

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 CITY HALL
 9001 WEST 62ND STREET
 MAY 8, 2017
 7:00 P.M.
 BUDGET WORK SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. ROLL CALL

- Scott Diebold
- Al Frisby
- Nancy Hupp
- Bryan Knaff
- Cheryl Moore
- Bob Pape
- Robert Weems

Chris Evans Hands was absent.

Staff present: Chris Engel, City Administrator; Mike Daniels, Police Chief; Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director; Bryan Dehner, Fire Chief; Meredith Hauck, Assistant City Administrator; 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.***

Dave Gernhardt, 8915 W. 70th St. addressed the council regarding mosquito control at Quail Creek Park. Mr. Gernhardt suggested installing bat houses along the creek in an effort to control the mosquitos as they will eat 3,000 mosquitos per hour. He provided some literature from the Kansas State Extension Office explaining the aspects of the bat houses and how they are used for mosquito control.

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 April 24, 2017.

COUNCILMEMBER MOORE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 1. COUNCILMEMBER PAPE SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED. COUNCILMEMBER WEEMS ABSTAINED.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

A. Finance and Administration

1. Acknowledge acceptance of the 2016 audited financial statements.

Finance Director Cindy Ehart introduced Ben Hart, Engagement Officer from Allen, Gibbs & Houlik LLC. who reviewed the Required Communication letter with the council. Mr. Hart was complimentary of the Finance Director and staff during the audit.

COUNCILMEMBER HUPP MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE 2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. COUNCILMEMBER MOORE SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. Monthly Finance Report.

B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP

1. Recreational Facilities Discussion.

City Administrator Chris Engel commented that as part of an on-going effort to educate the public about the recreation facilities, tonight he is presenting some follow-up information to questions asked at the joint meeting held a couple of weeks ago with the Parks and Recreation Board, City Council and Facilities Steering Committee. There were approximately 40 people in attendance at that meeting. In addition, city staff attending the Antioch Hills Homes Association meeting last Thursday were able to make a presentation about the facilities to those in attendance.

Staff will continue educational efforts to get information out to residents by having a booth at the Turkey Creek Festival and setting up an information table at Hen House on a few Saturdays and Sundays. Also, the parks and the pool are excellent venues to provide information to folks about the facilities.

A couple of the questions asked were “When will the vote occur?” and “What happens to the old community center if a new one is built?” Staff is still looking into these questions and exploring options.

Regarding the public vote, staff feels like because this issue of building a new community center and passing a sales tax to pay for is so important to the community that a mail ballot might be the best option. A ballot would go to every registered voter in the City of Merriam. This will give everyone a voice on this issue. Most polling elections have very low turnout, so a mail-in election would seem to reach more people, as they don’t have to get out and vote; the opportunity to vote will come in their mailbox.

Mr. Engel displayed a diagram explaining the details of a mail-in election. The first step would be for the council to pass a resolution with a ballot question, which is most likely a two-part question; should we issue bonds to build a new community center and should we use the sales tax to pay the bonds. After that, the Johnson County Election Commission needs 90 days to manage that process which would include printing the ballots, and mailing the ballots to every registered voter in Merriam.

Staff feels a mail-in election is a good option; and a simple majority (51%) is need for approval. The city is billed for the cost of the election which is approximately \$3 per voter.

The timeline has many factors to consider, one would be selecting a time to issue the bonds. It would take about 90-120 days to issue the bonds after a ballot measure passes. Another factor is the Johnson County Election Commission and their workload schedule as they handle all elections for the county. Once a date is established for an election, staff has to plan backwards from that date to ensure all deadlines can be met.

Mr. Engel reviewed a sample timeline for a mail-in election which proceeds as follows: the council passing a resolution initiating a ballot question, allowing at least 12 weeks for the election commission to work through their processes. Eight weeks prior to

election day the Secretary of State approves the ballot; the city must publish the ballot question 20 days prior to the election and again 15 days prior to election; ballots are mailed out by the Election Commission 20 days prior to the election; ballots must be received by noon on election day. If the vote passes, council must approve an ordinance acknowledging the voter approval and initiate the sales tax increase to the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue must receive a copy of the ordinance prior to the beginning of a new quarter to begin collection of the tax.

Staff will continue education efforts to the public and will bring forward a recommendation on how to proceed and dates to implement the process as soon as further details are worked out.

2. CIP Update.

Public Works Director Kevin Bruemmer presented the following CIP updates:

Farley Ave. has received the final 2 inches of asphalt, next the contractor will begin the final grading and installation of sod. Some fencing issues will be addressed after sodding is complete and street signs will need to be installed.

There was some discussion regarding placing the speed trailer/sign board along Farley to determine traffic counts and speed of cars. Police Chief Mike Daniels commented that once all the street signs are installed and the road has been fully open for a few months, the trailer could be placed along it to begin gathering data.

Shawnee Mission Parkway Bridge is moving along well, the lanes will be switched over next week to the inside lanes.

Residential Street Group V is moving along well also. The 6-inch gravel base has been installed and the overlay will begin soon. The final 2-inch cap will occur after that.

Antioch Rd. improvements are scheduled to begin sometime in June. Overland Park is managing that project.

2017 Mill and Overlay contractor has received their Notice to Proceed today.

54th Ter. and Switzer project is being designed at this time and the engineer will present options soon.

The Police Department expansion project will have a bid opening on May 23rd. After that, a construction schedule will be presented. All staff will be vacated from the building by this Friday.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER HUPP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:45 PM. COUNCILMEMBER PAPE SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Approved: May 22, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Pinnick

Juliana Pinnick
City Clerk