

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, January 21, 2020**, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave. in Ark 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 **Nick Hernandez**, City Attorney **Larry Schwartz**, City Clerk **Lesley Shook**, Public Information Officer **Andrew Lawson**, Management Assistant **Mike Crandall**, Fire Chief **Bobby Wolfe**, Police Chief **Dan Ward**, Environmental Services Superintendent **Rod Philo**, Human Resources Manager **Marla McFarland** and Principal Planner **Josh White**.

Citizens in attendance included **Larry Gilmore** and **Dan Jurkovich**.

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

Agenda Approval

At City Manager Hernandez's request, Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a request from South Central Kansas Medical Center to release funds from the Unpledged Health Care Sales Tax Fund for uncompensated care as **Item 1** under **New Business**.

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

Mayor Welch declared the agenda approved as amended.

Awards and Proclamations

Mayor Welch presented former **Mayor Warren** with an award honoring his recent year of service.

She praised Warren's service to the community as a city commissioner, a citizen and a volunteer.

Mayor Welch issued a proclamation that **January 26-February 1** is **School Choice Week** in Arkansas City. Dan Jurkovich received the proclamation on behalf of Ark City Christian Academy.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Approving the **January 13, 2020**, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Approving the Land Bank's **2019 annual report** and **2020 inventory of property**.

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3. Ratifying Mayor Welch's appointments of **Larry Gilmore** to the Cowley County Council on Aging, and **Lloyd Colston** to the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.
4. Ratifying Mayor Welch's reappointments of **Mitch Reichle** to the Arkansas City Public Library Board of Trustees, **Mark Bartlett** and **Randy Smith** to the Building Trades Board, **Foss Farrar** to the Historic Preservation Board, **Felipe Escalante** to the Northwest Community Center Advisory Board, **Pam Crain** and **Toni Greene** to the Outstanding Student Award Committee, **Charles Jennings** to the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, and **Mike Munson** to the Public Building Commission.

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

Mayor Welch declared the consent agenda approved as presented.

New Business

Uncompensated Care

City Manager Hernandez presented for discussion a request from South Central Kansas Medical Center to release funds from the **Unpledged Health Care Sales Tax Fund** for uncompensated care.

Hernandez said SCKMC has requested the release of **\$79,090.00** from the fund, which is made up of the **5 percent** of the collected Health Care Sales Tax that is not pledged to the refinanced bonds.

Hernandez asked Dan Jurkovich, chairman of the SCKMC Board of Trustees, for clarification regarding the request, which he provided. Hernandez suggested altering the format in the future.

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve SCKMC's request for **\$79,090.00** from the fund.

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

Mayor Welch declared the motion approved.

City Manager Updates

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

- Local Government Day is **January 22** in Topeka, but Hernandez said the planned City delegation would not be attending after all due to winter weather expected overnight.
- There will be an Ark City Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting at **5 p.m. January 23** at Lake View Estates, located at 801 W. Taylor Ave., and all City officials are invited to attend.
- The Ark City Area Complete Count Committee will be host to a Chamber of Commerce coffee at **10 a.m. January 30** at USD 470's new Avery Learning Center at 2500 N. 15th St.

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- The next City Commission study session will be at **noon January 31** in the city manager's office at City Hall. Staff would like to resume reviewing the Governing Body Handbook.
- The annual Chamber of Commerce banquet will be from **5 to 10 p.m. February 1** in the V.J. Wilkins Family Center for the Arts at the Burford Theatre, located at 118 S. Summit St. The City reserved a table, so Hernandez asked commissioners to tell him if they plan to attend.
- The City will make a presentation at **1 p.m. February 19** at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, regarding a **\$277,284** Recreational Trails Grant it previously applied for in 2019 for the Wilson Park Master Plan.

Other Business

KDOT Cost Share

Commissioner Oestmann asked whether the City could apply in the spring for Kansas Department of Transportation **Cost Share** funding for North Summit Street improvements, tabled from 2019.

City Manager Hernandez and Management Assistant Crandall said another application period will open in **March**, with an application due sometime in **May**. The City can begin preparing for this.

Hernandez said bond interest rates are low right now and the time might be right for this approach.

Executive Sessions

Mayor Welch made a motion to recess into a **one-hour executive session** – to include City Attorney Schwartz, Human Resources Manager McFarland and Osenbaugh Consulting – to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel pertaining to the parameters for a search for a new city manager, pursuant to **K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)**, with the open meeting set to resume at **7 p.m.**

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

The executive session began at **6 p.m.** and ended at **7 p.m.**

Afterward, Commissioner Oestmann made a motion to recess into an additional **15-minute executive session** – to include Schwartz, McFarland and Osenbaugh Consulting – to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel pertaining to the parameters for a search for a new city manager, pursuant to **K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)**, with the open meeting set to resume at **7:16 p.m.**

Mayor Welch seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The second executive session began at **7:01 p.m.** and ended at **7:16 p.m.** Afterward, the commissioners reconvened in the commission room. No action was taken following either session.

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Adjournment

Mayor Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion.

A voice vote was unanimous in favor. Mayor Welch declared the meeting adjourned at **7:17 p.m.**

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

Karen Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer