



Routine Business

1. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance led by City Attorney Larry Schwartz.
2. Roll Call

PRESENT

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

Also present from staff: City Attorney Larry Schwartz, City Manager Randy Frazer, City Clerk Tiffany Parsons, Assistant Environmental Services Superintendent Kyle Blubaugh, Neighborhood Services Director Mike Bellis, Police Chief Jim Holloway, Police Captain Antony Rider, Police Detective Lieutenant Jason Legleiter Master, Police Officer Madison Pickett, Neighborhood Services Director Mike Bellis, and Project Manager Nick Rizzio.

3. There were no additions or deletions.
4. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

Awards and Proclamations

1. Recognize and honor Gianna Herrera, Ella Badley, and Bruno Nhavene as Arkansas City's Outstanding Student Award scholarship recipients for 2023-2024.

City Clerk Parsons gave a brief background of the City sponsored program which began nearly 40 years ago circa 1983-1984, further announcing this year's Overall Outstanding Student as Arkansas City to Cowley College student Bruno Nhavene recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship, First Runner-up as Arkansas City High School student Ella Badley winner \$500 scholarship and Second Runner-up Arkansas City Middle School student Gianna Hererra as the \$250 scholarship winner. Mayor Warren formally presented each of the outstanding students with their checks. An engraved plate with Bruno Nhavene's name and award year will also be on display and added to the Overall Outstanding Student Award Plaque on display in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

2. Proclaim May 6-12, 2024, as National Nurses Week and May 9-15, 2024, as National Hospital Week in Arkansas City as read by Mayor Warren and presented to Dr. Mauricio Herera of SCK Health.

3. Proclaim May 12-18, 2024, as National Police Week and May 15, 2024, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in Arkansas City as delivered and accepted by Police Chief Holloway.
4. Proclaim May 5-12, 2024, as National Music Week in Arkansas City as recited by Mayor Warren.

Recognition of Visitors/Staff

1. Commission and staff received an update from SCK Health CEO Leonard Hernandez who presented an overview of the hospital's operational and financial status.

Mr. Hernandez mentioned that although it went through recent transition giving up inpatient services and several modifications with the designation as a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH), he assured that they are still a full-service hospital that may have to transport an inpatient to another facility but are willing to do so. Hernandez expressed his gratitude to the city commission and staff for their aggressiveness in the issuance of bonds to aid the hospital's financial dilemma over the years. After losing \$5.6 million dollars in 2022 and \$1.5 million in 2023, as of January 2024 the hospital has shown an increase of \$29,431, since making the transition to a REH. They have established an Executive Finance Committee that will focus on their finances and accounts that have greater collection potential, reporting financial status to the South-Central Kansas Medical Center Board prior to its monthly meetings. Mayor Warren, as vice-president of the South-Central Kansas Medical Center Board of Trustees, noted that the hospital intends on repaying the one-million-dollar loan back to the city, but the hospital will need to become profitable again to do so.

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 April 2, 2024, regular meeting minutes as written.

Motion made by Commissioner Tweedy, 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. 2024-05-3613**.*

New Business

City Clerk Parsons offered the following items for consideration:

City Manager Department

1. Consider approving a request from VISIT Ark City for release of funds from the Transient Guest Tax Fund for website upgrades, in the amount of \$6,000.00. *Motion made by Mayor Warren, Seconded by Commissioner Stover to approve the item as written.*

Visit Ark City Director Jill Hunter spoke in detail about the request aimed at future improvements and expansion of Arkansas City Primary use of the Transient Guest Tax Fund is geared towards attracting tourism to the area. Commissioner Tweeded pointed out that the increase of hotel stays will in turn increase revenue generated by the bed tax, which is a good.

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

*Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved; given **Resolution No. 2024-05-3614.***

Environmental Services Department

2. An Resolution authorizing the City of Arkansas City to accept a proposal from JCI Industries, Inc., to procure pumps, materials, and install new equipment for rehabilitation of the Country Club Lift Station, at a total bid amount of \$74,430.00.

Assistant Environmental Services Superintendent Blubaugh addressed the commission with the reasonings behind this request being that degree of deterioration calls for costly maintenance and compromises its ability to facilitate seamless flow. Overall, the unit has surpassed its intended lifespan. With the forthcoming integration of the Etzanoa visitor center, integrating a new lift station will increase flow and further necessitate the modernization and rehabilitation of the station.

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

*Voice Voting Yea: Commissioner Beeson, Commissioner Stover, Commissioner Spielman, Commissioner Tweedy, and Mayor Warren. Mayor Warren declared the motion approved; given **Resolution No. 2024-05-3615.***

City Manager Updates & Reminders

City Manager Frazer provided the following reminders and updates before the commission.

1. Upcoming League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) City forums discussed.
2. Handout of an legislative update from our Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) lobbyist provided to commissioners.
3. Copy of current projects our Municipal Project Manager is tracking provided to commissioners.
4. Phase two of the walking trials pushed back to October 2024 - According to KDOT they are still waiting on plans with conflicting information coming from our project engineer, so the city has set another meeting up for May 14th with the two entities to determine with is going on.
5. May 15th City staff will meet with Creekstone to discuss the water analysis.
6. Last month's sales tax year to date has been down from last year, staff will track and report back to the commission. Sales tax collected in stores and compensated use tax is collected from online purchases.
7. City auditor will come to present at an future work session meeting.
8. Staff met with Ranson Financial on several upcoming project initiatives including CDBG and possible Fire Station Building upgrades.
9. In honor of Public Service Appreciation week, staff and commission are invited to enjoy lunch at our Food Truck Frenzy Event, Friday May 10th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Paris Park.

Items for Discussion by City Commissioners

Commissioner Beeson spoke of events that occurred about a year ago involving anonymous letters that came to the attention of the city questioning the allocation of investments. Frazer gave an update on the \$140,000 increase year-to-day that the city has seen in investments this year in just a three-month period with an estimated \$600,000 increase this year in investments at the current rate. Interest rates being on the rise over the years proved to be an attributing factor and are in consideration when it comes to budgeting. City staff made changes to policy concerning investments since the conversation took place, moving some funds around from checking accounts to CD's and will now be able to take advantage of the no interest rates markets.

Comments from the Audience for Items not on the Agenda

Ken Harader of 1313 N 1st St., voiced concerns of the bike and trials grant running out of time. He also requested the commission and staff to revisit incorporating electric golf carts into the special purpose vehicle ordinance, as noted by pervious Police Chief Eric Burr would be evaluated after one year of the ordinance being put in place.

Executive Session

1. Recess into executive session regarding tax abatement payments to Diversified Acquisitions, LLC, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), for consultation with attorney for the public body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship.

Motion made by Mayor Warren, seconded by Commissioner Tweedy to recess into executive session regarding tax abatement payments to Diversified Acquisitions, LLC, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), for consultation with attorney for the public body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, for 15 minutes.

City Attorney Larry Schwartz was included in the closed meeting. Mayor Warren called the regular commission meeting back into session at 6:18 PM.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Stover, seconded by Commissioner Spielman 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