

# City Commission of Arkansas City - Regular Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in virtual regular session at **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2020**, via the [GoToMeeting](#) platform due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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

City employees participating remotely were City Manager **Nick Hernandez**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, City Clerk **Lesley Shook**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall**, Finance Director **Kathy Cornwell** and Police Chief **Dan Ward**.

RISE Cowley was represented by grant coordinator **Becky Reid**. Citizens observing the meeting included **Andrea Hernandez, Landon West** and Cowley CourierTraveler reporter **John Shelman**.

## **Agenda Approval**

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

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

## **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the following:

1. Approving the **May 5, 2020**, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Approving **Resolution No. 2020-05-3329**, authorizing City Manager Clarence R. Frazer, Finance Director Kathleen A. Cornwell and City Treasurer Jennifer C. Waggoner to act as authorized signers on City bank accounts, effective **May 26, 2020**.
3. Approving **Resolution No. 2020-05-3330**, authorizing the City to lease to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) a space for a remote communications outlet at Strother Field.

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

## **New Business**

### **Kansas Gas Service Franchise Ordinance No. 2020-05-4509**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a first reading of an ordinance authorizing the City to approve a new **20-year** gas franchise agreement with **Kansas Gas Service**.

City Manager Hernandez said the agreement includes a provision that would let the City Commission potentially opt out and renegotiate the fee percentage after **five years** have passed.

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Mayor Welch made a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Oestmann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the ordinance approved and given **Ordinance No. 2020-05-4509**.

### **RISE Cowley Grant Resolution** **Resolution No. 2020-05-3331**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution approving the hiring of a technical consultant prior to **December 15, 2020**, to develop a Master Transportation Plan for the City, utilizing up to **\$25,000.00** in potential RISE Cowley Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant funds.

Commissioner Gingher asked if the project would proceed if the grant is not awarded. Public Information Officer Lawson said no funds would be expended unless the grant is approved.

RISE Cowley grant coordinator Becky Reid said Blue Cross Blue Shield will decide prior to **July 31**.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Welch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the resolution approved and given **Resolution No. 2020-05-3331**.

### **RFD #6 Fire Protection Services** **Resolution No. 2020-05-3332**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with the City of Winfield and Cowley County Rural Fire District No. 6 to provide fire protection services to **Rural Fire District No. 6**, which predominantly comprises Strother Field.

Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Gingher seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the resolution approved and given **Resolution No. 2020-05-3332**.

### **Downtown Sewer Replacement** **Resolution No. 2020-05-3333**

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a resolution authorizing the City to enter into an Engineering Design Services Agreement with Smith & Oakes, Inc., for the **Sanitary Sewer and Alley Pavement Replacement Project between Adams Avenue and Fifth Avenue (Blocks 81 and 82)**, for an amount not to exceed **\$46,400.00**.

City Manager Hernandez said this project will fix the sewer and drainage issues. and repair the alley.

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Mayor Welch made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Welch declared the resolution approved and given **Resolution No. 2020-05-3333**.

## City Manager Updates

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

- His last official day on the job will be **May 22**. There will be a come-and-go “farewell reception” event for employees and citizens from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** that day at the Agri-Business Building, located at 712 W. Washington Ave. Social distancing will be practiced!
- City Hall and other offices will be closed **May 25** in observance of Memorial Day. As this is an official City holiday, City employees generally have the day off and will be unavailable.
- The next virtual meeting of the Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee will be at **noon May 28** via GoToMeeting. Meeting login information is available upon request.
- The City Commission’s next virtual study session will be at **noon May 29** via GoToMeeting. City staff plans for external agencies to present their budget requests for **2021**.

Hernandez thanked all of the commissioners and everyone else in Arkansas City, and said he will miss his time here after almost nine years. Commissioner Rogers thanked him for his dedication to the community, and said he and his family will be missed. Commissioner Oestmann and Mayor Welch both agreed. Commissioner Warren praised the article about Hernandez in the newspaper.

Hernandez said new City Manager Randy Frazer’s first official day on the job will be **May 26, 2020**.

## Other Business

Public Information Officer Lawson asked if anyone had questions about **Phase 2 of the state’s Ad Astra reopening plan** as it relates to the City’s own plan. City Manager Hernandez said he has complete faith in Deb Davidson’s plan for opening up Paris Park Pool whenever the state allows it.

Commissioner Oestmann asked Finance Director Cornwell how **tax revenues** were looking. She expected to receive the sales tax revenue the following week and she would know more at that time.

## 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 **5:53 p.m.**

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## THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

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Karen Welch, Mayor

### ATTEST:

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Lesley Shook, City Clerk

### Prepared by:

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Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer