

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL
9001 WEST 62ND STREET
July 8, 2019
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
Brian Knaff
David Neal via telephone
Bob Pape
Jason Silvers

Staff present: Chris Engel, City Administrator; Meredith Hauck, Assistant City Administrator; Nicole Proulx Aiken, City Attorney; Todd Allen, Acting Police Chief; Cindy Ehart, Finance Director; Jim MacDonald, Acting Public Works Director; Jenna Gant, Communication and Public Engagement Manager; Bryan Dehner, Fire Chief; Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director; 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.***

Kitty Degler, 10631 W 115th St. commented that she supports Medicare For All, which is a single payer health care system. She asked the council to support Medicare 4 All. She feels that tying health insurance to employment is a problem and detrimental to small business. When a person loses their job, they will lose their health insurance as well. She feels the expanded Medicare For All would cover everyone for less money overall and 95% of people would pay less for healthcare.

Lori Slettehaugh, 7615 Twilight, commented that she has studied the Medicare For All issue extensively, for both personal reasons and as a healthcare provider. She currently gives educational presentations to the community to help people understand

this legislation. Medicare For All would allow patients to choose any doctor or hospital in America. There would be no more issues for people who get sick while traveling, or having to ensure a particular doctor is in network. She commented that economic freedom would result with Medicare For All. Folks would be able to move from a current job to explore a passion, learn a new skill, or make other decisions beneficial to their family without the risk of losing their healthcare coverage.

She feels Medicare For All would greatly benefit small businesses who are often burdened with the cost of providing healthcare for their employees. She outlined three areas of waste in the current healthcare system which includes administrative overhead for insurance companies and doctors offices, and the lack of negotiated pricing for drugs and equipment. Other industrialized nations with universal healthcare coverage have more doctors and hospital beds per capita than the United States.

Terry Davolt, 9904 W. 65th Dr., thanked the city council for taking the West Vernon Place out of the 2019 Sidewalk Infill program. He stated that he realizes that most people come to speak at a city council meeting when they are unhappy, so he wanted to come with a positive comment and he appreciates that the council listened to them.

Rose Gerringer, 9931 W. 56th St., commented that her husband's employer has been using two firms to find healthcare savings for their employees. She had read that Councilmember Frisby was concerned about the city's cost of healthcare coverage for its employees. She further commented that a man named Chris Steiniger from Kansas City Kansas has studied health care across the globe in many countries. His solution for the health care crisis is for independent companies to provide basic plans that cover basic services and pre-existing conditions. Then those agents could sell policies with additional benefits. She feels in order for a system like this to work our Congress would have to limit malpractice judgements. She feels that socialized medicine would drive up the cost and limit the availability of care.

Billy Crook, 6636 Wedd St., thanked MPO Eickhoff from the Meriam Police Department who came last week after Mr. Crook called animal control for a very large black snake that was under his garage door and then slithered into a bush. MPO Eickhoff arrived and was able to get the snake and take it off to a wooded area after identifying that the snake was not dangerous.

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 24, 2019.
2. Consider a bid award to Mega Industries for the Shawnee Mission Parkway over Turkey Creek Bridge Repairs.

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

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Employee Service Awards - 3rd Quarter 2019

Mayor Sissom presented the 3rd Quarter 2019 Employee Service Awards to the following:

25 Years of Service -Troy Duvanel, Police Department

15 Years of Service - Cindy Ehart, Finance Department; Juli Pinnick, Administration

10 Years of Service - Ken Sissom, City Council

5 Years of Service - Sari Maple, Administration

2. Proclamation - National Parks and Recreation Month

Mayor Sissom read and presented the proclamation to Parks and Recreation Director Anna Slocum and her staff.

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

A. Finance and Administration

1. Community Center Update.

Assistant City Administrator Meredith Hauck presented the monthly Community Center update.

2. Monthly Finance Report.

Finance Director Cindy Ehart presented the Finance Report or the month of June.

B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP

1. CIP Update.

Jim MacDonald, Acting Public Works Director provided the following CIP Updates:

2019 Sidewalk In-Fill (Excluding West Vernon Place) - This project was advertised for bids July 2, 2019, with a bid opening on July 24, 2019. Construction is scheduled to start no later than August 26 with a completion date of December 1.

2019 CARS 67th Street Improvements - Bid opening was on June 17, 2019, with Gunter Construction being the low bidder. A pre-construction meeting was held on June 26, 2019, and a second Public Meeting will be on July 9. The Notice to Proceed has been issued for July 15, 2019, with a completion date of December 24, 2019.

Switzer Mill and Overlay - The construction on the north portion of Switzer Road is scheduled to begin in late July, and the south portion is anticipated to begin in late August 2019.

Mastin Drainage Improvements - Bids were opened on June 18, 2019 and were over 15% higher than the Engineer's Estimate. With the bids being over the Engineer's Estimate, this project will be re-advertised for bids in early 2020.

Shawnee Mission Parkway Bridge over Tukey Creek Repairs - Bids were opened on July 1, and Mega Industries was the low bidder. The council approved that bid this evening and the pre-construction meeting will be held on July 10.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

City Administrator Chris Engel stated that the 5701 Merriam Dr. Committee held a public meeting on June 26th. The Committee is wrapping up their work based on that public meeting as well as other work completed and it is anticipated that a final report will be provided. After that, it will come before the council for their consideration.

Councilmember Hupp commented that the Flags 4 Freedom event was well attended despite the rain. She thanked the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments for all their help with the event.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER HUPP MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:53 PM. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

APPROVED: July 22, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Pinnick
Juliana Pinnick
City Clerk