

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL
9001 WEST 62ND STREET
June 26, 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

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

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 June 12, 2017.
2. Consider approval of a Community Partners Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Merriam and Shawnee Mission School District.

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

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Councilmember Nancy Hupp commented that the 13th annual Flags 4 Freedom event will begin with the flag setup on Saturday July 1st. Over 1,200 American flags will be displayed along Johnson and Merriam Drive and at the Merriam Marketplace. On July 4th, the American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City will perform a concert.

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

A. Finance and Administration

1. Consider approval of an ordinance amending Chapter 68 of the Code regarding seat belts.

Police Chief Mike Daniels commented that this is the second reading of the ordinance. The fine for a seat belt violation is increasing from \$10 to \$30 beginning July 1st. This increase is a result of recent legislation passed at the state level that increases the fine. The City retains \$10 of the fine with \$20 going to the state seat belt education fund.

COUNCILMEMBER MOORE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 68 OF THE MERRIAM CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING SEAT BELTS. COUNCILMEMBER FRISBY SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. Consider approval of a resolution setting a public hearing date for the amended Merriam Pointe Redevelopment Project Plan.

City Administrator Chris Engel provided the background for this item.

The Redevelopment Plan that was approved in 2003 showed four retail buildings with approximately a total square footage of 350,000. Since 2003, the Redevelopment Plan has been amended three times and three new automobile dealerships have been constructed.

Merriam Luxury Imports, LLC, in cooperation with Merriam Investors LLC, is requesting the City Council to consider an amendment to the Merriam Pointe Redevelopment Plan to allow for the possibility of another automobile dealership. Merriam Luxury Imports, LLC's Principal Officer is Richard Webb who is the General Manager of KC Infiniti. Merriam Luxury Imports has submitted an application to locate an automobile dealership on the drainage area immediately south of the KC Infiniti dealership. Extensive improvements are needed to make the area buildable. Merriam Luxury Imports is seeking TIF reimbursement for those expenses. The area is basically a large drainage ditch and will require a lot of fill as well as channelizing the all the runoff in the area.

At their June 7, 2017 meeting, the Planning Commission found that the amended Merriam Pointe Redevelopment Plan is consistent with the City Comprehensive Plan.

Following the Planning Commission action, the next step is for the City Council to set a date to conduct the public hearing on the amended Redevelopment Plan. Per state statutes, the City Council is required to pass a resolution setting the date for the public hearing. The resolution sets July 24, 2017 as the date for the public hearing. The timing of the hearing is dictated by state statutory required notice and timing.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY APPROVE A RESOLUTION SETTING JULY 24, 2017 AS THE DATE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AMENDED MERRIAM POINTE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLAN. COUNCILMEMBER WEEMS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Review 2018 revenue projections.

Finance Director Cindy Ehart reviewed the 2018 revenue projections.

B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP

1. Consider approval of a resolution to submit to the electors of the City of Merriam the question of issuing general obligation bonds and imposing a special one-quarter percent Citywide retailers' sales tax for the purposes of financing parks and recreation capital improvements, including but not limited to construction of a new facility that will be used as a community center and aquatics center.

City Administrator Chris Engel provided the background for this item.

Approval of this resolution begins the process of a mail-in election asking all registered voters in the City of Merriam to vote on a new community center with aquatics and to allow the city to issue general obligation bonds. To pay those bonds the voters are also being asked to approve a one quarter cent general retailers' sales tax. The bonds would be ten-year bonds and the sales tax would have a ten-year term as well.

Councilmember Knaff asked Mr. Engel what a no vote means.

Mr. Engel responded that a no vote means renovation of existing facilities to include the Irene B. French Community Center and Merriam Aquatic Center. The city has estimates on what those renovations would cost which is approximately \$20 million. Staff does not believe that the renovation is the best solution as after spending \$20 million we would still have a 100-year old community center and getting into the walls and other systems could open up even more problems. The current site of the community center is in the Floodplain, and we would spend \$20 million on a building located in the Floodplain. The new community center would not be in the Floodplain; it will be located at the Vavra Park site where the Merriam Aquatic Center is currently. The new community center would combine both facilities into one at one location.

The City would still have to issue approximately \$10 million in bonds as we don't have an extra \$20 million to renovate these facilities.

Mayor Sissom asked for public comments on this item. There were no public comments.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY PASS THE RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MERRIAM THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND IMPOSING A SPECIAL ONE-QUARTER PERCENT CITYWIDE RETAILERS' SALES TAX FOR THE PURPOSES OF FINANCING PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FACILITY THAT WILL BE USED AS A COMMUNITY AND AQUATICS CENTER. COUNCILMEMBER HUPP SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER HUPP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:30 PM. COUNCILMEMBER PAPE SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

APPROVED: July 10, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Pinnick

Juliana Pinnick
City Clerk