

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CITY HALL  
9001 WEST 62<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
FEBRUARY 24, 2020  
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  
Chris Evans Hands  
Bruce Kaldahl  
Brian Knaff  
David Neal  
Bob Pape  
Jason Silvers  
Whitney Yadrich

Staff present: Chris Engel, City Administrator; Ryan Denk, City Attorney; Meredith Hauck, Assistant City Administrator; Jim MacDonald, Public Works Director; Jenna Gant, Communication and Public Engagement Manager; Darren McLaughlin, Police Chief; Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director; Donna Oliver, Finance Director; Bryan Dehner, Fire Chief 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.***

Christopher Leitch, 8600 W. 60<sup>th</sup> St. commented that as a city volunteer, he is very satisfied with his experience. He has spent all his life as a public servant and is very familiar with the role of public service. Working with the City of Merriam's professional staff has been a pleasure in that capacity. As well, in his role with the Johnson County Library, and working with city staff on that project he has found city staff's work to be professional, very thorough and exacting. As a citizen, and fellow public servant, he feels the city is in good hands with the professional staff members doing great work to improve the community.

**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 February 10, 2020.
2. Consider approval of the appointment and Letter of Understanding for John Harvell as Municipal Court Judge.
3. Consider approval of the appointment and Letter of Understanding for Christopher Mann as City Prosecutor.
4. Consider approval of the appointment and renewal of contact for Ryan Denk as City Attorney.

**COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1-4. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### **V. MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Flags 4 Freedom request.

Flags 4 Freedom committee member Susan Hayden requested the use of city property and limited staff support for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Flags 4 Freedom event.

**COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE USE OF CITY PROPERTY AND LIMITED STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE 2020 FLAGS 4 FREEDOM EVENT. COUNCILMEMBER NEAL SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Consider approval of a resolution establishing the term of office and swearing-in of the city's Governing Body.

City Administrator Chris Engel provided the background for this item. Senate Bill 105 became effective on July 1, 2019. This legislation allows the City to establish the date when the term of office begins for elected City Councilmembers and the Mayor as long as that date falls on or between December 1st and the second Monday in January following certification of the election.

The term of office for elected officials currently occurs on the second Monday in January which is approximately two full months after the November election. Staff is recommending the term of office for elected officials begin on the second Monday in December at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TERM OF OFFICE AND SWEARING IN OF THE CITY'S GOVERNING BODY. COUNCILMEMBER YADRICH SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **VI. COUNCIL ITEMS**

### **A. Finance and Administration**

1. Consider approval of rental and child watch fees for the new community center.

Parks and recreation Director Anna Slocum provided the background for this item. Park and Recreation Advisory Board began discussing the process of setting fees associated with the operation of the new community center in April 2019. Through this discussion, staff outlined several factors to be considered. Most importantly, during the Master Plan process it was a stated priority to improve upon the current subsidy provided for the operations of Parks and Recreation. In addition to membership fees, there will be a variety of revenue producing opportunities such as rental spaces and programs. The majority of programs offered are taught through a contractual instructor in which the City receives between 30 – 40 percent of registration fees based on the instructor's years of service. Other programs such as rentals, child watch and holiday special events should recuperate direct costs. This was a goal stated in the Revenue Guideline.

Comparing rental rates to neighboring cities is challenging as room capacities vary widely. The recommended fees were carefully compared to the existing rental rates at IBFCC as well as neighboring cities. To encourage larger rentals, a simplified discount system was created with a maximum discount not to exceed \$1,500.

Operation of Child Watch will be a new program. Staff compared the per hour rate to neighboring cities. To provide a greater value to members, punch passes for visits is recommended in which the more visits purchased reduces the amount paid per visit. Ms. Slocum clarified the information that was provided in the City Council Agenda Packet regarding the child watch fees. The Member Punch Pass fees are 12

visits for \$30; 24 visits would be \$54, the agenda information had a transposition of numbers which reflected \$45 for the 24 visits. Each visit is a one-hour time slot.

**COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROPOSED FEES FOR RENTAL AND CHILD WATCH FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY CENTER. COUNCILMEMBER NEAL SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

2. Consider approval of the purchase of a Pierce pumper truck in the amount of \$716,271.87.

Fire Chief Bryan Dehner provided the background for this item. As part of the contract with Overland Park and Merriam for fire services, the City of Merriam is required to provide three fire apparatuses, an engine truck, a ladder truck and a reserve piece of equipment. When a unit is ten years old, it goes into reserve status. For 2020 engine 46 is slated for replacement, the engine unit will go into reserve status.

Engine 46 will be replaced by the new pumper truck. The truck will be purchased utilizing the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Houston Galveston Area Contract (HGAC). This replaces a bid process as MARC has already negotiated pricing for vehicles. The unit will be a Pierce Manufacturing pumper unit. Pierce was selected as the manufacturer as they have an authorized dealer in Olathe who can make major repairs to the unit.

The bid sheet included in the Council Agenda Packet lists the truck unit and details the pricing and equipment options that will be on the truck. The budgeted amount for the unit is \$747,000.00 and the bid sheets details the cost at \$716,271.87. The truck will not be delivered until November 2020 however, prepayment of the unit saves approximately \$24,000 in interest costs. Hoses, ladders, air packs and other equipment will be transferred to the new unit once it arrives.

Councilmember Yadrich asked where this purchase appears in the 2020 budget.

Finance Director Donna Oliver commented that the truck purchase is in the Equipment Reserve Budget.

**COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A PIERCE PUMPER TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$716,271.87. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### 3. Monthly Finance Report.

Finance Director Donna Oliver presented the Finance Report for the month of January.

## **B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP**

### 1. Discussion regarding Streetlight Program.

Public Works Director Jim MacDonald provided the background for this item. In 1996 the city began transitioning street lights from the KCPL cobra head lights to the black decorative streetlights. The decorative street lights have three different styles. The black decorative, which holds the flowering baskets, and banners, Residential streetlights, with the aluminum poles, and the Shawnee Mission Parkway poles with the curved arms. All streetlights currently have high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs.

To date, 784 black decorative streetlights have been installed. There are 35 of this type of light still to be installed. Residential streets have had 826 decorative streetlight installed, with 193 remaining to be replaced. Mr. Macdonald presented photos depicting the different types of streetlights in Merriam.

There are 228 streetlight still needing replacement, with 78 scheduled to be installed in 2020. The 2020 replacement lights need to be ordered in March and staff needs to know if the 2020 replacement light should be HPS light or LED. The cost to complete replacement of the remaining streetlights with HPS would be \$950,000.

Various LED fixtures have been installed in 2012 along Knox at 67<sup>th</sup> as a trial use for LED's. The results of that trial conclude that the LED's kilowatt usage is about ½ of the usage of HPS. The lifecycle of the LED's is three times of a HPS bulb but so is the annualized maintenance and replacement costs. However, the energy savings and make the annual maintenance and replacement costs comparable.

Many manufacturers are getting away from the HPS so it is unclear how much longer those types of bulbs will be available. To complete the streetlight program with LED fixtures will cost about \$1,000,000 compared to the \$950,000 if the program is completed with HPS fixtures. Staff

recommends completing the streetlight program with LED fixtures. The \$50,000 additional funds will be expended over a couple of years.

There was discussion about replacing the existing lights with LED and how that process works. Mr. MacDonald explained that as his crews find HPS bulbs burned out or if a baluster has to be replaced on existing lights, they will change out those lights with LED's. The change-over will require removing the light head and replacing that with an LED head, so there are parts that have to be retrofitted to accommodate the LED bulbs.

The council unanimously agreed that the city should move forward with the conversion of the streetlights to LED lights.

**VII. STAFF ITEMS**

City Administrator Chris Engel thanked the public works staff for their help with getting all the carpet in City Hall replaced over the past two weeks.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:50 PM COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

APPROVED: March 9, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

**Juliana Pinnick**

Juliana Pinnick

City Clerk