



MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 15, 2023

The Mission City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 15 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Mission City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Flora. The following councilmembers were in attendance: Hillary Thomas, Trent Boultinghouse, Mary Ryherd, Lea Loudon, Kristin Inman, Debbie Kring, Ben Chociej and Ken Davis. No councilmembers were absent.

Mayor Flora explained that 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. The Mayor requested that anyone commenting please state their name and city of residence as well as to be conscientious of others talking and to speak clearly and slowly.

REVISED AGENDA

Mayor Flora explained that there was a need for a revised agenda for tonight's meeting.

Moved by Chociej, seconded by Boultinghouse to approve the revised November 15, 2023 agenda as printed.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Thomas, Loudon, Chociej, Davis, Inman, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Shop Small Saturday Proclamation

Mayor Flora issued a proclamation recognizing Shop Small Saturday, which will be observed on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25th. She explained

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that this initiative is intended to encourage support for small businesses during one of the most popular shopping periods of the year. The City of Mission is fortunate to have a variety of small, independently owned businesses spread throughout our shopping district, including snow boards, specialty roast coffee beans, craft beers, home decor, unique apparel, handmade jewelry and so much more! She hoped that as residents were looking for that special gift or delicious treat for their holiday table, they would remember these businesses and their owners that work hard not only during the holiday season but all year to provide products and services that are as unique and special as their customers. She encouraged everyone to Shop Small and spend their dollars in Mission on November 25, and any other day of the year.

Lynn Kring/Smiling Hearts

Mayor Flora explained that the second special presentation on the agenda tonight would be an update from Lynn Kring about the work of Smiling Hearts in the City of Mission.

Mr. Kring introduced himself as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Smiling Hearts, Inc. He reviewed a series of slides that explained the history of the organization and its partnership with Mission. Smiling Hearts started as a 501©3 focusing on food distribution. The organization was started by Suzie Gibbs, former Mission resident, Councilmember and City Clerk, began the formation of the organization through her work with the Holiday Family Adoption Program. Ms. Gibbs' goal was to get food to families more than just during the winter holidays. Smiling Hearts has always had great partnerships with the City of Mission, Harvesters, and Trinity Lutheran Church. Mr. Kring explained that the organization is entirely volunteer led and helps organize the food pantry, mobile food distribution, and contribute to the Holiday Adoption Program.

The mobile food distribution events began in 2019 and are held monthly at Shawnee Mission North High School. In that time, they have been able to serve several hundred thousand pounds of food to close to 2000 families. The food pantry is held twice a month at Trinity Lutheran Church from 4-6 p.m. October 26, 2023 was the three-year anniversary of the food pantry, which has served over 30,000 individuals. They have grown from around 60 families per event to approximately 160 families.

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Mr. Kring shared some observations from his work with Smiling Hearts. He first explained that there is great need in the community for help with food, with a large uptick in the number of new families coming in. His second observation was that volunteerism in the Mission area is incredible. Smiling Hearts has never wanted for volunteers, even with early starting times at the monthly mobile food distribution events. His final observation was that the City of Mission has a rare attitude toward helping the community, with strong leadership from the top including current and former mayors and the City Administrator and have been well supported. They have also experienced strong support from all City departments, including employees volunteering on their own time. They have received great support from the Police Department with help on managing traffic during events, and from the Parks and Recreation department for help with facilities and space. He also thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance, especially at the very early Saturday morning distribution events.

He wrapped up his presentation by showing that the organization has met their goals and, because of that, the dreams of Ms. Gibbs of feeding families and putting smiles on their faces have been met. The food pantry is managed by an incredible team and is working on the process of expanding the storage capabilities while being led by a great manager. Expanded days and number of events will likely be able to increase as well. Smiling Hearts will be dissolving; however, the same work will continue to be done through other endeavors. He thanked the Governing Body for their time, and for the City's involvement and partnership and expressed great pride in the City of Mission.

City Administrator Laura Smith also added that plans are being made for a new group of people to take over the mobile food distribution, and the food pantry will continue to do the same work and more. Mr. Kring confirmed that is correct, and Harvesters will be assigning a new location for the mobile distributions within the same general area to serve NE Johnson County.

Mayor Flora acknowledged Mr. Kring and many of the board members who had joined them tonight. She thanked everyone in attendance for their work and their service to Mission.

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month/World Pancreatic Cancer Day
Proclamation



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Mayor Flora's final special presentation was a proclamation recognizing World Pancreatic Day. She stated that Pancreatic Cancer is the 3rd leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States and has the lowest five-year survival rate of all major cancers. The good health and well-being of Mission residents are enhanced by increased awareness about the symptoms, risks and research leading to early detection, causes and effective treatment, and encouraged everyone to join her in declaring the month of November as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" and November 16, 2023 as "World Pancreatic Cancer Day" in Mission.

ISSUANCE OF NOTES AND BONDS

There were no items related to Issuance of Notes and Bonds.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4a. Minutes of the October 18, 2023 City Council Meeting
- 4b. Contract for 2024 Legislative Advocacy Services
- 4c. 2024 Employee Benefit Renewals
- 4d. CMB Application Prairie Sailor, LLC
- 4e. Revisions to Council Policy 130 (Council Liaisons to Boards and Commissions)
- 4f. Resolution Ratifying the Emergency Expenditure for a Police Vehicle
- 4g. Extension of On-Call Engineering Contracts
- 4h. PCC North Kitchen and Hallway Floor

Moved by Chocie j, seconded by Kring to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Thomas, Loudon, Chocie j, Davis, Inman, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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PLANNING COMMISSION

**6a. Preliminary Development Plan for Phase II of Mohawk Park –
6649 Lamar – (PC Case #22-21)**

City Planner Karie Kneller presented the PC Case #22-21 for Phase II of Mohawk Park. Phase I was completed in August of 2023. Phase II will realign the walking trail with a 10' trail loop, add new playground equipment, a half court pickleball and basketball sport court with a chain-link fence. The new playground will be designed with universal design standards in mind, and will be inclusive and will incorporate shade sails. The existing parking and drive on the northeast corner will be replaced with landscaping with 12 new on- street parking spaces on Horton with ADA sidewalk ramps. Landscaping will be with native plantings. The Planning Commission assigned eight conditions, which were provided in the packet materials. Ms. Kneller voiced some of the resident comments from the Planning Commission meeting, including a concern for noise from the pickleball court, while other were excited for the pickleball opportunity in the neighborhood and the chain link fencing that will be removed, although some residents did oppose that for safety reasons on the south and east side of the park. Staff did address safety concerns of residents at the meeting. Traffic was also a concern for some residents and Commissioners, who asked for a speed hump on Horton Street to regulate speed. She stated that Staff could look at that after the project is completed. Lighting was also brought up as an issue with lights from the pavilion shining into homes to the south of the park. Some patrons have asked that the lights stay on later during the summer. Ms. Kneller also mentioned that the orientation of the sport court was brought up, and Parks + Recreation Director Penn Almoney was working with the architect to resolve that issue. She also mentioned that plantings for noise mitigation around the pickleball court will be included.

Jean Patterson, a neighbor of the park, commented that she is worried about the pickleball court. The court was planned in the early days of pickleball gaining popularity, and there wasn't as much known about the noise associated with the game. She believes the noise is annoying and that the proposed location is too close to the nearest home at 200 feet. She cited a pickleball expert (unnamed) who stated that pickleball can be heard up to 900 feet away and are likely to be heard at 500 feet away. She cited other cities in the area

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that have pickleball courts and have had issues with noise and their courts. She would like to see the City not mark the court for pickleball.

Councilmember Thomas asked if the fencing around the sport court would have the fabric weaving within it like the tennis courts do to help with additional noise. Mr. Almoney answered that that feature could be added, although the fence is only a 4' high fence so it would not do as much to eliminate sound.

Mayor Flora asked if there becomes a problem with the pickleball and that use is eliminated, the court can still be used for basketball. Mr. Almoney confirmed that is correct. He also explained that soccer teams can also use the sport court to help with skills practice.

Councilmember Thomas commented that she would like to have more information about plans for hours of operation and ensuring best practices are being met for neighbors. Mr. Almoney confirmed that and stated that a consideration of a dedicated pickleball court, which this is not, versus a multi-sport court does change the usage. Those dedicated pickleball players will likely seek out a dedicated court with nets. He stated that no negative comments have come from the Andersen Park courts, which are marked for pickleball but do not have a permanent net onsite. Mayor Flora also confirmed it is a for two courts but not permanently set up for pickleball.

Councilmember Loudon asked if there had been any complaints at Andersen Park. Mr. Almoney confirmed there have not been, and neighbors are much closer there at around 50 feet away. Councilmember Loudon then asked if pickleball is noisier than tennis and Mr. Almoney confirmed it is due to the materials of the ball and paddles.

Councilmember Chociej stated that he has done some research about the noise issue and was surprised by how irritating it can be to neighbors. He felt the issue can be a problem, but he is hopeful that plantings to mitigate sound will help. He would like Staff to monitor the issue closely once the park opens.

Ms. Smith reiterated that the issue a striping issue and really won't affect the preliminary development plan but can be reconsidered later in the process of Phase II.



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Councilmember Thomas thanked Ms. Patterson for coming and voicing her concerns.

Moved by Boultinghouse, seconded by Davis to approve a preliminary development plan for Mohawk Park Phase II at 6649 Lamar Avenue (PC Case #23-21)

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Thomas, Chociey, Inman, Loudon, Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee

Councilmember Ryherd reported that the Finance & Administration Committee met on November 1 and considered seven items. The meeting minutes, Contract for 2024 Legislative Advocacy Services, 2024 Employee Benefit Renewals, CMB Application for Prairie Sailor, LLC, Revisions to Council Policy 130 (Council Liaisons to Boards and Commissions), and Resolution Ratifying the Emergency Expenditure for a Police Vehicle were approved under the Consent Agenda. The Resolution Declaring Surplus Property will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

7a. Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

Councilmember Ryherd reported that City Council Policy No. 111 defines the process and procedure for the sale and disposal of real and personal property by the City of Mission, which is also outlined in K.S.A. 12-101. Property and equipment identified for surplus has been included as Attachment A to the Resolution. Each Department, in consultation with the Deputy City Administrator, determines the best method for disposal in accordance with Council Policy and State law. Items to be declared as surplus include a 2020 Ford Explorer that was declared a total loss from an accident, Police Department tasers, taser batteries, taser cartridges, a taser data cable, taser targets; and several pieces of computer equipment from the Police Department, Court and Administration Offices at City Hall.

Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Chociey to approve the resolution

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providing for the sale/disposal of surplus equipment from various Departments. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Thomas, Loudon, Inman, Chociej, Ryherd, Kring and Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Community Development Committee

Councilmember Loudon reported that the Community Development Committee also met on November 1 and considered 4 items. The meeting minutes, Extension of On-Call Engineering Contracts with GBA and Olsson and the PCC North Kitchen and Hallway Floor replacement were approved under the Consent Agenda. The Contract Award for Water Works Park Improvements will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

7b. Contract Award Water Works Park Improvements

Councilmember Loudon explained that Water Works Park is a 6.5-acre neighborhood park located at 5814 W 53rd Street, which is owned by WaterOne and maintained by Mission Parks + Recreation through a Joint Use Agreement. The last major improvement on site was the installation of the existing playground features in approximately 1999. Based on the size of the property and its proximity to Rushton Elementary, stakeholders, neighbors, PRT members and City Council agreed and planned to complete the entire conceptual design in one project coinciding with Rushton Elementary School's new construction. The goal was to have the park improvements installed when students return to Rushton Elementary in August 2024.

Project improvements include a shelter and restrooms to support and enhance the current programming, new 10-foot-wide concrete trails connecting the proposed facilities to Rushton Elementary and providing alternative routes along the park, water fountain, solar lighting along one central route, All-Abilities playground with poured in place rubber surfacing and shade sails, trash and recycling receptacles, benches, bike racks, native plantings and additional site furnishings. Demolition of the existing parking lot and construction of a new parking lot along 53rd Street will increase the number of existing parking spaces and keep child pick-up/drop-off farther away from traffic.

The Preliminary Development Plan was approved by the Planning Commission at their June 2023 meeting, and by the City Council in July 2023. Based on a

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review and evaluation of the bids, staff recommended approval of a contract with Centric Construction Group for Water Works Park improvements in an amount not to exceed \$1,158,637.25. Construction is anticipated to begin in January 2024 and be completed in August 2024. The All-Abilities playground pieces, shade sails and poured in place rubber surfacing, picnic tables, benches and bike racks will be purchased separately through Landscape Structures and Wishbone Site Furnishings saving an estimated \$40,000.

Stantec completed a final review of the bid documents and is preparing a contract for execution. This project is funded from the 2023 Park System Improvements budget (Parks + Recreation sales tax) identified in the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilmember Thomas commented that she remembers Mayor Appletoft in 2018 at the Shawnee Mission School District's open house at Shawnee Mission North where they were discussing the Rushton rebuild, and he said at that time that the improvements to Water Works Park should happen at the same time. She is excited to see that idea from five years ago come to fruition.

Moved by Loudon, seconded by Chociej to approve a contract with Centric Construction Group for Water Works Park Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$1,158,637.25.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Inman, Thomas, Loudon Chociej, Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Flora explained that there was no unfinished business tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

9a. Appointment of Public Works Director – Stephanie Boyce

City Administrator Laura Smith introduced Stephanie Boyce as her recommended candidate to fill the role of Public Works Director. She stated that Staff have been involved in conversations about continuing the leadership of the department. She prioritized filling the role with a person who would fit organizationally and culturally for the Department, the organization and the

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larger community. She mentioned that the things that stood out about Ms. Boyce during the interview process were her work in asset management, grant writing experience, 16 years of Public Works experience including budget management and CIP planning, right-of-way acquisition and management, and team building.

Mayor Flora commented that, from the interview process, she was really struck by Ms. Boyce's vision of putting people first from several perspectives, and also that she got the sense from her time interviewing Ms. Boyce that no challenge is too big and she will seek out answers if she doesn't have them.

Councilmembers welcomed Ms. Boyce, and Ms. Boyce spoke to thank the Governing Board for the opportunity to serve the community, Staff and Council. She looks forward to leveraging her passion for public service and her small city experience, and her desire to improve quality of life. She is happy to join the Mission team and continue the developed culture.

Moved by Ryherd, seconded by ChocieJ to recommend confirmation of the appointment of Stephanie Boyce as the Public Works Director for the City of Mission, Kansas.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Inman, Thomas, Loudon ChocieJ, Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Kring shared that she has been appointed by the National League of Cities president to a taskforce that will be giving recommendations to the next President of issues and concerns. The taskforce will be formed for six months and will give a report out at the Conference of Cities in March. She is excited to represent the Midwest and asked fellow Governing Body members to please send her anything they would like to see in communities that she can pass on.

Councilmember Davis commented that he will be having surgery early the next morning for ankle surgery. He may not be available for in-person meetings in December. If he is unable to attend, this will be his final Council meeting. He expressed his joy and appreciation for all of the work his fellow Governing Body members have done, along with fantastic Staff work. He will be succeeded by his wife Cheryl who he knows will also do a fantastic job.

Councilmember ChocieJ noted that the work at the Lanes at Mission Bowl has

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been fun to watch. He noted that the back brick work on the outside of the building looks really fantastic and doesn't look like every other multi-family housing project that is going up right now. He encouraged residents to take a look at the progress.

Councilmember Thomas shared her gratefulness to Councilmember Davis for his professionalism, thoughtfulness and care. She spoke with the entire Council when she thanked him for everything he has done for both Countryside and the City of Mission.

Councilmember Loudon shared that she used the new walking trail at Broadmoor Park recently and it was lovely to use.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Sustainability Commission (Kring/Thomas)

Councilmember Kring shared that the Commission met earlier in November. She shared that Deputy City Administrator Emily Randel updated the commission on the results of the residential energy audit which all were enthusiastic about. Additionally, the Commission sorted batteries for about an hour. Commissioner Terri Baugh is doing a great job of sharing recycling information with the community and continuing the battery recycling program. She also shared that Sustainability Commissioner Andy Hyland would be leaving the Commission as he is moving out of Mission soon. She also shared that she had a meeting the previous week for the Solid Waste Commission of Johnson County. She has shared with other members of that commission what the work of the Sustainability Commission is and how they are involved in so many aspects of City life. She has invited several representatives of other cities to come visit. She also shared that there was a fire at the current lithium battery recycling plant that the Commission uses, however another recycler has been found to take those lithium batteries.

Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission (Loudon/Ryherd)

Councilmember Ryherd shared that the next meeting was the following Monday and she will share more in December.

Mission Magazine Editorial Board (Boultinghouse)

Councilmember Boultinghouse shared that the board met the previous week. They discussed that, beginning in 2024, the magazine will reduce from five issues per year to four. That change will allow for curated content along with a

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more stable planning schedule for the board. He also shared that the recent pet issue hit mailboxes and that 2024 idea planning is already underway.

Family Adoption Committee (Chociej)

Councilmember Chociej shared that the Family Adoption Committee is working hard for the November distribution on November 20. The Committee has also spoken with Mr. Kring about the dissolution of Smiling Hearts as Mr. Kring's work and knowledge are invaluable to the Committee. He also shared that fundraising and donations are a bit behind, but savings have been found to make up for those lagging numbers. Gift tags will be out at the Community Center as well.

Councilmember Kring asked if more volunteers are needed for the distribution on November 20. Councilmember Chociej confirmed they are set for volunteers.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Flora noted that she attended the Milhaven HOA meeting along with Chief Madden this past weekend. Residents were excited to have them there and hear about everything that is going on in Mission. They were especially excited about parks improvements and the work on the residential street program. She also shared that she and Councilmember Kring will be guest judges at the Rushton Elementary PTA fundraiser chili contest and pie contest.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Smith shared that a work session will be held on November 29 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. She also shared that the December committee meetings will be moved to the second Wednesday of the month, putting Committee meetings on December 13 with the December City Council meeting held on December 20. That meeting will also be when our new Councilmembers will transition and be sworn in. A reception will be held ahead of time to honor the outgoing Councilmembers.

Ms. Smith also shared that Thanks for Seniors will be held the next day, December 1 will be the Holiday Lights and Festive Sights event with the Mayor's tree lighting, and November 28 and 29 there will be workshops at the Powell Community Center for the bike/ped plan. On December 7 the Planning Sustainable Places Rockcreek Corridor study will have an open house at the Powell Community Center. The Pearl Harbor Commemoration will also be held on December 7 at the Community Center.



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City Clerk Robyn Fulks presented business updates to the Governing Body. Those included:

Bricks & Minifigs has opened in the Mission Mart. She attended the Grand Opening recently and it was a lot of fun.

Azura Credit Union will open 6751 Johnson Drive in March, 2024

Cloud House, a wellness and yoga space, will open in November at 5929 Woodson Street.

D'Bronx at 6846 Johnson Drive has closed.

Councilmember Inman asked about the sign in front of the gas station on Johnson Drive that has been closed for some time about new activity there. Ms. Fulks did not have any information, but she has looked into that for more details. Councilmember Inman also asked if the Tea Rex Boba Tea store on Johnson Drive has closed, and Ms. Fulks confirmed it has.

Councilmember Thomas asked for a Big Biscuit update. Ms. Fulks updated that she has not heard more about their opening.

Police Chief Dan Madden updated the Governing Body that after the July 14 storm damages certain thresholds were met to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement. That will allow for Federal relief for some of the expenses the City incurred. President Biden has signed the declaration to formalize the reimbursements and FEMA will reimburse 75% of storm related expenses and the State will add another 10%. Preliminary numbers totaled \$155,731.69. If all goes well, reimbursement should be around \$132,000.00. Staff will work through meetings over the next few months to go through the process and ensure all paperwork is in order. He will share more information as he has it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Flora explained that there was not a need for an executive session tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Thomas, seconded by Kring to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**



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Respectfully submitted by Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk.

Solana Flora, Mayor

Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk