrating cameras in areas with higher traffic volumes, higher incidence of crime, or proximity to entry and exit points to Mission can provide officers much more information than placing a camera at every intersection.

As with any law enforcement technology tool, there will be strict policies related to the use of ALPR data, as well as data retention guidelines. The Chief expects to bring forward a Resolution outlining the anticipated use and data retention guidelines prior to installation or activation of any equipment secured through the grant process. This funding is attached to a grant program through the Community Oriented Police Services program through the United States Department of Justice, and the grant submission is due before the end of June.

City Administrator Smith stated that In conversation with Mayor regarding this agenda item, she expressed general support for the approach outlined by the Chief and had a good suggestion that prior to implementation of the technology in Mission, staff prepare a Resolution for the Council to ensure the Council/Department philosophy and policy were consistent and that the same was translated into the Department’s operating procedures.

Councilmember Davis wanted to confirm that no City matching funds required, and asked about the life expectancy of the equipment so as to anticipate the cost of replacing the equipment.



Chief Madden confirmed the allocation requires no City match and responded that according to the vendor, it would be realistic to expect a life-span for the equipment of up to 10 years. Damage to the equipment is more common than equipment failure.

Councilmember Thomas expressed her support for the project. She shared that she is currently employed on the Jewish Community Center campus and license plate readers were installed there following the 2014 shootings to help employees and visitors feel safer. She is excited to see this technology coming to Mission. On a more procedural note, she inquired whether it was typical for the City Council to have to approve a grant application.

Ms. Smith stated that it is not required in all cases. However, based on the nature and sensitivity of some of the some policy considerations or decisions surrounding this technology, Staff wanted to make sure there was Council support for the application before asking the Chief to spend time on the application process.

Councilmember Chociej thanked Chief Madden for the presentation and reiterated how important it was to him to develop polices to mitigate concerns surrounding privacy and misuse. He likes the Mayor's suggestion of the Resolution to capture the philosophies around the use of the equipment. He also inquired whether the cameras match only on license plate text or if they provided additional information such as make, model, or color of a vehicle.

Chief Madden responded that there is some limited AI technology built in, but it is mostly text only in the equipment that supports the most robust sharing options among agencies. As technology improves, better data is likely to follow. The readers will capture license plate, temporary tag, or no tag information.

Councilmember Chociej asked whether we had some level of confidence that requests from other agencies would not violate our policy regarding use.

Chief Madden advised that there are many safeguards in place regarding use of the ALPR technology, and policies are very strict overall. He does not feel concerned regarding abuse or misuse by other agencies because the technology is so valuable that agencies don't want to risk losing it as a result of misuse.

Councilmember Boultinghouse thinks this is a good idea, and expressed that he is equally encouraged by the suggestion for a Resolution to outline responsible policies and practices. It gives him peace of mind that the City is concerned with creating appropriate guardrails prior to implementation of any new technology. He also asked whether there were any concerns with severe weather or rain limiting the effectiveness of the technology.

The Chief replied that while it could be possible in the event of heavy winds or rain for effectiveness to be diminished, overall accuracy rates for the equipment are in the upper 90% range.



Councilmember Loudon expressed her excitement for how useful this technology would be in assisting with Amber Alerts.

Councilmember Davis simply confirmed his belief that although we may abide by Resolution, other agencies wouldn't be bound, by it.

Ms. Smith confirmed that a Mission Resolution could not bind another agency. However, a violation of the policy is likely a personnel issue that would be handled swiftly and taken with appropriate seriousness.

Councilmember Kring noted that there have been several incidents where people have crossed through multiple jurisdictions in the process of committing a crime. She asked how communication occurs now when other cities have the license plate reader technology and Mission does not.

Chief Madden used the example of robbery at Commerce Bank several years ago where witnesses were able to get the license plate information. That was shared and Merriam's LPRs were able to identify the car passing through an intersection near Merriam Town Center just minutes later. This coordination and communication helps with real time investigations.

Councilmember Kring asked which cities, besides Mission, didn't have the ALPR technology. And what personnel would be evaluating the information.

The Chief advised that he was uncertain about the City of Spring Hill, but otherwise all cities in Johnson County except Mission, Gardner, Fairway and Roeland Park currently have the technology. Gardner, Fairway and Roeland Park are all discussing budgeting for acquisition of the ALPR system. He also reported that the "real time" data would be received or reviewed preliminarily by patrol officers in the field. Following an event, the data would be available to supervisors and investigations staff.

Securing grant funding for this purchase relieves the need for the City's General Fund to consider a budgetary allocation for this technology. The nature of the Congressionally Designated Spending does not allow the City the opportunity to submit a different request for use of the allocated funds.

Councilmember Davis recommended that this be forwarded to the Council for approval and considered on the regular agenda.

Ordinance Amending City-Sponsored Special Event Boundaries

Assistant City Administrator/Interim City Clerk Emily Randel presented information on Mission's Municipal code section that requires the Governing Body to pass a resolution designating specific City-Sponsored Special events when alcoholic beverages are allowed on public property. A resolution is not required for events occurring within the boundaries of a Common Consumption Area. The Designated District for these events was set in 2005 and currently includes property bounded by Shawnee Mission Parkway on the south, Metcalf Avenue on the west, 58th Street on



the north and Roe Avenue to the east. For reference, the Common Consumption Area boundaries are Martway to the south, Lamar Avenue to the west, the north side of Johnson Drive including the buildings to the north and Roeland Drive to the east.

The boundaries of the Designated District were reviewed during the creation of the Common Consumption Area in the fall of 2021. The boundaries were intended to mimic the commercial corridor and other adjacent event spaces. In order to include Broadmoor Park in the Designated District for future events, including the Mission Summer Picnic, the northern boundary of the district needs to be adjusted from W. 58th Street to W. 57th Street.

Alcohol sales have been popular when they have occurred in recent years at the Mission Market and the Mission Summer Family Picnic. Staff is unaware of any negative impacts from the sales. Staff has received feedback that alcohol sales help widen the appeal of City-sponsored events and is becoming increasingly common at events held by others around the region.

Councilmember Kring inquired whether alcohol would be sold or of attendees would be allowed to bring alcohol in. Ms. Randel responded that the model for the Summer Family Picnic was for alcohol to be sold.

Councilmember Loudon asked whether Andersen Park was included. Ms. Randel responded that Andersen Park was already included within the Common Consumption area boundaries, but events desiring to serve alcohol would still have to either go through an administrative approval or Council approval process.

Councilmember Davis recommended the ordinance be forwarded to Council for approval. All agreed and this will be on the consent agenda.

Resolution Designating City-Sponsored Special Events

Ms. Randel advised that when an event does not conform to the requirements of the Common Consumption area, the City Council must pass a resolution each year designating specific events to be held in that calendar year.

Any vendor providing alcohol at an approved event is required to obtain a temporary/special event license from both the State of Kansas and the City. Vendors are limited to four temporary or special event permits per calendar year. The Common Consumption Area Permit currently in place allows for drinking establishments within the area to participate in events within the district without the need for a waiver.

A Resolution was prepared which designated the following as City Sponsored Festival Events for 2022:

- Mission Summer Family Picnic, Broadmoor Park - 5-10 p.m. - Saturday, July 9, 2022
- Yoga on the Deck, Mission Family Aquatic Center - 7-10 p.m. - Thursday, July 28, 2022



Following publication of the Committee packet, Ms. Randel determined that there was an additional date for Council consideration. As discussed previously, any licensed vendor may be approved for sales within the Common Consumption area administratively. This is the case for each of the Mission Market events in 2022 with the exception of the final date, hosted by a group that is not a drinking establishment, the Shawnee Mission Rotary Club. That date has been added to the resolution.

- Mission Market, beer garden host by the Shawnee Mission Rotary Club – 4:30-8 p.m. - Thursday, August 25, 2022

Ms. Randel indicated that prior to the June 15 Council meeting the resolution and the packet materials would be updated to reflect that addition.

Councilmember Davis said he was trying to get his head around the antithetical concept of mixing yoga and wine (laughs from the Committee).

Ms. Randel indicated that staff had considered the appropriate safeguards, are pretty sure that the wine would follow the yoga (more laughs from Committee). Our experience with the Market and the Summer Family Picnic says things have gone smoothly and without incident.

Ms. Smith said, all joking aside that the Parks + Recreation staff have made a concerted effort this season at the Mission Family Aquatic Center to create opportunities for more “adults only,” and she commends them on their creativity.

Councilmember Chociej said he is pleased to know the events involving alcohol have not experienced any issues, and wants to ensure staff continues to review and monitor whether people are being responsible at events where alcohol is served.

Ms. Randel commented that particularly at the Market site, we have such good relationships with the vendors, that we feel we have trusted partnerships, and they have an incentive to ensure all rules and requirements are being followed.

Councilmember Davis inquired whether there had been any issues from Chief Madden's perspective.

The Chief reported there have been no issues or concerns, and attendees have demonstrated responsible behavior during these events.

Councilmember Boultinghouse praised the staff for their creativity.

Councilmember Chociej originally recommended that this Resolution be forwarded to the City Council for approval on the consent agenda.

Councilmember Kring mentioned that this presents a good opportunity share information about our upcoming events with a larger audience if it's not on the consent agenda. Additionally, Ms.



Randel advised that with the addition of the Rotary sales at the Market the packet materials would be changing and it was generally our practice not to put a revised action item on the consent agenda. All agreed and this item will be considered under the regular agenda.

Discussion Items

There were no Discussion Items for consideration on the agenda.

OTHER

Councilmember Boutlinghouse offered his congratulations to the new Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Department Updates

Ms. Randel informed the Committee that the season 8 for the Mission Market kicks off on June 2, and will be hosted every Thursday for 13 weeks from 4:30 – 8 p.m. There is a great lineup of returning vendors, dinner options and a rotating beer garden. The Rock Creek Channel project will have some impacts on the market site, specifically the location of the restrooms. There will be signage, but everyone is encouraged to assist market attendees in adhering to the changes. The water fountain delivery has been delayed but is still expected to be completed later this season.

Councilmember Chociej asked if the transition to power on the poles means generators can be eliminated. Ms. Randel responded that food truck vendors would still likely be asked/allowed to use a generator, but the power available to the other vendors would now be much more convenient and eliminate the need for extension cords to be strung across the sidewalk/trail.

Councilmember Kring asked whether any of the chairs being surplus from the Community Center would be available for use at the market. Ms. Randel advised that will certainly be evaluated when chair inventory becomes available.

Chief Madden shared the news of CSO Wayne Brinkley's upcoming retirement on July 1. There will be a reception on July 6 from 3-5 p.m. recognizing CSO Brinkley's long tenure and dedication to the City of Mission.

The Chief also reported that Mission has had not just one, but two vehicles go into Turkey Creek this week. As a result, the Department will be reaching out to KDOT to seek their assistance in evaluating solutions for some type of barrier protection to prevent cars from going into the creek along this section of I-35.

Councilmember Thomas asked that as long as the Department was reaching out to KDOT, could they please initiate a conversation to see if anything could be done to repair or replace the guardrails on Lamar Bridge as this seems like a dangerous situation. The Chief agreed to ask.



Ms. Smith advised that in line with the other conversations regarding grant applications on the Committee meetings this evening, she wanted to share with the Council plans to submit a Planning Sustainable Places grant application to MARC later this month focused in and around market site and along the Rock Creek Trail. The development project grant would explore opportunities for better connections and the potential to for more green infrastructure solutions throughout this central corridor. If successful, the resulting plan could be used when applying for implementation grants in the future.

Ms. Smith reminded the Council that the Climate Action Plan Task force was meeting next Wednesday at 4:30 pm., but the budget work session originally anticipated for June 8 was cancelled. Ms. Smith also shared that June 3 was “National Gun Violence Awareness Day” and Mayor Flora had issued a proclamation to help raise awareness around this important matter.

Councilmember Davis inquired whether Mission was planning anything for the upcoming Juneteenth holiday.

Ms. Smith reported that there was nothing exclusive to Mission, but that Staff has been and would continue to actively promote events hosted by Johnson County and other surrounding communities.

Councilmember Loudon reminded everyone of the Ward II meeting scheduled for June 6 at 7 p.m. at Shelter 1 in Andersen Park. All were welcome to attend.

Meeting Close

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily J. Randel, Interim City Clerk