



Routine Business

1. Roll Call

PRESENT

Commissioner Chad Beeson
Commissioner Diana Spielman
Commissioner Tad Stover
Commissioner Charles Tweedy
Mayor Jay Warren

ABSENT

Also present from staff: City Attorney Larry Schwartz, City Manager Randy Frazer, City Clerk Tiffany Parsons, IT Manager Matt Metzinger, Finance Director/City Treasurer Jennifer Waggoner, Environmental Services Superintendent Rod Philo, Assistant Environmental Services Superintendent Kyle Blubaugh, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Tommy Bowman, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Spencer Stover, Municipal Project Manager Nick Rizzio, Police Chief Jim Holloway, Police Officer Hailey Loret, Police Officer Tom Campbell, and Public Services Superintendent Tony Tapia.

2. Opening Prayer led by City Attorney Larry Schwartz and Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Warren.

3. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Spielman, Seconded by Commissioner Beeson to approve the agenda as written.

Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, and Commissioner Tweedy and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Stover, Seconded by Commissioner Tweedy to approve the agenda.

Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, and Commissioner Tweedy and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved.

Awards and Proclamations

1. Proclaim September 8-14, 2024, as Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week in Arkansas City, as read by Mayor Warren.

2. Proclaim September 2024 as National Suicide Prevention month in Arkansas City, as read by Police Chief Holloway.

Recognition of Visitors/Staff

1. Police Chief Holloway introduced newly hired police officers Hailey Loret and Tom Campbell, providing a background of their experience. Loret and Campbell were then sworn in by City Clerk Parsons.

2. Recognize Environmental Departments staff members Spencer Stover & Tommy Bowman on their recent awards received during the 15th Annual KWEA & KsAWWA Joint Water and Wastewater Conference

held August 27th- 29th in Wichita, Kansas. Environmental Services Superintendent Rod Philo provided a brief synopsis of both Stover & Bowmans hard work and contributions to their departments, leading up to their much-deserved awards.

Consent Agenda

Note: All matters listed below on the Consent Agenda are considered under one motion and enacted by one motion. There should be no separate discussion. If such discussion is desired, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and then considered separately under Section VI: New Business.

1. Approve the August 20, 2024, regular meeting minutes as written.
2. Ratify Mayor Jay Warren's appointment of Kelly Dillner to the VISIT Ark City Board of Trustees.
3. Approve a Resolution authorizing a public meeting of the Governing Body to attend a Public Building Commission meeting at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the Commission Room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave. in Arkansas City, KS.

Motion made by Commissioner Spielman, Seconded by Commissioner Stover to approve the consent agenda as written.

*Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved, given **Resolution No. 2024-09-3642**.*

Public Hearings

Mayor Warren made an announcement clarifying that this Public Hearing is specifically for the grant aimed at the splash pad addition and replacement of existing playground equipment at Wilson Park, not about potential housing development. Those who were in the audience wishing to speak about potential housing at Wilson Park were urged to sign up under the **Comments from the Audience for Items not on the Agenda**.

1. Hold a public hearing to receive public comment relating to the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Finance Director/Treasurer Waggoner gave a brief description of the Revenue Neutral Rate that has been in review by the City and Commissioners since May, and purpose of the public hearing. The RNR is a value issued to the City, measured in Mills by the County Clerk established through Senate Bill 13 in 2021 by the Kansas State Legislature as a means to create transparency regarding the amount of property tax levied. The rate given as expressed in mills and would generate the same property tax revenue in dollars as levied in the 2023 tax year using the City's 2024 assessed valuation. The City's valuation increased from \$77,705,705 to \$85,175,755 or 10%. Per the RNR, the mill levy was set to decrease from 63.074 to 57.544 mills if we had not informed the County Clerk of our intention to exceed this RNR rate by July 20th. Two budget work sessions have been held with the City Commission and all department heads. All sessions were open to the public. A Resolution of our Intent to Exceed the RNR was passed on July 16, 2024, and the Cowley County Clerk was subsequently notified on July 17, 2024. We publicized the notification of a public hearing for exceeding the RNR on August 24, 2024, in the *Courier Traveler*, as well as on the City's website. Many factors are considered in the proposed budget.

Motion made by Mayor Warren, Seconded by Commissioner Tweedy to hold a public hearing to receive public comment relating to the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved.

Mayor Warren opened the floor for public comment.

With no wishing to speak, Mayor Warren closed the floor for public comment.

Motion made by Mayor Warren, Seconded by Commissioner Tweedy to close the public hearing on comments related to the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved.

1. a. Consider a Resolution to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Staff recommends a budget with a projected mill levy of 62.693, which is lower than originally predicted and published at 64.99 Mills.

Motion made by Commissioner Warren, Seconded by Commissioner Stover to approve the item as written.

*Roll Call Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved, given **Resolution No. 2024-09-3643**.*

2. Hold a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the proposed 2025 budget.

The final two steps of the budget process is to hold the public hearing and adopt the budget. Finance Director/Treasurer Waggoner explained that September 20th is the final date to hold the public hearing and the budget must be adopted and certified to the County Clerk on or before October 1st. Two budget work sessions have been held with the City Commission and all department heads. All sessions were open to the public. Staff is requesting approval of a budget that decreases our current mill levy, from 63.074 to a projected 62.693, which will bring an estimated increase of \$433,439 in property tax revenue. Kansas State Statute requires a public hearing be held at least 10 days after the publication of Notice of Hearing is published in the official City paper. The Notice of Hearing for the 2025 budget was published in the *Courier Traveler* on August 24, 2024, and subsequently placed on the City's website. The public hearing is held to allow taxpayers an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed budget.

Mayor Warren moved, seconded by Commissioner Stover, to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed 2025 budget.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved.

Mayor Warren opened the floor for public comment.

- Vicki Jackson 1310 N 3rd, questioned who to speak with for clarification and understating of the State Budget forms drafts she asked for and received last Friday during work session. City Manager Frazer offered for Jackson to speak with himself or Finance Director/Treasurer Waggoner.
- Elton Gove 2935 Valley View Dr., raised infrastructure concerns in terms of water, and possible liquidation of the Hogan and the Northwest Community Center, further inquiring about overtime for Fire/EMS & Police Departments.
- Steve Young 1118 N 10th, spoke of a \$40 million dollar budget misprint in the *CourierTraveler* newspaper, also raising questions about the RNR Rate.

With no further comments, Mayor Warren closed the floor for public comment.

Mayor Warren moved, seconded by Commissioner Spielman, closed the public hearing for the 2025 budget.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved.

2 a. Consider first reading of an Ordinance adopting the 2025 Budget for the City of Arkansas City.

Motion made by Mayor Warren, Seconded by Commissioner Beeson to approve the item as written.

*Roll Call Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved, given **Ordinance No. 2024-09-4616**.*

New Business

City Clerk Parsons offered the following items for consideration:

City Manager Department

1. A Resolution authorizing the City of Arkansas City to apply for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program (LWCF), to renovate the Wilson Park tennis courts into pickleball courts.

Municipal Project Manager Rizzio explained that grant applications are due September 13, 2024. The program provides 50 percent reimbursement to selected outdoor recreation projects sponsored by political subdivisions and other appropriate public agencies. The local pickleball group has been raising funds for the past year to convert the Wilson Park tennis courts into four pickleball courts. They plan to raise a total of \$115,840.00 with a 1:1 reimbursement from LWCF for a total project cost being \$231,680.00.

Members of the audience asked to speak on the topic as granted by Mayor Warren.

- Vicki Jackson 1310 N 3rd, questioned the need to convert pickleball courts into tennis courts and apply for the grant.
- Elton Gove 2935 Valley View Drive, inquired if the total amount of money was raised. Project Manager Rizzio mentioned that the group is currently working on that.

John Farrar with the pickleball group was asked to provide an update that the total cost for the courts came up to \$231,000.00. In just five short months fundraising team have \$34,000 in the bank, a \$50,000 pledge from a doner that wants that amount matched. John confirmed the group is confident that they will get the match, and this grant will only help tremendously with funding. The group is looking at working with the same developer who constructed the courts in Winfield, that are being used daily. Current citizens in Arkansas City are playing inside at the Recreation center daily and commute to Winfield to play outdoors due to the poor condition of available tennis courts in Arkansas City.

- John Sybrant 1005 N 1st, spoke of the Wilson Park Master Plan, voicing concerns for the final plans in opposition of the pickleball courts.

Motion made by Commissioner Beeson, Seconded by Commissioner Tweedy to approve the item as written.

*Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved; given **Resolution No. 2024-09-3644**.*

2. An Ordinance exempting the application of K.S.A. 41-719(d) to allow the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor at a designated area of SCK Health during the Fall on the Lawn Special Event on October 5, 2024.

City Clerk Parsons spoke that VISIT Ark City, who holds a State of Kansas ABC Division Temporary Alcoholic Liquor License, has requested the city commission allow them to sponsor a beer garden to sell and serve beer and seltzers during the annual SCK Health Foundation Fall on the Lawn Community Event, with proceeds going towards the community July 4th fireworks display in Arkansas City. VISIT Ark City Jill Hunter spoke that she was approached by program founder Pam Crain and asked to serve at the event again this year. The event is put on as a thank you to the factory employees who server our community.

Motion made by Mayor Warren, Seconded by Commissioner Stover to approve the item as written.

*Roll Call Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved; given **Ordinance No. 2024-09-4617**.*

City Manager Updates & Reminders

City Manager Frazer provided reminders and updates before the commission.

1. Sept. 10th staff to meet with VJ Wilkens Trustees to discuss the City's grant application for Wilson Park playground equipment improvements.

2. Sept. 11th Staff is meeting with Schafer architects to review the refined concepts for the RecPlex. This is an important step to ensure the project meets community needs and aligns with our long-term planning objectives.
3. Sept. 26th City Commissioners are invited to attend the REAP Regional Issues Forum.
4. Sept. 30th – Oct. 1st National Night Out in Arkansas City
5. Oct. 9th Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) 2024 Water Summit for Cities being held in McPherson, KS.
6. Oct. 10th Kansas Economic Outlook Conference at Century 2 in Wichita, KS.
7. Copy of the Midwest cumulative inflation chart, covering Jan. 2021 – July 2024 provided for commission review.
8. Operations Plan handout for Arkansas City Firefighter Trevor Rusk #506 LODD Funeral provided to commission.

Comments from the Audience for Items not on the Agenda

Those who signed up to speak during the meeting will have the opportunity to address the commission for a period of 5 minutes.

- Judy Ross 1715 W Mullins Way, voiced concerns for water surging in the area of Timberlane, Creekstone trucks dumping hazmat material and being parked in traffic lanes and shoulders.
- Elton Gove 2935 Valley View Drive, inquired about the water tower affecting water pressure.
- Vicki Jackson 1310 N 3rd, voiced concerns for Wilson Park grant process, inquired how to obtain a copy of the June 18, 2024 minutes that had no sound due to technical errors, and spoke in opposition of potential housing near Wilson Park.
- Elton Gove 2935 Valley View Drive, inquired about Wilson Park Master Plan RFP listed on the city website that was conducted in 2015. Spoke in favor of a splash pad addition being centrally located.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mayor Warren, seconded by Commissioner Beeson to adjourn the meeting.

The voice vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Warren declared the meeting adjourned.

**THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS**

(Seal)

Jay Warren, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tiffany Parsons, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Tiffany Parsons, City Clerk