



## MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**April 16, 2025**

The Mission City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Flora. The following councilmembers were in attendance: Josepha Haden Chomphosy, Wanda Vaughn, Mary Ryherd, Lea Loudon, Brian Schmid, Debbie Kring, Ben Chociej, and Cheryl Carpenter-Davis. There were no councilmembers absent.

The public was invited to participate in the meeting by using the instructions included in the City Calendar item listed on the front page of the website. The members of the public participating virtually had the option of utilizing the "chat" feature to voice their comments which would be read aloud. Mayor Flora 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.

The Mayor exercised her privilege to rearrange the agenda to hear special presentations prior to public hearings to accommodate guests who were in attendance for the meeting's special presentations.

Mayor Flora remarked prior to the beginning of the meeting agenda that she would like to give some remarks for the group. She noted that, when becoming an elected official, she and all others swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. She added that each Council meeting begins with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance which can feel a bit rote as many of those in attendance have been doing so since they were in elementary school. She took a moment to focus on the promise and principles that each are undertaking to uphold, especially noting the words "For liberty and justice for all". She borrowed from Langston Hughes's poem Let America Be America Again, which states "...it is we the people [who] must redeem our country and make it that great, strong land of love." Mayor Flora feels that the country is facing a constitutional crisis and asked those inclined to join her in a moment of quiet reflection to consider those such as Kilmar Abrego Garcia and others being denied liberty and justice without due process, and the responsibility to act in the rule of law.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no public hearings.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**



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### **2a. Arbor Day 2025 Proclamation**

Mayor Flora recognized Arbor Day 2025 in the City of Mission. She explained that this year, Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 25th. She presented the proclamation to Parks & Recreation Director Mr. Almoney and the City's Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission, and asked Mr. Almoney to give an update on Arbor Day activities. Mr. Almoney thanked Mayor Flora for the recognition and explained that there are upcoming Arbor Day activities including celebrations at Rushton Elementary School to celebrate trees and the City's tree canopy. A tree will also be planted in Water Works Park.

### **2b. Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Proclamation**

The second Special Presentation was recognition of the Arbor Day poster contest winner from Mr. Almoney and Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission member Jacque Gameson. Mr. Almoney explained that part of Mission being a Tree City USA, we make certain commitments including education of students and residents of the importance of trees. Staff works with Rushton Elementary School to create posters each year for the State's Arbor Day Poster Contest. Ms. Gameson introduced this year's Rushton fifth grade student, Cora Carlson, to the Mayor and Council. Cora's poster was chosen as Mission's winner and was advanced to the Kansas State Forest Service where it was chosen as the Northeast Kansas regional winner.

### **2c. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation**

The final presentation of the evening designated April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in an effort to bring awareness that children have a right to be safe and to be provided an opportunity to thrive, learn and grow. Mayor Flora explained that it is critical that everyone come together as partners so that the voices of our children are heard by all and that as a community, Mission is extending a helping hand to children and families in need. She thanked the many child advocates, including teachers, nurses and social workers, that work tirelessly everyday helping children and ensuring their bright and healthy futures.

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

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



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### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 4a. Minutes of the March 19, 2025 City Council Meeting and April 2, 2025 Special City Council Meeting
- 4b. Personnel Policies and Guidelines
- 4c. Surplus Declaration
- 4d. Task Order for 2025 Bridge Inspection
- 4e. 2025 Residential Street Reconstruction Project Easements

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

Voting AYE: Kring, Chociej, Schmid, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, Haden Chomphosy, and Vaughn. **Motion Carried.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

- 6a. Combined Revised Preliminary and Final Development for Phase II of The Lanes at Mission Bowl – 5300 Block of Martway

Deputy City Administrator Brian Scott explained that this item for approval of a Combined Revised Preliminary and Final Development for Phase II of The Lanes at Mission Bowl was heard by the Planning Commission at their March, 2025 meeting where a public hearing was held. The Developer is looking to build Phase II to the east of Phase I, which just wrapped up construction. A site plan was submitted and a preliminary development plan was approved in 2023. Since that time, the Developer has been working on finalizing land acquisition from the property owner who owns a neighboring building across Martway Street, but parking is at a premium between the properties. Mr. Scott explained that in the originally approved preliminary development plan, there were 7 on-street parking spaces on Martway, primarily for retail tenant space. The remaining space along the front of the building will be a continuation of the Rock Creek Trail. The Developer is now proposing 15 additional on-street parking spaces, for a total of 22. Doing so removes more than 5% of the landscaping previously approved, requiring the Developer to resubmit a new preliminary development plan which had to go back through the Planning Commission and now through



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the City Council. The parking changes are the only changes of note from the 2023 approval.

Nora Moore of Mission, KS asked if there are any parking spaces directly on Martway currently, and Mr. Scott confirmed there are not. Ms. Moore then asked how the spaces will work and what type of spaces they are. Mr. Scott explained that the proposed spaces are on-street parking spaces that will be diagonal spaces. Ms. Moore then asked how the street will accommodate those spaces. Mr. Scott explained that the width of the street will remain the same, and the parking spaces would be accommodated within the project site. Ms. Moore then asked if the parking spaces are public parking spaces or for residents only, and Mr. Scott confirmed they are intended to be public parking. She then wanted to know if the Wendy's building will be torn down in conjunction with the project. Mr. Scott explained it would not be, the parcels of land for this project do not include the Wendy's building. Ms. Moore then wanted to know if the same company owns the Wendy's parking lot, and Mr. Scott confirmed they do not, and that the Wendy's building is for sale. She wanted to know what could move into the Wendy's building. Mr. Scott explained that, since the Wendy's has closed, Wendy's corporate office owns the building and could sell it to a different company for a new business to go in there.

Ms. Smith offered to share the layout of the project with Ms. Moore for better visual representation. Ms. Moore thanked everyone for the information and their time.

Mayor Flora asked Mr. Scott to clarify that the originally approved plan had 15 spaces and now 7 more have been added. Mr. Scott confirmed that was accurate. The original 7 spaces, plus 15 new spaces bring the total on-street parking to 22 spaces.

Councilmember Vaughn asked to clarify that the spaces will not be demarcated for specific use. Banks Floodman, Developer of the project, interjected that Councilmember Vaughn is correct and the new 15 spaces will not all be marked but will be general public parking. He anticipates that the retail user would likely ask for 1-2 spaces to be set aside for them, but the remainder will be for the general public. The spaces were added as a requirement to purchase the land from the owner to ensure there is sufficient parking in the area.



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Councilmember Kring asked what the handicap or accessible parking spaces requirements are. Mr. Scott provided that it is one accessible space for every 20 spaces, and that the requirement is met in the revised preliminary development plan.

Councilmember Chociey asked how the trail and parking spaces will be handled. Mr. Scott explained that the Developer has not yet submitted a plat, but Staff will request that the trail and parking are dedicated as public land when the plat is submitted.

**Moved by Chociey, seconded by Kring** to approve the ordinance adopting a revised preliminary development plan for Phase II of The Lanes at Mission Bowl with previously approved stipulations and conditions.

Voting AYE: Kring, Chociey, Schmid, Loudon, Ryherd, Carpenter-Davis, Haden Chomphosy, and Vaughn. **Motion Carried.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilmember Schmid explained that the Finance & Administration Committee met on April 2 and considered eight items. The meeting minutes, Personnel Policies and Guidelines, and Surplus Declaration were approved under the Consent Agenda earlier tonight. The Master Capital Improvement Program, Resolution to Set Sale for the 2025A GO Bonds, Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on a CID Petition for 5101 Johnson Drive, Resolution Calling a Public Hearing on the Division of Rock Creek Redevelopment District 3B and a TIF Redevelopment Project Plan for 5101 Johnson Drive, and Police Department Vehicle and Equipment Purchase will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

#### **7a. Master Capital Improvement Program**

Councilmember Schmid explained that many public improvements – such as streets, stormwater and public buildings – may be financed through the issuance of general obligation bonds without the need for a public vote. Other improvements such as streetlights or park improvements are either not directly covered by state statute or, in the absence of a charter ordinance and an approved capital master plan, would require a public vote to finance with general obligation bonds.



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In June 2021, the City Council approved Charter Ordinance 32 exempting the City of Mission from the provisions of K.S.A. 14-570 and K.S.A. 14-571 and providing alternate provisions authorizing the City to issue General Obligation bonds for public improvements, without need for a public vote, when the bonds are in an amount sufficient to carry out a master plan for public improvements that has been approved by the Governing Body. It is important to note that broadening the scope through the Charter Ordinance did not reduce public accountability or transparency and did not give any Council blanket authority to issue general obligation bonds for any purpose or project.

The City is now ready to proceed to finance certain street improvements, and stormwater improvements that have been contemplated for several years, as well as financing for new front-line police vehicles. The Master Plan must be approved by the Governing Body prior to issuance of any debt. All other requirements imposed on cities related to issuance of debt still apply when considering items to be financed under this Charter Ordinance. If approved, Staff will work with our financial advisor and bond counsel to prepare the remaining required action items necessary to proceed with a bond sale at the May 21, 2025 City Council meeting.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Smith added that the debt structure is such that the police vehicles are paid off over a four-year term, infrastructure improvements will be over a ten year term. Structuring repayment for the police vehicles this way gives a more favorable interest rate than a traditional lease-purchase but prescribes the term for repayment at just four years.

Councilmember Loudon commented that the Council has done a good job prioritizing streets and communicating those projects. She knows that taking on debt is sometimes uncomfortable, but she feels like for these projects the debt is important for great streets.

Councilmember Kring complimented the Sustainability Commission and their review of technologies of road building. She would like to see more of a look being taken related to sustainable road materials.

**Moved by Schmid, seconded by Chociej** to adopt the Resolution approving the Capital Improvement Master Plan for the City of Mission and communicating



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the City's expectations to finance certain costs for street improvements, stormwater improvements, and police department vehicles in the maximum amount of \$10.0 million plus capitalized interest, interest on any temporary financing, and costs of issuance.

Voting AYE: Chocie, Vaughn, Haden Chomphosy, Loudon, Schmid, Ryherd, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **7b. Set Sale Resolution 2025A GO Bonds**

Councilmember Schmid explained that this resolution signals the City's intent to take the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025A to the market on May 21, 2025. The anticipated debt service schedule for this issue was prepared by Ehlers, Inc. The Resolution has been prepared by the City's Bond Counsel, Gilmore & Bell.

The proposed issue includes financing to make improvements to both street and stormwater infrastructure assets as well as providing for the purchase of five (5) front-line police vehicles. Debt service on these bonds is anticipated to be paid from dedicated revenues from property tax, street sales tax and stormwater utility fee revenues. The City will request a new rating on these bonds from Standard & Poor's, and in order to obtain the lowest interest cost, the City will solicit competitive bids. The set sale Resolution does not commit the City to the financing, and is used to authorize staff, our Financial Advisor and our Bond Counsel to proceed with preparing the offering documents.

There were no public comments or Council comments or questions.

**Moved by Schmid, seconded by Chocie** to approve the Resolution authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025A of the City of Mission, Kansas.

Voting AYE: Chocie, Haden Chomphosy, Vaughn, Loudon, Schmid, Ryherd, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **7c. Resolution Calling Public Hearing on CID Petition for 5101 Johnson Drive**

Councilmember Schmid next explained that Mission 101, LLC has submitted a Community Improvement District (CID) Petition associated with proposed upgrades to the property located at 5101 Johnson Drive (the former Wild Oats



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property). The Petition seeks to levy an additional 2% retailers' sales tax effective October 1, 2025 for a period of twenty-two (22) years. State statute requires that the City Council pass a Resolution giving notice of the intent to consider the petition and setting the date and time for a public hearing.

The Resolution before the Council tonight would officially set the public hearing on this request for the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Mission City Hall, 6090 Woodson St., Mission, KS 66202. The Resolution does not commit the City Council to any action except scheduling the public hearing and providing the required notice.

There were no public comments.

**Moved by Schmid, seconded by Carpenter-Davis** to approve the Resolution setting the date and time for a Public Hearing to consider the petition for the 5101 Johnson Drive Community Improvement District for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at Mission City Hall, 6090 Woodson St., Mission, KS 66202

Voting AYE: Chocie, Vaughn, Haden Chomphosy, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **7d. Resolution Calling Public Hearing on the Division of Rock Creek Redevelopment District 3B and a TIF Redevelopment Project Plan for 5101 Johnson Drive**

Councilmember Schmid next explained that Mission 101, LLC has submitted an application for consideration of a Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Plan for 5101 Johnson Drive. The only item for Council consideration at this time is a Resolution whose sole purpose is to set a public hearing for the May 21, 2025 City Council meeting. Approval of any incentives would not be considered until the public hearing has been conducted, and the Council has reviewed and analyzed information from the City's financial advisor, bond counsel and staff. In accordance with state statutes, the Council may not call the public hearing until after the Planning Commission has found the TIF Redevelopment Project Plan in conformance with the comprehensive plan. The Planning Commission did review the redevelopment project plan at their March 24, 2025 meeting and found the plan to be in conformance with the Tomorrow Together 2040 Mission Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission Resolution



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25-02 conferring this conformance was included in the meeting packet. He also noted that the Resolution does not commit the City Council to any action except scheduling the public hearing and providing the required notice.

**Moved by Schmid, seconded by Haden Chomphosy** to approve the Resolution setting the date and time for a Public Hearing to consider the Division of Rock Creek Redevelopment District 3B and a TIF Redevelopment Project Plan for 5101 Johnson Drive for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at Mission City Hall, 6090 Woodson St., Mission, KS 66202

Voting AYE: Chociey, Haden Chomphosy, Schmid, Vaughn, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **7e. Police Department Vehicle and Equipment Purchase**

Councilmember Schmid's next item was for the purchase of a new vehicle and the associated equipment for the Mission Police Department. He explained that on February 23, 2025 a Mission Police vehicle was struck by another vehicle on I-35 while assisting on a traffic stop. The vehicle was deemed a total loss by the City's insurer with an appraised value of \$17,182.80. The City is set to receive a total of \$12,182.80 after paying its \$5,000 deductible. The City's insurer has begun the subrogation demand process to the offender's vehicle insurance, which would recoup the deductible amount and possibly additional related equipment costs. The cost for the 2025 Ford Interceptor on contract pricing is \$47,406.00. The cost of the equipment and installation for the 2025 Ford Interceptor at our upfitting vendor, KA-COMM, Inc. is \$26,467.44. There were no budgeted funds in the 2025 Budget for a new police vehicle and remaining expenses beyond any insurance reimbursements will be paid from the General Fund through other operational savings.

Councilmember Kring asked for clarification about the reimbursement from the insurance company. Ms. Smith explained that the insurance company is paying out \$17,000 minus the \$5,000 deductible which will be applied to the purchase price of the new vehicle. There is also a good likelihood that the City will also be reimbursed the deductible, and there could be other insurance reimbursements as well at some point.

Councilmember Vaughn asked to confirm that the driver's insurance is being pursued for reimbursement but that the total amount is unknown. Ms. Smith



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confirmed that is correct. Ms. Smith also explained that the equipment the vehicle was equipped with is for an older model vehicle and will not be able to be used in a newer vehicle. Councilmember Vaughn asked if equipment costs are included in the reimbursement amount and Ms. Smith stated she is optimistic that some of those costs could be recovered as well.

**Moved by Schmid, seconded by Carpenter-Davis** to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford Interceptor from Shawnee Mission Ford in an amount not to exceed \$47,406.00, and the purchase and installation of related equipment from KA-COMM, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$26,467.44, for a total of \$73,873.44.

Voting AYE: Chociey, Haden Chomphosy, Vaughn, Schmid, Vaughn, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **Community Development Committee**

Councilmember Ryherd explained that the Community Development Committee also met on April 2 and considered six items. The meeting minutes, Task Order for 2025 Bridge Inspection, and 2025 Residential Street Reconstruction Project Easements were approved under the Consent Agenda earlier tonight. The Engineering Services Task Order for 2026 Residential Street Reconstruction Projects, 2026-2030 CARS Five-Year Program, and Operation Green Light Cooperative Agreement Update will be considered under the Regular Agenda this evening.

#### **7f. Engineering Services Task Order for 2026 Residential Street Reconstruction Projects**

Councilmember Ryherd explained that The City strives to dedicate \$2.0 million annually to the Residential Street Reconstruction Program, which is guided by pavement condition index (PCI) data from Stantec's 2022 study and previous geotechnical analyses by Olsson. To maintain progress with the program, the City tries to complete design one year ahead of construction. The proposed design for the 2026 Residential Street Reconstruction Program includes full depth pavement reconstruction, along with the replacement of curbs, gutters, and driveway approaches, and improvements or repairs to stormwater systems, specifically targeting stormwater components with risk ratings of 3.5 and 5.



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The task order encompasses all necessary design services for the proposed streets. These services include surveying, data collection, design development, coordination with utility companies, and the creation of any necessary easement documents. Additional provisions cover project meetings, obtaining permits, drafting bid documents, and overseeing bid submission and construction. The total cost for these services will not exceed \$326,724.50. There were no public comments or Council comments or questions.

Councilmember Vaughn asked what the difference is between design and this process. Ms. Smith explained that this includes surveys, engineering, and the deliverable will be the design documents and specifications that will be put out for bid. These will be the plans a contractor will use to construct the new road. Ms. Smith also explained that because Mission's residential street projects are full-depth reconstructions, they are more expensive than a mill and overlay project. The streets are not being realigned, but streets were not built to any set of specifications over time which causes many issues. Building the newly constructed streets to current design standards will ensure a longer life. Stormwater component design also a large part of the street project design.

**Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Loudon** to approve a task order with Burns & McDonnell for engineering design services for 2026 Residential Street Reconstruction projects in an amount not to exceed \$326,724.50.

Voting AYE: Chociey, Vaughn, Haden Chomphosy, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **7g. 2026-2030 CARS Five-Year Program**

Councilmember Ryherd next explained that through a combination of state gas tax dollars and County General Fund revenues, the County Assisted Road System (or CARS) program provides up to 50% of construction and construction inspection funding to cities to construct and maintain certain eligible streets. Cities are responsible for costs of design, right-of-way, and utility relocation costs. Each year, cities submit a 5-year road improvement plan to the County from which projects are selected for funding. Participating cities are required to pass a resolution annually adopting a 5-year plan based on their own unique goals and objectives, and CARS projects are ultimately adopted as part of the County's annual budget process. Projects for the 2026-2030 program are outlined in the action item summary. Mission will have two projects in 2026 -



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Johnson Drive (Metcalfe Ave. to Lamar Ave.); and 396' of 51st Street as part of a larger project in Roeland Park.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Kring thanked Staff for putting together the design with crosswalk across Johnson Drive east of Riggs.

**Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Haden Chomphosy** to approve the Resolution adopting the Five-Year City/County Street Improvement Program for the City of Mission for 2026-2030.

Voting AYE: Chociejs, Haden Chomphosy, Vaughn, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **7h. Operation Green Light Cooperative Agreement Update**

Councilmember Ryherd next explained that Operation Green Light (OGL) is a regional arterial traffic signal coordination system managed by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). The City of Mission has participated in OGL since 2010 and is one of 26 participating agencies across the Kansas City Metro area. The updated Cooperative Agreement adds to the cost for the newly added signal at the intersection of Lamar Avenue and Foxridge Drive. In addition, it outlines the roles and responsibilities of all participating agencies. Key elements include cost-sharing provisions, information sharing protocols, insurance requirements, the structure and responsibilities of the OGL committee, the scope of services provided, and requirements for private contractors performing construction work under the program. Mission's annual cost for participation in OGL is \$3,000, which covers traffic signal coordination services for intersections on Shawnee Mission Parkway at Roeland Drive, Shawnee Mission Parkway at Nall Avenue, Shawnee Mission Parkway at Lamar Avenue (shared with Overland Park), and the newly added signal at Lamar Avenue and Foxridge Drive. The agreement details costs for both 2025 and 2026 for a total of \$6,000 to be invoiced separately in the appropriate calendar year. Funding for this expense is included in the Public Works operating budget.

Councilmember Chociejs stated that he was originally in doubt of the effectiveness of this program but has done more research and sees some benefit on greenhouse gas emissions with this program.



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**Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Carpenter-Davis** to approve the Cooperative Agreement for funding operations of Operation Green Light (OGL) with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

Voting AYE: Chociey, Haden Chomphosy, Vaughn, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

Mayor Flora requested that item No. 12 be moved up in the agenda to accommodate a guest at the meeting. That request was honored.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

#### **Appointments**

##### **12a. Sustainability Commission**

Mayor Flora offered up an appointment for consideration of the appointment of James Robins, Ward II, with a term expiring December 31, 2026 to the Sustainability Commission.

**Moved by Loudon, seconded by Haden Chomphosy** to uphold the appointments of James Robins with a term expiring December 31, 2026, for the Sustainability Commission.

Voting AYE: Chociey, Vaughn, Haden Chomphosy, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

Mr. Robins was in the audience and stated his honor to be appointed and his love for the community. He explained that he and his family are newer to Mission and have lived in many places across the country and they have found a great home in Mission.

The Mayor then returned to the remaining agenda items as published.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **9a. Election of Council President and Vice-President**



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**Moved by Ryherd, seconded by Kring** to nominate Councilmember Ben Chociej for the position of City Council President to fulfill the term expiring April 2027. Voting AYE: Chociej, Vaughn, Haden Chomphosy, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

**Moved by Kring, seconded by Loudon** to nominate Councilmember Mary Ryherd for the position of City Council Vice-President to fulfill the term expiring April 2027. Voting AYE: Chociej, Vaughn, Haden Chomphosy, Schmid, Ryherd, Loudon, Kring and Carpenter-Davis. Motion Carried.

### **9b. E-bike Grant Funding**

Ms. Smith provided an update on the e-bike grant funding project. She explained that staff has been working toward an e-bike program through a grant opportunity through the Mid America Regional Council (MARC). Staff were told specifically at the outset of the grant submission that five years of ongoing operation and maintenance costs were an eligible expense to be covered by the grant. Staff planned to use that first five years to evaluate the program and build up sponsorship or budgetary funding to sustain the program in the long term. When Staff began working with KDOT on the grant agreement, we were advised that the operation and maintenance costs were not going to be eligible expense. A similar project on the Missouri side of the state line - between North Kansas City and BikeWalkKC - was also impacted. MoDOT initially had allowed operation and maintenance expenses to be eligible but later walked that ruling back. Staff has spent time engaging different partners to explore options for the program and how to cover costs. Ultimately, Staff decided to move the project from FY24 to FY25 to provide more time to evaluate. MARC asked for a status update as the FY25 projects must be obligated by this September. Neither Mission, BikeWalkKC, or North Kansas City have been able to find a way to cover operating costs. Missouri budgeting works a bit differently, and North Kansas City has some other options for their fiscal year so will be accepting grant funds for the capital equipment only and then funding operations from their next fiscal year's budget. The City of Roeland Park, who was originally partnering with Mission on this grant, has determined that without the operating costs the project will not be feasible for them. MARC has said that Mission could still proceed with 30 bikes rather than the combined 50. Staff feel like there are two options currently. One is to decline the grant funding entirely. Estimated annual operating costs range from \$48,000 to \$56,000 for 30 bikes, and without reliable data on farebox revenues, the City could be facing as much as \$200,000 in out-



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of-pocket operating expenses over five years. Ms. Smith allowed that there could be good opportunities for sponsorships in the future, however there has not been time to fully explore those options. Ms. Smith also noted that construction along the Rock Creek Channel and Johnson Drive, along with construction along Martway Street may reduce the bikeability of the city in 2026, which could hurt potential sponsorships as well. The options at this time are to reject the grant funding in full, or to accept the grant funding for the hubs and bikes and defer installation to an unknown later date when operating expenses can be re-worked. Ms. Smith shared that she has bigger picture concerns related to operation and maintenance costs and funding that can be shared in upcoming budget conversations. Additionally, there are some unclear pieces of information about how long the City could wait between purchasing the bikes and putting them into service. Staff recommends rejecting the grant funds, however, in sharing the information with the Mayor she wanted Staff to present both options to the Council so that the Governing Body could have a comprehensive conversation about the issues.

Councilmember Haden Chomphosy asked if the funds are declined now, would that impact the City's ability to reapply for funds in the future. Ms. Smith answered that the only impact could be the availability of funds, which is difficult to predict with Federal grant scrutiny still ongoing.

Councilmember Loudon asked if the City could take less bikes. Ms. Smith answered that in conversations with BikeWalkKC, a critical mass of bikes is needed to be effective and efficient. Thirty would be a sufficient number of bikes rather than the original 50, but taking less than 30 wouldn't be advisable. Ms. Smith believes that negotiating with development projects to include this infrastructure, along with Johnson Drive businesses who may be interested in sponsorship, should be the focus going forward.

Councilmember Kring asked if there was a time limit given as to how long from when the bikes are obtained that the hubs and infrastructure needs to be in place. Ms. Smith explained that traditionally, it is preferred if the grant funds are used within the same fiscal year.

Councilmember Ryherd asked if not taking the grant funding could look bad on the City. Ms. Smith said she did not believe so, as a large amount of the funds obligated were to cover the operations and maintenance costs. If staff returns



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funds, those funds will go back into a pool where they can be used for projects for other cities.

Mayor Flora asked to confirm that BikeWalkKC would not hold hard feelings if Mission backs out and Ms. Smith confirmed they would not.

Councilmember Vaughn believes that with technological changes, buying bikes and holding on to them for an extended period of time doesn't seem to be viable. She would like to see the grant funds given back.

Councilmember ChocieJ stated that the costs seem high for the City, especially without budgeting for the program and assuming it would work by using grant funds. He feels like the City could identify ways to support bike and pedestrian infrastructure without this program. Ms. Smith checked in for an appetite to move forward or announce a decision. There was consensus from the Council to discuss again at the April 30 budget work session. No binding action was taken.

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

Councilmember Schmid shared that a Ward III Meeting would be held the following day at the Powell Community Center at 7pm.

Councilmember Kring commended the Police Department for their work helping a lost child be found near her home.

Mayor Flora announced that a fire this week in the community also prompted quick and effective work from the police department, along with Consolidated Fire District No. 2. She thanked both agencies for their work.

Councilmember ChocieJ announced that a Ward IV Meeting would be held on Thursday, April 24 at 7pm at the Powell Community Center.

Councilmember Haden Chomphosy thanked Public Works for their quick help with some errant detour signs in Ward I.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Sustainability Commission (Loudon/Haden Chomphosy)**

Councilmember Loudon announced that the group talked about the recent



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Climate Action Summit and thanked everyone who attended. The Commission also spoke about a group called ReUseful, whose goal is keep items out of landfills by repairing or donating them. The group does five events per year and offers repairs of many kinds. They will be offering a repair fair as part of the 2025 *Go Green Environmental Fair*. The Commission will also plan to have a community table at the Mission Market, and they did a lot of battery sorting. A new battery pickup company has been secured and the Commission anticipates significant savings over the previous provider.

### **Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission (Kring/Schmid)**

Councilmember Schmid shared that the Commission will help with the Bunny Eggstravaganza at Broadmoor Park. Additionally, the Commission has been working on the Arbor Day events and the Championship Tree winner has been signed at Pearl Harbor Park.

### **Mission Magazine Editorial Board (Ryherd/Chociej)**

Councilmember Chociej shared that the board has not met since the last report. Ms. Smith added that any music-themed story ideas are most welcome for the next issue.

### **Family Adoption Committee (Carpenter-Davis)**

Councilmember Carpenter-Davis shared that the Family Adoption Committee has not met since the last update.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Fulks shared business updates which is that the Popeye's location on Johnson Drive will host their grand opening that upcoming Friday. She also reminded the Governing Body of the Citywide Clean Up Event on April 26 at Beverly Park with a rainout date of May 3.

Ms. Smith announced that interim financials are on hold this month due to the annual audit site visit. She thanked Budget & Finance Manager Christine Korth for all of her hard work on the audit. She also expressed the excitement of the ribbon cutting event at The Lanes project and the great work done between the Developer and City Council. Finally, the first budget work session will be held on



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April 30. The time to be determined the following week, along with a potential special meeting to discuss issues that have arisen as part of the Milhaus project.

Councilmember Kring asked when the opening day of the Mission Market would be. Ms. Smith answered it would be June 5.

Councilmember Loudon asked about the Milhaus project and WaterOne's contribution to possible infrastructure updates. Ms. Smith explained that conversations are ongoing to try and bring the project to completion.

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

**Moved by Kring, seconded by Schmid** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk.

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Solana Flora, Mayor

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Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk