

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL
9001 WEST 62ND STREET
APRIL 10, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ken Sissom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Scott Diebold
Al Frisby
Chris Evans Hands
Nancy Hupp
Bryan Knaff
Cheryl Moore
Bob Pape
Robert Weems was absent

Staff present: Chris Engel, City Administrator; Mike Daniels, Police Chief; Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director; Bryan Dehner, Fire Chief; Cindy Ehart, Finance Director; Kevin Bruemmer, Public Works Director; Nicole Proulx Aiken, City Attorney; and Juli Pinnick, City Clerk.

III. PUBLIC ITEMS

Members of the public are encouraged to use this time to make comments about matters that do not appear on the agenda. Comments about items on the regular agenda will be taken as each item is considered. ***Please note: individuals making Public Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.***

Tim Riddle, 6128 Craig St., inquired about repairs to Craig St. since construction of the new school has damaged the road.

Mayor Sissom responded that city staff will go out and check the condition of the road. If repairs are needed, the City will take measures to ensure the road is repaired.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the heading are considered to be routine by the City Council and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in

which case that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held March 27, 2017.
2. Consider approval of design engineering services for 54th Street, 54th Terrace and Switzer drainage project.

COUNCILMEMBER MOORE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1-2. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

V. MAYOR’S REPORT

1. City Service Awards.

Mayor Sissom presented the following City Service Awards:

5 Years of Service
Sara Thompson-Parks and Recreation

20 Years of Service
Cynthia Knapp-Police Department (crossing guard)

30 Years of Service
Mike Daniels-Police Department

2. Presentation of 2016 Officer of the Year Award.

Mayor Sissom and Police Chief Mike Daniels presented Corporal Nick Weiler with the Officer of the Year Award for 2016.

3. Deb Settle - Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce.

Deb Settle updated the council on staffing changes at the Chamber. She thanked the city for their support of the Chamber. As well, she listed upcoming events sponsored by the Chamber.

4. Confirm the appointment of Billy Crook (At-Large) to the Parks and Recreation Advisory for the term expiring December 31, 2018.

COUNCILMEMBER MOORE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF BILLY CROOK TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. COUNCILMEMBER PAPE SECONDED AND

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

A. Finance and Administration

1. Monthly Finance Report.

Finance Director Cindy Ehart presented the Finance Report for the month of March.

B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP

1. Recreational Facilities Discussion.

City Administrator Chris Engel presented information regarding the Citizen Surveys the city has collected over the years and how they relate to Recreational Facilities.

In August 2016, the city conducted a survey specifically for Parks and Recreation. Residents were asked to answer each question with strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree and don't know. A don't know answer indicates that they understand the issue, but don't have enough information to have an opinion.

One of the questions was "*The City of Merriam needs a new community recreation center*". The responses indicated that 51% of folks either agree or strongly agree with the statement. 35% were neutral and 10% either disagree or strongly disagree.

In looking back at the Community Survey conducted in January 2015, a similar question was asked, "*Should the City contemplate significant upgrades or potential replacements for the facilities?*" those results were 52% yes and 26% no and 22% did not provide an answer. While this survey was not specific to Parks and Recreation and asked questions about all city services and how well those services are being provided, there were still 52% of residents who felt recreation facilities needed to be improved. With 31% of folks being neutral, it appears that they may not have enough information to form an opinion.

Another question asked on the Community Survey in January 2015 was "*Have you used the pool or Community Center in the past two years?*" For the pool, the answers were 70% no and 66% no for the Community Center. So even though almost 70% of folks do not use

either facility, they still feel that these are important to the City and should be upgraded or replaced.

Mr. Engel explained why the majority of residents who do not use these facilities still feel it's important to have good quality facilities may be answered by 2 other questions that appeared on the Community Survey in January 2015 which stated, "*It is important for Merriam to continue supporting the Community Center/ a municipal pool.*" The Community Center support question results indicated that 87% of folks agree that the City should continue to support the facility. And 83% felt it was important to continue to support the pool.

Some might ask why 87% of folks think the City should continue to support facilities that 70% of them don't use. That might be answered by other questions on the Parks and Recreation Survey. One question states, "*It is valuable to me to have a community recreation facility*". 78% either agree or strongly agree. In addition, another question states, "*I believe a community recreation center boosts property values in our community.*" 79% of folks agreed or strongly agreed with that statement.

Improving value of property and quality of life through investment and redevelopment in our neighborhoods is one of the City Councils core goals. These goals are also important to residents as they realize that having recreational amenities in a community increases the value of the community and the properties within the community. Having recreation amenities in a community makes it a desirable area where people want to live and thus boosting property values.

Mr. Engel concluded by saying that this information will be put on the Recreational Facilities blog and will be shared at the joint meeting on April 25th with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Recreation Facilities Steering Committee and City Council.

2. CIP Update.

Public Works Director Kevin Bruemmer provided the following CIP Updates:

Farley Ave. - Remaining items include, final grading, stone wall staining, final asphalt cap, replacement of sod and driveway pours in the next few weeks.

Shawnee Mission Parkway Bridge over BNSF - Phase I traffic control is in place on Shawnee Mission Parkway, and Carter Ave. is scheduled to be down to one lane to paint the steel above. Construction has started on the bridge deck repairs and painting of the structural steel located over the trail has also begun.

Residential Street Group V - A Pre-construction meeting and 3rd Public Meeting was held on April 4th. A Notice to Proceed has been issued for 51st Street only. There will be restricted traffic eastbound on 51st Street beginning April 11th. Merriam Ln/61st Street construction will begin after all utilities have been located.

Owen Heights CMP Repair - Permanent Drainage Easements have all been sent to the 13 property owners for signatures.

Sidewalk In-fill - Phase 1 is currently being designed by GBA.

Antioch Rd. 47th St. to 54th Ter. - Bid awarded to O'Donnell and Sons by Overland Park who is administering the project. City portion is expected to cost \$121,194.64.

2017 Mill and Overlay – A Pre-construction meeting is scheduled for April 12th with J.M. Fahey. The sidewalk placement along 70th St. from 69th to 70th Terr will be part of this project.

Councilmember Frisby asked Mr. Bruemmer about the limb pickup held a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Bruemmer responded that there were 75 dump trucks of limbs and brush collected. The yard waste is at Public Works and will be ground up with a tub grinder. The event was successful and it appears that many folks took advantage of the program.

East Frontage Rd. remains closed near the hospital. KDOT is working on lining one failed storm water pipe and replacing another.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

City Administrator reminded the council that this Saturday is the recycling event to be held at the Lee Jeans parking lot. Collection will be for latex paint, electronics recycling, bicycles and document shredding. The event is co-hosted by the City of Shawnee and will be held from 8-11 am.

The City's Large Item Pickup event will be held April 17-22.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER MOORE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:07 PM. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

APPROVED: April 24, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Pinnick
Juliana Pinnick
City Clerk