

MINUTES OF THE MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

The Mission City Council met in regular session at Mission City Hall on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Appletoft. The following councilmembers were present: Trent Boultinghouse, Ken Davis, Sollie Flora, Kristin Inman, Debbie Kring, Arcie Rothrock, Nick Schlossmacher, and Hillary Thomas.

Mayor Appletoft stated that due to technical issues, there is no sound associated with the video of this meeting tonight. He welcomed the public and provided a brief overview of meeting procedures.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS **Recognition of Johnny's BBQ**

Mayor Appletoft recognized Johnny White, Johnny's BBQ, which has been a part of Mission since 1983. He thanked Mr. White and his wife Linda, not only their amazing BBQ, but also for being great community partners. Mr. White and his staff have participated in a variety of special events in Mission including Tip-A-Cop fund raisers, ward meetings, and the groundbreaking for improvements to Martway and Broadmoor, and Legacy Park. Mayor Appletoft wished Mr. White well in his retirement and stated he and the restaurant will be truly missed in Mission. Mayor Appletoft presented Mr. White with a plaque recognizing their commitment to Mission.

Mr. White thanked all and stated it has been a pleasure to be in and work with Mission. He stated he will "see everyone around."

Recognition of Suzie Gibbs, Mission Family Adoption Committee Memebers and Mission Magazine Editorial Board Members

Mayor Appletoft recognized and thanked Suzie Gibbs stating that she has served the City of Mission for many years in a variety of roles including leadership of the Holiday Adoption Program and the Mission Magazine. The Holiday Family Adoption Program began with 8 families and in 2019 assisted more than 100 families. He also recognized and thanked the Holiday Family Adoption Committee who assisted Ms. Gibbs with this program. Mayor Appletoft stated that Ms. Gibbs has been the driving force behind the Mission Magazine and thanked her for all her hard work on the magazine. He also recognized and thanked the members of the Mission Magazine Editorial Board. Mayor Appletoft presented Ms. Gibbs with a proclamation recognizing her contributions to the City of Mission.

Ms. Gibbs provided a recap of these two programs in 2019, stating that five issues of the Mission Magazine were published. She noted a former Mission resident and property

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owner who was able to connect with a tenant through a magazine article, and asked that the City consider having a Fourth of July cover this summer at the request of a reader. Ms. Gibbs provided information on the Harvesters Mobile Food Pantry events that began in 2019. The May 2019 event included 59 volunteers and 14,000 lbs of food distributed to 87 cars (105 families total). The August event distributed 12,641 lbs of food to 103 cars (total of 132 families). The Holiday Family Adoption Program included a pig roast fundraiser, and Ms. Gibbs thanked Mr. White for his contributions to this event. She also recognized several other businesses and individuals who assisted with this event, including mattresses donated by Lee Lynch, Discount Sales Outlet, and Ms. Smith. She thanked her husband Jack for his help in all these efforts, and her granddaughter Kelsey Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs thanked the many volunteers who have helped to make all these efforts successful over the years and estimates that more than 1,000 volunteers have participated. She is working to get local churches together to assist people year-round, and stated she will come back to Council with additional information in March.

Presentation of AAA Traffic Safety Award to Police Department

Chief Hadley introduced Bob Hamilton, Law Enforcement Liaison for the Kansas Department of Transportation. Mr. Hamilton stated he is one of four liaisons in the State and he works with 114 agencies. He provided statistics on recent increases in fatality accidents, and discussed Operation Impact that meets monthly to address this issue. This is the fifth year for Mission to receive this award and he presented Chief Hadley and the Mission Police Department with the AAA 2019 Platinum Traffic Safety Award for their many initiatives and efforts to improve traffic safety.

Additional Comments

Councilmember Rothrock stated that Ms. Gibbs has been working on the Holiday Family Adoption Program for many years, and she has been volunteering with this program for six years. She noted Ms. Gibbs perseverance and persistence making a great impact and touching many lives. She thanked Ms. Gibbs for her efforts and wished her well in retirement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Boultinghouse, seconded by Kring to approve the Consent Agenda, items 4a through 4f.

4a. Minutes of the January 15, 2020 City Council Meeting

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- 4b. Resolution Authorizing a Lease-Purchase Agreement with US Bancorp to Finance the Acquisition of Police Vehicles and Associated Equipment
- 4c. Purchase of Police Department Server for WatchGuard Video Storage
- 4d. Massage Establishment Application, Kristine Fotland, LMT, 5845 Horton, Suite 202
- 4e. Renewal of Traffic Signal Maintenance Services Contract
- 4f. Easement Acquisition, Rock Creek Channel Project

Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Flora stated the Finance & Administration Committee met on February 5 and considered a total of five items, including acceptance of the meeting minutes. Three of the action items from the meeting were approved on the Consent Agenda. One discussion item from the meeting - a resolution supporting the *Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda* - will be considered under "New Business" this evening.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilmember Thomas reported the Community Development Committee also met on February 5 and discussed nine items. These included acceptance of the committee minutes and two presentations - one on the recent Everygy Circuit Audit and one from the Sustainability Commission on their 2020 Work Plan. The committee considered five action items, one of which was the acceptance of the minutes. Two action items from the meeting were approved on the consent agenda and there are two additional items for consideration tonight. The committee also discussed plans for the 2020 Mission Market season and snow removal from sidewalks.

Communication/Marketing/Branding/PR Services

Councilmember Thomas stated for the past few months, staff and Council have been discussing and evaluating communication services for the City. At the January committee meeting, staff recommended the City enter into a 12-month "subscription" contract with crux. to provide city-wide communication, marketing, branding and PR services. The

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committee had additional questions and this item was again discussed at the February committee meeting. The recommendation to engage crux. is based not only on the quality of their creative and technical skill sets, but also the unique business model they offered to provide support in executing and implementing the strategies as an extension of city staff. Hiring crux. provides the City with the ability to tap into a wide array of skills and resources available from their team. Council previously allocated \$60,000 for these types of services in the Parks and Recreation budget, but a city-wide effort requires an additional \$30,000. Funds are available in the General Fund to fund this additional amount. The contract with crux. for city-wide marketing, branding and PR services is for a 12-month period in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.

Moved by Thomas, seconded by Davis to authorize a 12-month contract with crux. for City-wide communication services in an amount not to exceed \$90,000. Councilmember Kring stated that she will be voting no on this contract as she believes \$90,000 is too much to spend on these services. Councilmember Rothrock stated she echoes Councilmember Kring's concerns, particularly with spending this amount at the beginning of the project. She feels the cost for 12-months is too high. Councilmember Schlossmacher expressed his concerns with this project beginning in the Parks and Recreation Department and "ballooning" into a City-wide project. He does not feel he has a good grasp on the problems we are trying to solve through the use of crux. He feels they are a good company, but he cannot support the \$90,000 expense. He discussed concerns with quality control, accountability, and would like to see other alternatives. Councilmember Thomas stated that her concerns were not with the cost of the project, but rather the process that grew from being specific to Parks and Recreation to including the entire City. She questioned whether reissuing the RFP would have generated a lower cost.

Councilmember Flora stated she supports this contract with crux., acknowledging it is a significant amount of money, but feels after listening to staff there is a clear need for their services. She feels initiating this project in coordination with the Comprehensive Plan Update is good timing, and noted that this is not a year-over-year commitment, which we would have if we added a staff person to undertake this. The cost of the project can be adjusted in future years. Councilmember Boultinghouse stated that he also supports this contract and wants to be prudent with our dollars, but sees a need for their services. He stated the City is a "brand" and with oversaturated media it is important to project a unified front, particularly with the additional residents coming to Mission through development projects. Crux. will facilitate and assist in reaching out to constituents. Councilmember Davis stated he was on the interview panel for this project and was impressed with the crux. team. He supports moving forward and knows that crux. will support staff in creating better messaging and social media. He feels this is a prudent expenditure and is in favor

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of approving the contract. Councilmember Schlossmacher again expressed his concerns with the project growing in size and the staff time that will be required to assist crux. He stated there will be ongoing costs and would like to see the project start on a smaller scale and then increase in size. Councilmember Davis stated many of these concerns were discussed at the committee meeting. Councilmember Rothrock stated she agrees with Councilmember Schlossmacher on his project management concerns.

Ms. Smith stated that during the interview process in January, firms interviewed noted that return on investment is difficult to quantify. We will need to establish benchmarks, establish goals, and then track progress moving forward. The crux. proposal includes their 30-60-90 model which will help the project stay on track. Council will be involved in this and crux. will be giving status updates. She stated she appreciates concerns with the project expanding in scope, and discussed other firms whose costs were approximately three times that of crux. when submitting proposals for Parks and Recreation only. Discussion continued on the various communications improvements needed, with Ms. Smith noting we don't have a communications plan established so we are often reacting to issues. This project will develop a plan for staff to work.

The question was called. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Thomas. NAY: Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher. **Motion carried.**

City Hall Workspace Renovation

Councilmember Thomas reported the City is currently recruiting for a new planner position and a new workspace will be required in City Hall. Staff have identified a set of improvements that will make better use of the existing area adjacent to council chambers. Bids were solicited to convert the underutilized small meeting room near the offices on the west side of the building into an office for the Payroll/Benefits Specialist, allowing the new planner to occupy the existing office on the east side of the building near others in the Community Development Department. Following the committee meeting on February 5th, revised bids were received from three contractors and staff is recommending Day Construction Company as the most thorough, comprehensive, and responsive bid for this project in an amount not to exceed \$8,900.

Moved by Thomas, seconded by Davis to approve a bid from Day Construction Company for City Hall remodeling work in an amount not to exceed \$8,900. Councilmember Flora thanked staff for going back to refine the bids for this project as the original estimate was approximately \$30,000. She expressed her concerns with the higher amount, especially since we are currently conducting a space needs analysis. She

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recognizes everyone needs a place to work and the current bid of \$8,900 is more reasonable. Councilmember Flora also asked that in the future when new positions are requested that other costs associated with adding a position be presented to Council. Councilmember Thomas asked why this bid is being recommended when there is another bid that is lower. Ms. Randel stated Day Construction Company was very responsive and staff has greater confidence in them, they addressed all needs associated with the project, and she anticipates a smooth process for this project. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Supporting the *Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda*

Councilmember Flora reported the *Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda* was created by a bipartisan group to address issues that are universally important to cities. As a member of NLC's Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee, Councilmember Flora was asked to bring this resolution forward to Mission's City Council. She stated that this resolution supports shared values of respect, partnership, inclusion and accountability, and a shared commitment to building sustainable infrastructure, creating a skilled workforce, ending housing instability and homelessness, and reducing gun violence.

Moved by Flora, seconded by Davis to adopt a resolution of the City of Mission, Kansas demonstrating support for the *Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda*, a bipartisan platform of the National League of Cities to ensure the priorities of communities nationwide are front and center during the 2020 Presidential election cycle. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas. **Motion carried.**

Resolution - Rock Creek Channel Project Eminent Domain Proceedings

Pete Heaven, City Land Use Attorney, stated the Rock Creek Channel Project requires the City to acquire both permanent and temporary easements. When a property owner does not cooperate, the condemnation process is the next step. This process requires three appraisers appointed by District Court and the easement is then negotiated to be fair. He stated the City has been working with the Wendy's property owners for months, and will continue to do so, but at this time we must move to condemnation to keep the project moving forward. The first step in this process is approval of a resolution authorizing the preparation of the easements and survey of the property. This has been completed so approving the resolution is a formality. The ordinance authorizing the use of eminent domain must also be approved by Council. He stated the nature of the Wendy's easements are under the parking lot on the northeast side of the property. The permanent

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easement is a subterranean easement that will allow the City to install geogrid and then the parking lot will be put back as it was. He stated there is also the need for a temporary easement, and that we will keep the drive-through open during construction. Wendy's will also be allowed to use the City's parking lot to the west of the property. Mayor Appletoft noted that we have had numerous conversations with the owners of Wendy's regarding the need for these easements and our intentions.

Moved by Davis, seconded by Kring to adopt a resolution declaring it necessary to appropriate private property for public use in the City of Mission, Kansas, through the exercise of eminent domain for the Rock Creek Channel Improvement Project, including, without limitation, drainage improvements and all attendant and necessary work associated therewith, including the construction, repair, replacement and relocation of utilities, construction of retaining walls, channel modifications, grading, the storage of materials, the operation of equipment, reconstruction of parking lots and driveway entrances, and the movement of a workforce, and authorizing a survey and description of the land or interests to be acquired. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas. **Motion carried.**

Ordinance - Rock Creek Channel Project Eminent Domain Proceedings

Moved by Flora, seconded by Rothrock to adopt an ordinance authorizing and providing for the acquisition of lands or interests therein by eminent domain for the Rock Creek Channel Improvement Project, including, without limitation, drainage improvements and all attendant and necessary work associated therewith, including the construction, repair, replacement, and relocation of utilities, construction of retaining walls, channel modifications, grading, the storage of materials, the operation of equipment, reconstruction of parking lots and driveway entrances, and the movement of a workforce. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Kring, Rothrock, Schlossmacher, Thomas. **Motion carried.**

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Flora thanked Mr. Almoney and the Parks and Recreation staff for their work on the recent Mohawk Park meeting. There were approximately 50 people in attendance who were able to share their ideas for the park. Another meeting will be held in the coming weeks with a revised plan presented to the public.

Councilmember Kring stated she continues to work with students at Horizons High School and Shawnee Mission East High School on resume building. She stated this class is a

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great segway to the next steps in their lives and encouraged others interested in volunteering at the schools to contact her and she will connect them with school district personnel who oversee this program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Appletoft again recognized Ms. Gibbs many years of service stating she has served as a business owner, at the Chamber, as city clerk, and city councilmember. The Holiday Family Adoption Program and Mission Magazine both began from her grassroots efforts and she is very passionate about them. She has led these programs for the past 13 years, and he noted that when shadowing her over the past few years he recognized the great community support she has for both the Magazine and Holiday Family Adoption Program. He stated that even though she is retiring, Mission is committed to these programs and they will stay strong. He commended both Ms. Gibbs and her husband Jack Gibbs for their dedication, giving many hours of their time to support these programs.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Smith announced there will be a Harvesters Mobile Food Pantry event on Saturday, February 29th in the parking lot of Shawnee Mission North High School. Those interested in volunteering are asked to be at the high school by 7:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kring, seconded by Rothrock to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Martha Sumrall, City Clerk.

Ronald E. Appletoft, Mayor

Martha M. Sumrall, City Clerk