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Press Release

Commission authorizes remodel of Finance, Utility Billing Office

Work set to begin in mid-December; new paint planned in City Hall corridors

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (November 18, 2015) — The City Commission of Arkansas City voted 3-1, with Commissioner Brandon Every dissenting, to authorize remodeling part of City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave., during its regular meeting Tuesday night. Commissioner Dan Jurkovich was absent.

The remodel will focus on the Finance Department and Utility Billing Office, located in the southeast corner of the building's first floor.

The Finance Department remodel will consist of several enhancements to benefit citizens, including:

- A new, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant and handicapped-accessible entrance;
- Three counters and work stations instead of the existing two, with one of them being ADA compatible for both the customer and employee;
- A larger waiting area with better traffic flow, as well as a reconfiguration of the floor plan that eliminates public access to the City's main vault;
- An ADA-compliant unisex public restroom located near the junction of the two main hallways.

The cost of the work is not to exceed \$50,000, which is mostly for materials. Labor will be provided by the Parks and Facilities Division, assisted by Kansas Department of Corrections laborers.

Work will begin in mid-December and is expected to last for about three months. Most Finance Department personnel and the public information officer will move downstairs during construction, but the Utility Billing Office will be relocated across the hall into the front portion of the city manager's office.

The project is the second phase of an overall remodeling process that began last year with a renovation of City Manager Nick Hernandez's office and the adjoining public information office.

The goal is to complete all of the remodeling by 2018, which is the 100th anniversary of City Hall.

For immediate release

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A separate project will refresh and update the building's main corridors with a new paint scheme that has been selected to mirror as closely as possible the appearance of City Hall 95 years ago.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard from Ken Harader about traffic issues on North First Street and a possible nonconformance with the conditional use permit at the new Family Dollar store location, currently under construction at 1313 N. Summit St. Harader was instructed to gather a petition regarding the first issue and the Public Works Department was to check into the second one.
- Issued a proclamation that November is National Adoption Month in Arkansas City and Nov. 21 will be designated as National Adoption Day.
- Voted unanimously to approve the Nov. 3 regular meeting minutes as written.
- Heard a first reading of and voted unanimously to table until Dec. 1 an ordinance modifying Municipal Code Section 42-22 to prohibit engine braking inside the City limits.
- Voted 3-1 to ratify Mayor Chad Giles' appointment of Mark Paton to the South Central Kansas Medical Center Board of Trustees. Commissioner Every cast the dissenting vote.
- Heard updates from Hernandez and Public Works Director Eric Broce regarding various ongoing City projects.