

# City Commission of Arkansas City - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in regular session at **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 17, 2020**, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave.

Mayor **Karen Welch** called the meeting to order. Commissioners also present at roll call were Commissioners **Kanyon Gingher, Duane L. Oestmann, Scott Rogers** and **Jay Warren**.

City employees present at the meeting were City Manager **Randy Frazer**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, City Clerk **Lesley Shook**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall**, Police Chief **Dan Ward** and Public Services Superintendent **Tony Tapia**.

Citizens in attendance were **Harrison Taylor** and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter **John Shelman**.

Commissioner Warren offered the opening prayer. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Agenda Approval

At City Manager Frazer's request, Mayor Welch made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a resolution supporting and strongly encouraging public health efforts to mitigate disease spread within the Arkansas City community as **Item 3** under **New Business**. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the agenda **amended** as requested. Commissioner Oestmann then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor. Mayor Welch declared the agenda **approved** as amended.

## Comments from the Audience

**Harrison Taylor**, 525 N. Fourth St., again addressed the commissioners about speeding on residential streets. Commissioner Gingher said it will not be a police priority during the pandemic.

## Consent Agenda

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the consent agenda, consisting of:

1. Approving the **November 3, 2020**, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Approving **Resolution No. 2020-11-3369**, canceling a public meeting of the Governing Body at **noon Friday, November 27, 2020**, in the City Manager's Office at City Hall.

Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the consent agenda **approved** as presented.

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## New Business

### Appoint Members of REAP

City Clerk Shook presented for appointing one member of the Governing Body to serve as a voting member of the **Regional Economic Area Partnership** (REAP) of South-Central Kansas and either one member of the Governing Body or City Manager Frazer to serve as an alternate member of REAP in the voting member's absence.

Commissioner Gingher said she would be willing to serve as the voting member since she had already attended at least one REAP meeting since the City rejoined the regional organization. City Manager Frazer consented to serve as the alternate given his extensive personal history with REAP.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to appoint **Commissioner Gingher** as a voting member of REAP and **Frazer** to serve as an alternate member of REAP in Commissioner Gingher's absence.

Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved**.

### Recycling Center Agreement Resolution No. 2020-11-3370

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution amending the lease agreement dated **October 1, 1995**, by and between Strother Field Airport and Industrial Park, the City of Arkansas City, and the City of Winfield, regarding the jointly owned and operated **Recycling Center**.

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the resolution, for a new lease agreement amount not to exceed **\$250.00** per month. Mayor Welch seconded the motion.

A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved** and given **Resolution No. 2020-11-3370**.

### Crushing COVID Resolution Resolution No. 2020-11-3371

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution of the City supporting and strongly encouraging **public health efforts** to mitigate disease spread within the Arkansas City community.

Public Information Officer Lawson provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Cowley County, which has increased from **608** to **1,104** total cases as of **Nov. 16**, an **82-percent increase** in just two weeks. Active cases are now up to a high of **238** from the summer average of **30** to **50**.

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He said there have been **16** deaths linked to COVID-19 and positivity is at an all-time high of **30%**.

Lawson presented drafts of a poster and social media images promoting the “**Crushing COVID**” campaign commissioners requested during a **November 13** study session. The main messages are that “**Crushing COVID is Up to You**” and “**We Need YOU to Do What You Can.**” All of the images promote wearing a mask, washing your hands, staying home when you can and avoiding crowds.

Social media images will focus on businesses, hospitals, neighbors, schools and the local workforce.

Partner agencies include both of the cities, colleges, hospitals, public school districts, and chambers of commerce in Arkansas City and Winfield, as well as Cowley County, Legacy Foundation, the City-County Health Department, RISE Cowley and the Community Health Center in Winfield.

The commissioners praised the messaging and patriotic themes of the Crushing COVID campaign.

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the motion **approved** and given **Resolution No. 2020-11-3371**.

## City Manager Updates

City Manager Frazer provided the commissioners with the following reminders and updates:

- A pair of City advisory board meetings will be held in person on **November 19**, but these will be the last in-person meetings until the COVID-19 situation starts to improve locally. Future board meetings will be held via **GoToMeeting** and the public notified appropriately.
- The Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce plans to sponsor the ceremonial tree lighting at **6 p.m. November 23**. All commissioners are invited to participate. Due to COVID-19, all other events for this Christmas in the City kickoff event were canceled.
- City Hall and all other City offices will be closed **November 26-27** for Thanksgiving. There also will be no recycling at the Joint Recycling Center at Strother Field on **November 27-28**.

## Other Business

City Manager Frazer provided commissioners with a printed handout outlining Human Resources Division policies related to time missed from the COVID-19 pandemic, illness or contact tracing.

Commissioner Oestmann asked how many City staff is out. Frazer estimated no more than a dozen.

He also said Finance Director Waggoner is working on budget amendments for the **Dec. 1** meeting.

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## Adjournment

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was **unanimous** in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the meeting adjourned at **6:14 p.m.**

**THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Welch, Mayor

## **ATTEST:**

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Lesley Shook, City Clerk

## **Prepared by:**

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Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer