

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, June 2, 2020**, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave. in Arkansas City.

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 were City Manager **Randy Frazer**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, City Clerk **Lesley Shook**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall** and Finance Director **Kathy Cornwell**.

Personnel of the Arkansas City Police Department in attendance were Police Chief **Dan Ward**, Capt. **Eric Burr**, Master Police Officer **Ted Shinneman**, Police Officers **Madison Pickett** and **Michael Yzquierdo**, and Administrative Assistant **Jeni McGee**.

Citizens in attendance included **Brandon Every, Mell Kuhn** and **Tiffany Shinneman**.

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

Agenda Approval

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion.

A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the agenda approved.

Awards and Proclamations

The commissioners witnessed the presentation of Lifesaving Awards to the Arkansas City Police Department's Master Police Officer **Ted Shinneman** and Police Officer **Michael Yzquierdo**.

ACPD Capt. Eric Burr detailed how they were flagged down while on routine patrol **May 24** by a family with a 2-year-old boy who was choking on chewing gum and they saved him by dislodging it.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Approving the **May 19, 2020**, regular meeting minutes as written.

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

City Commission of Arkansas City - Regular Meeting Minutes

New Business

Dog at Large Ordinance

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance modifying **Arkansas City Municipal Code Section 10-34**, regarding dogs at large.

The proposed ordinance would remove “voice control” from code and require that dogs be leashed.

City Attorney Schwartz recommended amending **subsection (b)** to strike out the phrase “and shall be *prima facie* evidence of intent of the owner or keeper to violate the provisions of this section” because this ordinance should not require any evidence of intention or mental state. Schwartz compared dog at large to speeding, which is simply an observed factual violation of the law.

Commissioner Warren asked about dogs running between properties in a neighborhood. Schwartz said it wouldn't be a problem as long as the dog's owner seeks permission from the neighbor(s).

Commissioner Oestmann asked if this ordinance was prompted by a recent dog bite incident at Veterans Memorial Lake. City Manager Frazer said it was in part, although that dog was on a leash.

(The ordinance was originally drafted in 2019 due to Police Chief Ward's concerns about the lack of a leash requirement in Municipal Code. The dog bite provided fresh impetus to consider it again.)

Commissioner Warren made a motion to table the ordinance for a second reading on **June 16**.

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

Mayor Welch declared the ordinance tabled for a second reading with the requested amendment.

City Manager Updates

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

- The next two virtual meetings of the Ark City Area Complete Count Committee will be at **noon June 4** and **noon June 11** via GoToMeeting. Login information available on request.
- The next RISE Cowley health coalition meeting will be at **10 a.m. June 9** via Zoom.
- The next monthly Cowley County Legislative Committee meeting will be at **noon June 9** at the Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce office, located at 106 S. Summit St.
- The next City Commission study session will be at **noon June 12**. Location TBA...
- The City Commission study session at **noon July 3** falls on an official City holiday – Independence Day (*observed*). Frazer asked if the City Commission wished to cancel or reschedule this study session. Commissioner Gingher asked for it to be moved to **July 2**.

City Commission of Arkansas City - Regular Meeting Minutes

Frazer also congratulated Police Chief Ward and ACPD for successfully receiving a federal COPS grant worth **\$125,000.00**. Almost 600 agencies applied and ACPD was one of just 14 to be funded.

Ward said the money will be used to fund a new mental health officer position for the department.

Commissioner Warren commended Ward for his ongoing efforts with the department in light of current protest events concerning police use of force and race relations across the United States.

Frazer thanked all the City staff who have helped him to hit the ground running in his first week.

Other Business

Budget Study Sessions

Commissioner Oestmann asked Finance Director Cornwell about the timing of the **budget process**.

Cornwell said they still could hold an all-day budget retreat, but cautioned that the City won't begin to know how this year's tax revenues will be impacted by COVID-19 until at least the end of June.

She suggested breaking discussions up over several study sessions, including **June 19** and **June 26**.

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to hold 2021 budget study sessions from **noon to 3 p.m. June 12** and **June 26**. (**Note:** *There already is a regular study session scheduled for noon June 12.*)

Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the motion approved.

Adjournment

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Welch declared the meeting adjourned at **5:55 p.m.**

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

Karen Welch, Mayor

City Commission of Arkansas City - Regular Meeting Minutes

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer