

**City of Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
September 12, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor
Andrew Buckman, Councilmember – via Zoom
Jeff Harris, Council President
Jason Hannaman, Councilmember
Laura Steele, Councilmember
Holly Wimer, Councilmember

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Leslie Herring, City Administrator
Curtis Mansell, Police Chief
Ryan Denk, City Attorney
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk
John Sullivan, Public Works Director

Call to Order

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 12, 2024. Ms. Schneweis called the roll. A quorum was present. The evening's meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with attendees joining both in person and via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Waters said the Governing Body would not be considering agenda item X. A. Consider Resolution No. 134-2024 adopting a Master Fee Schedule. Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the September 12, 2024 City Council meeting agenda with the suggested change. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Public Comment

General Public Comment

No comments were made by the public on general matters.

A. Public Hearing – Resolution No. 132-2024 Approving a Tax Rate in Excess of the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2025 Budget Year

Jim Donovan, 3009 W 51st Street, challenged the Governing Body to cut city spending by 3% to remain revenue neutral.

No other comments by the public were made.

Over the last several months the Council and staff have worked to develop the 2025 budget. The Governing Body reviewed the recommended budget on July 11th and approved the notice to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate on that same date. The Revenue Neutral Rate is the tax rate in mills that will generate the same property tax in dollars as the previous tax year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation. In Westwood, the Revenue Neutral Rate would be 19.435 mills. The 2025 recommended budget requires a total mill rate of 21.199, flat with the 2024 rate.

Per Senate Bill 13, the recommended budget requires a Revenue Neutral Rate hearing to exceed the revenue neutral rate provided by the County Clerk. Notice of intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate was provided to the County Clerk by July 20th and the notice of public hearing was published on August 20, 2024. The public hearing will occur at the beginning of the September 12, 2024 meeting. The adoption of the 2025 budget will occur following the adoption of the Revenue Neutral Rate resolution.

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to approve Resolution No. 132-2024 approving a tax rate or mill levy rate in excess of the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2025 budget year. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

B. Public Hearing – Consider Resolution No. 133-2024 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Ms. Herring presented the 2025 budget recommendations.

No comments were made by the public.

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to approve Resolution No. 133-2024 adopting the 2025 budget as certified in the amount of \$6,347,237 with ad valorem tax in the amount of \$988,294. Second by Councilmember Steele. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call voted. Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Presentations and Proclamations

No presentations or proclamations were made.

Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered to be routine by the Governing Body and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Governing Body so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately following approval of the consent agenda.

- A. Consider August 8, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 766

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Ms. Schneweis conducted a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Waters noted the Governing Body had a Strategic Planning session on Saturday, August 24th. Mayor Waters also noted Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 5th.

Councilmember Reports

No reports were made by the City Council.

Staff Reports

Administrative Report

Ms. Herring provided an overview of the September 2024 Administrative Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Public Works Report

Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the August and September 2024 Public Works Report 2024 Public Works Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Public Safety Report

Chief Mansell provided an overview of the August 2024 Public Safety Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Treasurer's Report

The August 2024 Treasurer's Report was included in the agenda packet, no questions or comments were made about the report.

City Attorney's Report

Mr. Denk did not have any items to report.

Old Business

No Old Business items were considered.

New Business

Consider allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages on City property at 5000 and 5050 Rainbow Boulevard for Westwood's Oktoberfest Celebration

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on City property at 5000 and 5050 Rainbow Boulevard during the City's annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a rain date of October 12, 2024. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Announcements/Governing Body Comments

Councilmember Harris said during Oktoberfest PORT will have a community input station for attendees to provide input on the construction of the new park. Ms. Herring noted a website will be posted as well for those who cannot attend to provide input.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Harris. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Abby Schneeweis, City Clerk