

City Commission of Arkansas City Meeting Minutes

The Arkansas City Board of City Commissioners met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, 2015, in the Commission Room at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave., in Arkansas City.

Those present at roll call were Commissioner Brandon Every, Commissioner Dan Jurkovich and Vice Mayor Duane Oestmann. Mayor Chad Giles and Commissioner Jay Warren were absent.

Also present at roll call were City Manager Nick Hernandez, City Attorney Tamara Niles, Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson, City Clerk Lesley Shook, Assistant Public Works Director Mike Crandall, Finance Director Kathy Cornwell, Fire Chief Bobby Wolfe and Police Chief Dan Ward.

Citizens in attendance included Cindy Current, Michelle Dykes, Allen Fisk, Kanyon Gingher, Ken Harader, Jill Sullivan and Traveler reporter Jeni McGee.

Pastor Mark Fry offered the opening prayer. Vice Mayor Oestmann led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Additions/Deletions and Approval

Commissioner Every moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Jurkovich seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Vice Mayor Oestmann declared the agenda approved.

Recognition of Visitors

Jill Sullivan, 1708 N. 11th St., addressed the Commission about the status of Catalpa Park. She asked why the playground equipment had been removed and said she had heard rumors that the park would be closed or sold.

Sullivan said her main concerns were preserving a community park in the area for children to use and doing something about the community gardens at the park, which originally were installed by the Arkansas City Recreation Commission, but most of them have not been maintained very well for the last several years. She requested that the City consider moving the playground equipment back and removing the community gardens.

City Manager Hernandez said he had visited earlier that day with Mayor Giles and they decided to have a study session in November on the subject of City parks. He said only the playground equipment had been removed, but the picnic tables remained in the park.

Commissioner Every asked if any official action had been taken by the Commission regarding parks since a study session he attended last year as a citizen during which commissioners toured and discussed the City's parks.

City Manager Hernandez said the discussion at the time was to look at closing Catalpa, Mills and Robert Cox parks. While no vote was taken, he said it has been a long-term City goal for at least three years to eliminate those parks or turn them into more specialized uses. The 2014 Comprehensive Plan also makes those recommendations. Vice Mayor Oestmann asked if citizen input was considered. Hernandez said a citizen survey was one basis for the Comprehensive Plan and it included questions about parks.

Ken Harader, 1313 N. First St., addressed the Commission about the ongoing construction at Family Dollar, 1313 N. Summit St. He asked commissioners to consider making First Street a one-way street to accommodate increased traffic from the new store. He also urged them to attend a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on October 12, when the board would consider a request by Family Dollar for several signage variances.

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Consent Agenda

Commissioner Every made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, including the following items:

1. Approving the September 11, 2015, special meeting minutes and September 15, 2015, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Approving Resolution No. 2015-10-2998, authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the Cowley County Drug Task Force Agreement, allowing Arkansas City to manage the funds.
3. Approving Resolution No. 2015-10-2999, setting a public meeting of the Governing Body at noon Friday, October 16, 2015, in the City Manager's Office at City Hall for a City Commission study session.

Commissioner Jurkovich seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Vice Mayor Oestmann declared the consent agenda approved.

New Business

CMB License for Andy's Place

City Clerk Shook presented for discussion a new cereal malt beverage license for Andy's Place, 1419 N. Eighth St.

City Manager Hernandez said the CMB license renewals usually are included on the consent agenda, but since this is the issuance of a new license, he wanted it under New Business. Commissioner Every asked him if he had any concerns about the license and Hernandez said he did not.

Vice Mayor Oestmann moved to approve the CMB license. Commissioner Every seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Vice Mayor Oestmann declared the motion approved.

City Manager Updates

City Manager Hernandez mentioned several board vacancies that still need to be filled, especially on the Arkansas City Public Library Board of Trustees, which has two candidates for one vacancy.

He also reminded commissioners of a check presentation by Apex Clean Energy at 1 p.m. October 7 at the Northwest Community Center, 615 W. Birch Ave., and a legislative forum/luncheon starting at 11 a.m. October 9 at the Senior Citizens Center, 320 South A St. He urged commissioners to visit National Night Out block parties.

Other Business

Commissioner Every asked about the frequency with which municipal code is updated online. City Clerk Shook said she had submitted the latest ordinances and was waiting to hear something back from Municode. She said it can take some time to process the updates. Commissioner Every also asked about the progress of the new clearwell. City Manager Hernandez said he would check on it, but thought the contractor still was on schedule.

Commissioner Every praised Chief Ward and Chief Wolfe for their work on the National Night Out kickoff party at Paris Park. He said he had been to three of them and this one was the best one yet.

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Adjournment

Commissioner Every moved to adjourn. Commissioner Jurkovich seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Vice Mayor Oestmann declared the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

THE ARKANSAS CITY
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

Duane Oestmann, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Shook, City Clerk