



## MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 17, 2024

The Mission City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 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, Brian Schmid, Debbie Kring, Ben ChocieJ and Cheryl Carpenter-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 Ryherd** to approve the revised January 17, 2024 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**

#### **Outgoing Remarks for Deputy City Administrator Emily Randel**

Mayor Flora announced that tonight marks the last official City Council meeting that outgoing Deputy City Administrator Emily Randel will be attending and invited City Administrator Laura Smith to share a few words about Ms. Randel



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and her time in Mission.

Ms. Smith noted that tonight Staff didn't want to miss the opportunity to make a few comments about Ms. Randel and shared the following:

"Although she isn't officially leaving for another twelve days (whose counting), tonight marks her last official City Council meeting. So, I hope you will indulge me a few moments to share some thoughts and to remind Emily just what she means to the City of Mission.

This year Taylor Swift's "Eras Tour" has certainly dominated entertainment headlines, and for those of us here in Kansas City, the headlines of her romance with Chiefs player Travis Kelce have reached epic proportions! It got me thinking about what an "era" really represents, so I looked up the definition. According to Merriam Webster, an "era" is defined as: "a long and distinct period of history with a particular feature or characteristic." Tonight I'm officially declaring 2013 – 2023 as the "Emily Era" for the City of Mission.

Perhaps that seems a little out of character when recognizing a staff member, and I would generally agree. We are notorious for defining our success as working extra hard to support, encourage and accomplish our goals behind the scenes...out of the spotlight. But sometimes you have to make exceptions. There are times when it is appropriate to call out the superstars and to be overt and generous in praising their contributions and recognizing their impact.

I know that each one of us sitting in this room tonight has a favorite (or compilation of favorite) Emily stories or experiences. It would be easy to spend hours sharing them. But don't worry...as difficult as it will be, I'll keep it brief. I'll break it down in five simple observations about E-M-I-L-Y, Emily.

E     Energetic. Have you ever had the privilege of knowing a more energetic human being? In a recent conversation, the Mayor referred to the "Emily sparkle," which caused Emily to blush and roll her eyes, but I think we can all agree there's some truth to that description. Knowing that Emily was probably reacting to what might feel like an superficial or artificial coating, I have chosen to think of it as the "Emily glimmer." What are glimmers? They are small moments that spark joy or peace, helping us to feel safe or calm and positively impacting our mental health. No arguing that we've all been blessed with Emily glimmers.





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M     Motivating. Over the last 10 years, I have continually been impressed by her ability to motivate people to action, to new ways of thinking, or to consider another perspective. It's more than cheerleading. It's a genuine belief in the good of people and their ability – with the right encouragement and accountability – to become better versions of themselves. I think it's her "superpower."

I     Intuitive. She's got a good "gut." She's perceptive, emotionally intelligent and also 100% no nonsense. One of my favorite things from the last 10 years has been watching her trust her own intuition and instincts and step even more solidly into situations to share that with others.

L     Listener. You know it, I know it. She's one of the best you'll ever meet. She listens with sincerity, empathy and compassion. You leave conversations with her truly feeling "heard."

Y     Yearning. She has longing for doing more, for being more, and for contributing more. She's mindful of her successes but unwilling to be complacent – both in her work and in her life. It's a rare and subtle trait.

I consciously chose tonight not to list all of the "things" that she has accomplished. The programs she's developed or led, the research she's done, the "roll-up your sleeves, get to it attitude" that produces meaningful and valuable work every single day for the last 10 years. I chose instead to take the opportunity to remind her that "what" she has done during her time in Mission has been possible because of "who" she is, and that will be true in whatever the next phase of her journey might bring. One only works with the other.

In a recent review of Taylor Swifts "Eras Tour: The Movie," a critic described the film as a "voice made to fit the lyrics – neither overwhelming nor underwhelming, an intensification and distillation of what's extraordinary in ordinary life." I can't think of a more perfect way to characterize Emily's voice both inside and outside the City of Mission.

Thank you, Emily for sharing so much of yourself with us these last 10 years. We will mark the end of the "Emily Era" with great admiration and appreciation. We got a good one. And if there's one thing I've learned from you over the years it's this.... sing the song, dance the dance, take the chance and be true to



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yourself.

So we say "so long for now," and not good-bye, because there's no doubt our paths will cross again."

Mayor Flora echoed Ms. Smith's comments and added that she is incredibly thankful to Ms. Randel for her ten years of service, dedication and enthusiasm to Mission and the greater community. She emphasized Ms. Randel's sparkle, or x factor, and the sum being greater than the whole of its parts. She also stated that she will miss Ms. Randel, but she knows her next steps will be amazing.

Councilmember Kring stated that Ms. Randel's vision of the Mission Market and everything that has been built through that program is amazing. She also complimented Ms. Randel's vision and her dedication to sustainability are second to none, and for putting her heart and soul into sustainability and environmental practices.

Councilmember Boultinghouse stated that Ms. Randel represents the best of public service and he really enjoyed working with her.

Councilmember Thomas stated that Ms. Randel has constantly answered the call to do more with a yes and a positive attitude. She also mentioned that Ms. Randel really shows that local government is more than bureaucratic and slow moving.

Councilmember Loudon told Ms. Randel she made being involved in local government look like fun, and her enthusiasm pushed her into becoming involved in Mission. She thanked Ms. Randel for all that she's done.

Councilmember Ryherd shared her first memory of Ms. Randel when she joined the Sustainability Commission through her work on Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission. She found Ms. Randel to be such a force and she knows that will carry with her.

Councilmember ChocieJ shared the joy that the Mission Market brings to his family each summer and thanked Ms. Randel for her contributions to the city.





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Councilmember Carpenter-Davis thanked Ms. Randel for helping her.

Councilmember Schmid shared that he always enjoyed seeing Ms. Randel at city events, never worrying about not knowing anyone there. He enjoys how welcoming Ms. Randel always is, and regrets that she is leaving the city so soon after he has joined the Council.

Ms. Randel shared that she finds Mission to be very special, and she has always appreciated the civility of the Council along with their worthiness of Staff's pursuits. She appreciates their honor of the work that Staff does.

### **Evergy**

Representatives from Evergy were welcomed by Mayor Flora. Mayor Flora stated that questions from the Governing Body and the public would be taken at the end of the presentation. Ms. Smith introduced Scott Jones and several associates with Evergy to begin their presentation.

Mr. Jones introduced himself as the Evergy Business Manager in Johnson County. He began by introducing Evergy as a 125-year-old company serving Johnson County and most of the Kansas City region. He also provided a breakdown of customers, showing 1.6 million residential customers, 192,000 commercial customers and 7000 industrial customers. He noted that economic development has driven up numbers substantially with much larger projects. The Panasonic battery plant is a good example, along with other projects that increase commercial and industrial loads. Those higher loads in commercial and industrial customers help spread out resources more which is good for residential customers. Mr. Jones reviewed the numbers of lines and types of lines in the area. He also reviewed that Evergy is about 50% non-carbon based at the moment. They are also investing in both wind and solar power and have a carbon neutral target of 2045. That includes battery storage, wind power, hydrogen fuel, and the reduction of coal use.

He next moved on to reliability and operational excellence. Evergy spends time upgrading equipment and modernizing, for example the smart meters that were installed about ten years ago. He then moved to the social media and website, along with mobile app, to help with outage information. Evergy also has multiple vegetation management practices, and they focus on seasonal generation



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flexibility. A lot of work is done in the spring and fall months. He next introduced the DEMI-3 Program, a program that measures equipment experiencing multiple interruptions, and Donny Miles the Construction Coordinator for Evergy in Johnson County to give more information.

Mr. Miles explained that the DEMI-3 Program monitors through software outages that involve devices experiencing three or more interruptions and proactively patrolling those lines.

Ms. Smith clarified that Mr. Miles means three or more outages in which time period and Mr. Miles clarified that is in a rolling 12-month period.

Mr. Miles shared that fusing coordination when an outage occurs, isolating devices installed to reduce outages, and creating overhead loops to minimize customers on the line when damage occurs are all things that the DEMI-3 Program allows them to do. Being able to proactively patrol lines helps to prevent future outages. He showed a page of the software being utilized and what happens in the program when three or more hits are recorded.

Doug Lehmann, vegetation department manager, introduced himself and explained that his crews work year-round, weather permitting, to trim trees on lines. His crews work to identify trees that need to be trimmed and enter data into a system to have tree contractors out to trim. An audit is performed after the trimming, and approximately 37,000 miles of overhead line are reviewed. The primary or main lines are typically trimmed. From the transformer to the customer's residence is the resident's responsibility although his crews can come out free of charge if it is requested. They can have the most impact by trimming the main lines. A doorhanger is left with representative information if trimming is done, and special concerns can be noted. Urban areas on a four-year rotation to address the large mature trees. He stated that customers should contact customer service online or over the phone. Crews will trim overhangs to a minimum of 10 feet away from lines if a tree needs to be removed. Along with the four-year cycle, a two-year mid-cycle of review is done to see if any maintenance is necessary.

Mr. Jones next introduced outage information. HE noted that weather is main cause of outages, however animals and foliage are the other factors that commonly cause an outage. He explained that when the line is touched, the





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breaker will trip to allow the foliage or animal touching the line to move on. If that happens three times the line stays open and the power will be out. He also explained that predictive maintenance includes the DEMI-3 program. When three outages happen in the twelve-month period, crews go out to try and determine what the cause is.

Mr. Jones next brought up Chuck Tuttle, Senior Manager of Metro Operations out of Johnson County. He explained usage rates and the questions they get about burying lines, as that is requested frequently. He explained that buried lines do not stop outages, they are just caused by different factors. He explained that burying lines is very costly, although the amounts listed in his presentation were not accurate but more of an example. Each customer has to pay \$2,000.00 to bring the line to the home. With the soil in our area, the cost would be between \$12,000 and \$14,000. Those costs are not included in rates that residents pay, and to add those rates in would be astronomic. He stated he wishes it were easier and explained that in newer subdivisions the Developers pay for the buried lines and pass those costs on to the homeowners in the neighborhood.

He next explained the restoration process. The meters Everygy uses now send a signal that power is out, although they still do ask customers to report outages. Those outage notifications help them see in their management system what spot can get the most customers turned on the quickest. Homes on smaller circuits will get turned on as time allows after the largest circuits. HE also explained that a hierarchy of priority customers (i.e. hospitals and nursing homes) are prioritized as well. He explained that more staff are called in when outages happen. Staff is onsite 24 hours a day, although less staff are on call overnight. He finds the app and usage map to be very helpful for customers to use. Lines also have smart devices to help turn people on quicker. Technology has helped them be able to run operations more efficiently.

Mr. Tuttle spoke about the storm in July of 2023 and the work that Everygy did with crews to turn power back on. Staff continued to work to help with connections back to homes that were ripped out and turned back on. He reviewed the weather updates they received during the July storm, including very strong wind gusts. His staff began to reach out to other utility companies for extra crews to help turn power back on. He also showed storm damages and the transmission poles that were destroyed near Wolf Creek and the crane



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trucks that were brought in to move the new poles.

Mr. Tuttle reviewed social media that Evergy utilizes along with their phone systems. They received 147,000 phone calls, 75% of which were taken by the automatic phone system. The other 25% of calls were taken by live representatives.

Mr. Jones returned to the podium and asked Ms. Smith if they were ready for questions. Ms. Smith explained that she had been under the impression that more information was going to be shared about the specific circuits in Mission and the infrastructure work that was being done in the area. Mr. Jones asked Daniel Wachter to speak to those. He explained that Mr. Wachter did troubleshooting during the July storms and trickling outages after the storm and that the Community Center and City Hall are on different circuits.

Mr. Wachter explained that he is a distribution engineer who works out of the Johnson County office. He explained that most outages in 2023 at City Hall and the Community Center are related to the main line that runs along 61<sup>st</sup> Street. When an issue hits the main line, the entire circuit is taken out. An aggressive trimming was done on that line in December. He also noted that the Roeland Park substation was undergoing some major upgrades. That substation serves all of Mission. The substation was built in the 1970s and is due for some major upgrades. Three circuits at a time are being taken down and replaced, while thirteen total circuits come out of that substation. He explained that a large area being served off one circuit caused both buildings to be out together. That overhead line along 61<sup>st</sup> Street was hit with several vegetation issues.

Ms. Smith asked if Evergy had anything else to present. Mr. Tuttle came back to speak to analytics of the problems. He explained that, while looking at budgets to allow for infrastructure work, the Roeland Park substation upgrades for 2023 would be the biggest item. Looking into 2024, they do not yet have guidance from their board and finance committee so they cannot speak to upcoming projects. Staff is working to decrease outages and using the information they have through numbers.

Ms. Smith stated she was disappointed in the presentation from the standpoint that, during a pre-meeting phone call, specific information about Mission was discussed to be shared to address concerns of both the Governing Body and





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residents and she felt none of that information had been provided. Staff will be following up for that information as promised. She will meet quarterly with Mr. Jones' team to try to understand the things seen on the various circuits in Mission.

She acknowledged that, while everyone in the room appreciates the work that Everygy does during severe weather events, the real issue are outages on blue sky days where a resolution can't seem to be found. She also acknowledged understating how it is to operate under a budget. She stated that Staff will work to get answers from the concerns tonight. She will also review circuits and the promised infrastructure work from several years ago. Tonight's presentation will be made available on the City's website as well. Ms. Smith clarified that tonight's presentation did not answer the questions that she, the Governing Body, and residents would like answered. She would like to open the meeting to questions.

Mayor Flora began by mentioning that Mr. Jones' predecessor at a meeting in 2022 spoke to the fact that, in addition to vegetation issues, there were aging infrastructure issues on the circuits themselves, such as localized transformers and degrading lines, and that projects would come forward related to those improvements. She would like more specifics on those plans. She had a pole replaced in her backyard, but Mr. Jones' predecessor spoke a lot about lines and transformers.

Mr. Jones noted that since the 2024 budgets haven't been finalized yet, circuits should be worked on. He will meet with Ms. Smith once the budget is finalized to give her that information. He also noted that trimming has been completed. They will have much more to share once the 2024 budgets are finalized. Mr. Tuttle added that they are committed to turning power on, and they don't want to hide things. They are at the will of their budget which does make things tricky. Mayor Flora acknowledged that and stated that more information about what was done to impact Mission in 2023 would have been helpful.

Ms. Smith noted that the circuit that was recently trimmed extensively was not scheduled for trimming in 2025, but her conversation about the outages caused crews to go out and aggressively trim ahead of schedule. Ms. Smith wanted to know if the early trimming would kick that line back into a four-year cycle of if it would be reviewed again in 2025. She also said that having the trimming cycle provided was helpful in the past. Mayor Flora asked why the issues on the circuit



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were not identified on a mid-cycle review. Mr. Lehmann stated that the vegetation issues on that circuit were likely caused by the bad storms in the summer. He confirmed that crews will come back in two years to look at that main line again. Mayor Flora asked why the DEMI-3 program isn't working then, and it take City Staff to have to ask for updates or planned work rather than the proactivity that the DEMI-3 program was touted for. Mr. Tuttle spoke to that and said he would need to look and see when that line hit the DEMI-3 program. They could see when that circuit hit the program would help. Mayor Flora agreed and said that having that information provided, specific to Mission, would be very helpful. Mr. Tuttle explained that limbs that were hanging from storm damage would be causing supplemental outages.

Councilmember Boultinghouse asked about what goes into a calculation for the estimated time for restoration. He noted that it seems too often be a bit more optimistic than it should be. Mr. Tuttle explained that those times come from reports from the crew at the scene and is usually a best guess. Occasionally some issues are more severe than they appear to be, especially if something like a new transformer is needed.

Councilmember Chocie noted that it feels like many situations seem to fall under that issue, and that we have many pockets in Mission have very long outages on small circuits and take big hits during both storms and blue-sky days. He wants to know if circuits need to be reconfigured to stop the long outages. Mr. Tuttle noted that crews try not to put main feeder equipment in backyards. They also talk about cutting circuits in half to help only half of customers to lose power. Their aging infrastructure replacements all have to be analyzed compared to budget as well.

Mayor Flora asked, related to prioritization, how government operations are prioritized. She cited the community center, which is a heating and cooling center or the Police Department that needs to be able to operate. Mr. Tuttle noted that, as long as those buildings are noted that way in the system. Mr. Jones confirmed that all city buildings are tier one. Hospitals and nursing homes are critical and get the first response.

Councilmember Kring commented that her son worked as a lineman and is now a utility superintendent in California and that she has the utmost respect for linemen. She shared how upsetting it was to have power out, and how wonderful





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it was when it was turned back on. She was also happy with the response times. Mr. Tuttle thanked her and stated that he feels they need to communicate more information and do better in the smaller pockets. They don't want to overpromise but do want to share information.

Mayor Flora echoed Councilmember Chociey that those smaller pockets should be maybe looked at to resolve those smaller circuits where you're always the last one turned back on.

Councilmember Thomas stated that in Ward I they have not seen the power issues like in the south part of town. She believes frustrations could be alleviated if targeted upgrades in the southern portion of Mission were looked at in the budget process. Mr. Tuttle confirmed that he is advocating for the City. They will work on what can be done during the budget process. He also urged constituents to call in and complain so that those frustrations can be noted at Evergy as well as with City staff.

Councilmember Ryherd explained that she has seen many transformers explode near her, and a pole was just replaced. She asked that, when reports are made about vegetation issues to Evergy, what the response times are. She noted that she and her husband made a request when they moved into their home and it took quite some time. Mr. Lehmann replied that they try to move as fast as they can, but those are a high-volume request area. They are typically two to three months behind on those, and they do try to prioritize them based on the issue. Councilmember Ryherd clarified that the more detail in the request the better for crews to determine what the issues are.

Councilmember Schmid stated that he experienced similar issues where residents ask how to take care of overgrowth on lines that go from pole to pole. They feel like they are putting in requests without any feedback or knowing if the request is being reviewed. Mr. Lehmann identified those as secondary lines, which are not their priority. He agreed that they would communicate back to customers.

Mayor Flora began the public comment period by having Ms. Randel read online comments. The first was William Rudolph of Mission, KS who noted that in a one year period he had seven power outages, two from severe storms. He feels like that is an excessive amount.



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Emily James, who did not state her residency, asked if there was a plan to trim the line that runs along the drainage ditch that runs from City Hall west to Lamar Ave.

Lindsay Mayfield, no residency mentioned, asked if the trimming work done along 61st Street will help reduce outages on blue sky days.

Mr. Tuttle asked for additional information from the first two commenters, and stated that, to answer the last question, they are hopeful that the trimming will not cause problems. He did note that the line runs behind houses, and they can never guarantee no outages because there are so many variables.

Ms. Smith noted that Mr. Rudolph, the first online commenter, stated that he has ordered a generator to a cost of several thousand dollars. Mayor Flora agreed, that many in her neighborhood have purchased generators and that the community center has lost equipment as has a local dentistry office, Keith & Associates. Mr. Tuttle agreed and noted that he has a generator himself. They do not want that to be necessary for every customer.

Sherry Foreman of Mission, KS introduced herself as a Mission resident since 1972. In their first 25 years in a neighborhood south of Lamar, they only had one power outage after a terrible ice storm. They moved to Milhaven in 1995 and have had chronic power outages since then. She stated she was told during a storm in 1995, they were first off and last on, and nothing has changed. Everydy did a lot of work, however multiple blue-sky outages are still happening. She is a neighbor of the Mayor and appreciates her listening to concerns and providing information. Ms. Foreman's husband is now on oxygen and is housebound. They filled out paperwork to be on a critical priority list and were denied the first time but approved the second time. They were also told that calling the private number they were given when they were approved would not do much. Mr. Jones stated he would like to get some additional information from Ms. Foreman before she left the meeting. He stated he would be happy to get some information and ensure they are on the emergency list. He explained that dispatch center phone numbers are given out to tier one customers to reach someone anytime 24/7, including an after-hours duty person. He will ensure that Ms. Foreman is on the emergency list.





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Jacque Gameson of Mission, KS explained that she and her husband moved into their home on 61st Terrace in 1975. In February of 2002 they experienced their first power outage during an ice storm, with five days without power. In January of 2019 they had a four-day outage in subzero temperatures, and since then have experienced sixteen power outages. Her home is not the only home in her neighborhood losing power, there are nineteen other homes also experiencing outages. All of the homes are on the south side of 61st Terrace and the north side of 62nd Street from Woodson Street to Nall Avenue. She explained that tree trimming was done, she understands now due to the main line along 61st Terrace. She believes a service line in the poles along Woodson has been spliced back together many times, and the lines are fragile. Six times in the past year they have had outages, and she doesn't understand why the line can't be strengthened, even though it affects a small number of homes. She stated that her household purchased a generator, however that does not help the entire neighborhood, nor does it help the City's carbon footprint.

Bob Sutrick of Mission, KS spoke to his area at Lamar on 62nd Street has had over twenty outages in the last two and a half years. Many of those outages are on blue sky days. He has seen the transformer blow several times and is unsure if the transformer is damaged when that happens. He also wanted to know if the four-year cycle has always been the schedule. He also wanted to know if a limb is cut down, are residents responsible for cleaning up the debris left behind.

Mr. Lehmann stated that the four-year cycle has been the norm, he would have to go back and check records to see if, historically, that was the norm prior to his time with Evergy. He also stated that multiple outages will push crews to do additional trimming due to regrowth or damage from a storm. He also addressed the cleanup of debris, stating that during an outage, crews are prioritizing getting power back on. They will leave limbs for the customer to clean up. If there is a trim for safety request from a customer, the customer is responsible for the cleanup in that instance as well.

Mayor Flora clarified that, if a resident is unable to do the cleanup, can they call for assistance and Mr. Lehmann confirmed they can.

Ms. Randel read additional online comments. Emily James clarified the address from her previous comments, as 6150 W. 61st Street. She stated her backyard

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is against the drainage ditch and there are several large trees against the line. She clarified she is looking for plans to trim. Mr. Lehmann stated he will look into that issue.

Ms. Randel also read comments from Lindsay Mayfield added that she has a premature daughter who came home from the neonatal ICU the day before Thanksgiving. A week after she was home, the family woke up in the middle of the night to find the power was out on a blue-sky day. The family was very concerned with keeping their daughter's temperature stable. The restoration time continued to climb from two hours to an eventual ten-hour outage. She hoped to put a face to the accuracy of the restoration estimates, as they would have left to go to a relative's home with power if they had known the restoration would be so long. Additionally, they worried about their supply of breast milk in the refrigerator and freezer during the long outage. Her home runs along the tree line at 5902 W. 61st Terrace. She appreciates Evergy's efforts and hopes they can improve the restoration timelines.

Mr. Tuttle returned to the podium and reiterated that outage times are always changing due to updated information, oftentimes a larger problem presents itself once crews are onsite. He understands the frustration and thanked Ms. Mayfield for her comments.

Councilmember Carpenter-Davis stated her surprise that there are so many technology tools used by Evergy and yet problems seem to be more recent than when the technology is so advanced now. Mr. Tuttle stated his team will take the addresses and information provided tonight to look at data and see what problems caused the outages. He also acknowledged that doing so doesn't diminish the frustration of residents. He previously worked on the Missouri side and didn't see the issues like here, so he's hopeful to gather the information to make progress. Councilmember Carpenter-Davis stated she would like to see action with the data.

Mayor Flora asked when she could expect the updates and information discussed tonight. Ms. Smith stated that a meeting is scheduled in early April, but Staff will follow up with Evergy to see what can be brought back.

Councilmember Thomas stated that she is surprised at the number of outages that some residents have shared. She would be frustrated as well. She hopes





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that some targeted investments could really make investments, especially in Milhaven and Countryside neighborhoods where a lot of seniors and young families live. She would not want to hear about someone moving out of Mission in these beautiful neighborhoods due to electricity issues.

Mayor Flora thanked the Evergy team for their presentation.

### **ISSUANCE OF NOTES AND BONDS**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 4a. Minutes of the December 20, 2023 City Council Meeting
- 4b. Black & McDonald Contract
- 4c. Public Works Consulting Contract – Katigon Consult, LLC
- 4d. MFAC Splashpad Refresh
- 4e. MFAC Picnic Table Replacement
- 4f. Water Works Park Inspection Services

**Moved by Chocie, seconded by Kring** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Thomas, Loudon, Chocie, Carpenter-Davis, Schmid, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

There were no items from the Planning Commission

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance and Administration Committee**

Councilmember Ryherd reported that the Finance & Administration Committee met on January 10 and considered two items. The meeting minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda. Governing Body Compensation adjustments will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

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### **7a. Governing Body Compensation**

Councilmember Ryherd explained that Section 115.60 of the Mission Municipal Code establishes compensation for the Governing Body. The code also outlines that Council compensation will be reviewed annually at the first regularly scheduled meeting in January. The compensation structure for elected officials varies widely from city to city throughout Johnson County. Recent Council discussion focused on establishing salaries which would encourage diversity in those choosing to file for elected office in order to reduce potential barriers to entry because of financial, childcare, or other related issues. The Council ultimately elected to revise the current code to provide for increases in the salaries of the Governing Body annually commensurate with the percentage increase given to employees in the "Meets Expectations" category. The merit matrix used for employees is reviewed and developed carefully each year based on Mission's specific goals and current financial situation. In January 2023, this resulted in a 6% increase to Governing Body salaries, bringing Council salaries to \$4,452 annually and the mayor's salary to \$12,720 annually. Following the recommendations outlined in the current code, this would adjust salaries for the mayor to \$13,292 annually and for Councilmembers to \$4,652 annually.

**Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Loudon** that the compensation for the Governing Body be adjusted by 4.5% effective February 1, 2024 in accordance with the provisions of Section 115.060 of the Mission Municipal Code.

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

### **Community Development Committee**

Councilmember Loudon reported that the Community Development Committee also met on January 10 and considered six items. The meeting minutes, Black & McDonald Contract, Public Works Consulting Contract with Katigon Consult, LLC, MFAC Splashpad Refresh, MFAC Picnic Table Replacement, and Water Works Park Inspection Services were approved under the Consent Agenda. No items will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**





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Mayor Flora explained that there was no unfinished business tonight.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **9a. Resolution Updating Bank Signatories**

Ms. Randel explained that bank signatories will need to be updated to remove Ms. Randel upon her departure. This item keeps good coverage for each City account.

There were no public comments.

**Moved by Boultinghouse, seconded by Kring** to approve the Resolution Authorizing Certain Signatories for a City of Mission Checking Account.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Thomas, Loudon, Schmid, Chociejski, Ryherd, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. **Motion Carried.**

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

Councilmember Kring shared that a Ward III Meeting will be held the following evening at the Powell Community Center at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Councilmember Thomas stated that a Ward I Meeting will be held on February 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Powell Community Center. All are welcome to attend.

Councilmember Chociejski gave kudos to Public Works for their excellent work keeping roads plowed and salted during the winter weather the last few weeks.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Sustainability Commission (Kring/Thomas)**

Councilmember Kring updated that she sits on an advisory board for the Environmental Protection Agency, and current discussions are around climate adaptation at the local level. She will pass on additional information she receives to the new Sustainability Commission liaisons as she will be transitioning from that liaison role. Councilmember Kring also shared that she and Councilmember Thomas were thanked for their work.

#### **Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission (Loudon/Ryherd)**



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Councilmember Ryherd reported that the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission discussed bringing priorities forward to Council for discussion. She also believes that the Commission has a lot of ideas that align with Council priorities. She also reported that the groundbreaking for Water Works Park is rescheduled for January 23 at 4:30 p.m.

### **Mission Magazine Editorial Board (Boultinghouse)**

Councilmember Boultinghouse reported that the board did not meet in January, but stated he will miss working with the group once he transitions to his new liaison role.

### **Family Adoption Committee (Chociej)**

Councilmember Chociej did not have a report.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **Appointments**

### **Council Commission/Committee Liaisons**

Mayor Flora reported that every two years new liaison appointments are determined based on interest from Councilmembers. Beginning in 2024, liaisons to the Sustainability Commission will be Councilmembers Boultinghouse and Loudon. To the Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission will be Councilmembers Kring and Schmid. To the Mission Magazine Editorial Board will be Councilmembers Ryherd and Chociej, and to the Family Adoption Committee will be Councilmember Carpenter-Davis. She looks forward to keeping the lines of communication open with the various volunteer committees and commissions.

### **12a. Planning Commission**

Mayor Flora recommended Kevin Schmidt for appointment to a term ending December 31, 2025 to the Planning Commission. She stated that Commissioner Schmidt will transition off of his role with the Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission and fill the spot on the Planning Commission created by Councilmember Schmid's transition to Council. She thanked Mr. Schmidt for his continued interest in volunteering his time to the City of Mission.





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**Moved by Chociejs, seconded by Carpenter-Davis** to uphold the appointment of Kevin Schmidt to the Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2025.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Schmid, Thomas, Loudon, Chociejs, Carpenter-Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

### **City Officials**

Mayor Flora recommended the appointment of a number of City Officials including Keith Drill as Municipal Court Judge, and Jeffrey Austin, David Bell and Peter Simonsen as Municipal Court Judges Pro-tem. She noted that these appointments are called for in our ordinances and are considered annually.

**Moved by Chociejs, seconded by Ryherd** to uphold the appointment of Keith Drill as Municipal Court Judge, and Jeffrey Austin, David Bell and Peter Simonsen as Municipal Court Judges Pro-tem.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Schmid, Thomas, Loudon, Chociejs, Carpenter-Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

### **Bond Counsel, Financial Advisor, and Land Use Attorney**

Mayor Flora recommended for appointment third party advisors and consultants who assist the City on various projects throughout the year, including Gilmore & Bell, Bond Counsel, Ehlers, Inc., Financial Advisor, Stinson, LLP, Anna Krustlic, Land Use Attorney.

Councilmember Kring noted that previous land use attorney Pete Heaven will no longer be with the City. Mayor Flora confirmed that and invited Anna Krustlic to say a few words.

Ms. Krustlic introduced herself as an attorney with Stinson, LLP, who has been working in local government work and economic development for several years. She really enjoys land use and development work, and she looks forward to the opportunity. Mayor Flora confirmed that Ms. Krustlic also serves as a land use



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attorney or City Attorney for several cities in the region. Ms. Krustlic confirmed that she is the City Attorney for Mission Hills and Tonganoxie, and zoning counsel for Fairway.

**Moved by Chociejs, seconded by Kring** to uphold the appointments of Gilmore & Bell, for Bond Counsel with a term expiring January 15, 2025; Ehlers, Inc., as Financial Advisor with a term expiring January 17, 2025, and Stinson, LLP, Anna Krustlic, as Land Use Attorney for the City of Mission.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Schmid, Thomas, Loudon Chociejs, Carpenter-Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

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

Ms. Smith noted that, as she had the distinct pleasure this evening of starting the meeting recognizing Ms. Randel and her contributions over the last 10 years, it was her privilege to end the meeting this evening with an introduction of her recommended appointment for the Deputy City Administrator's position.

She noted that, after Emily announced her plans to leave at the end of January, Staff dedicated countless hours to the recruitment process in hopes of having the position filled as close to that date as possible. There were countless coffees, lunches, phone calls and meetings as she and Ms. Randel both advertised the position and reached out through our various professional networks to advertise the opportunity. The response received was encouraging. Several extremely qualified candidates came forward and knowing that there was such interest in the work being done in Mission was humbling.

The Mayor, Councilmembers Boultinghouse and Chociejs and several members of the Leadership Team were involved in the multi-round interview and selection process. She thanked everyone who contributed time and attention to making this important decision for the organization.

She was pleased to seek confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Justin Carroll as the Deputy City Administrator for Finance and Administrative Services. Justin is currently serving as the Assistant City Administrator in Mission Hills, where he has been since February of 2021. Prior to that, he spent four years at Johnson County serving in various roles in the County Manager's Office. Justin's experience also includes work as a financial economist for the Kansas



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Department of Revenue and as a principal fiscal analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department.

Mr. Carroll has an undergraduate degree from Benedictine College and a Master of Public Administration from UMKC, his qualifications and experiences helped to set him apart from other candidates. Additionally, his passion for local government, and inviting personality caused Staff to extend the offer to ask him to join the City of Mission team.

As she conducted reference checks recently on Justin, Ms. Smith was struck by the words used to describe him: trustworthy, great confidant, willing to express his opinions, hardworking, thoughtful, fun, respectful. One even said, "you are getting a good one." Ms. Smith reminded the Governing Body that we've heard that somewhere else this evening, right? She also noted that, following Justin's confirmation, she looks forward to a February 19 start date and to on-boarding him with the organization.

Ms. Smith introduced Mr. Carroll and invited him to make comments. Mr. Carroll thanked Mayor Flora and the Council for the opportunity. He is impressed with things going on in Mission from sustainability to economic development, the Johnson Drive corridor, and stormwater which is something he has learned a lot about in the northeast part of the county. He is excited to join the organization.

**Moved by Kring, seconded by Schmid** to recommend confirmation of the appointment of Justin Carroll as the Deputy City Administrator for Finance and Administrative Services for the City of Mission, Kansas.

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Schmid, Thomas, Loudon Chocie, Carpenter-Davis, Ryherd, and Kring. **Motion Carried.**

### **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 Chocie** to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**



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Respectfully submitted by Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk.

A blue ink signature of Solana Flora, consisting of a stylized 'S' and 'F', written over a horizontal line.

Solana Flora, Mayor

A blue ink signature of Robyn L. Fulks, written in a cursive style, over a horizontal line.

Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk