

**Governing Body Minutes – May 19, 2020**

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, May 19, 2020. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Hiller, Emerson, Dobler, and Duncan - 4; and the following Councilmembers participated remotely: Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Padilla, Naeger, and Lesser - 5. Mayor De La Isla presided -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order Reverend Tobias Schlingensiepen, First Congregational Church, provided the invocation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present in the chamber.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the regular meeting of May 12, 2020, was presented.

APPROVAL of the following Open After Midnight licenses was presented:

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Abraham SN	1107 SW 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
ALDI #54	1530 SW Arvonía Pl.
ALDI #83	105 SW 29 <sup>th</sup> St.
Herman’s Beef & Sausage House	823 NW Gordon St.
Walmart #1802	1501 SW Wanamaker Rd.
Walmart #2131	1301 SW 37 <sup>th</sup> St.
Walmart #5441	2600 NW Rochester Rd.
Walmart #6392	2630 SE California Ave.
Walmart #6585	335 SW MacVicar Ave.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Emerson carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

**SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE** of June 9, 2020, for consideration of imposing special assessments for Aquarian Acres Subdivision No. 9 for street improvement project T-601011.0, was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, reported approval would set a public hearing date for the purpose of imposing special assessments for street improvements in the Aquarian Acres Subdivision.

Councilmember Emerson moved to approve the public hearing date. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Naeger.

Councilmember Naeger asked what safety measures are in place to conduct a public hearing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brent Trout stated staff would base safety measures on the number of people allowed in the room per State and County regulations.

Councilmember Dobler noted the property in the proposed improvement district was 100% owned by the developer reducing the likelihood of public input.

The motion to set a public hearing date of June 9, 2020, carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9174 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, authorizing and adopting the 2021-2031 Capital Improvement Plan and the 2021-2023 Capital Improvement Budget and approving the project budgets attached, was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, stated he would present the proposed amendments to the resolution to be voted on separately. He proposed the following amendments:

- Reduce the costs associated with Project T-701019 (NW Tyler Street from Lyman to Beverly) in the amount of \$190,000 in year 2022.
- Reduce the costs associated with Project T-701034 (NW Tyler Street from Beverly to Paramore) in the amount of \$160,000 in year 2025.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala moved to approve the amendments as stated by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lesser.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed concern with eliminating the middle turn lane on NW Tyler Street in an effort to save money. She noted the street was in need of various improvements.

Brent Trout stated Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala discussed the modification with the residents that would be affected and they are in favor of the change in design.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated area Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIAs) and constituents oppose large cuts to the project budget. She stated the neighborhood supports the reduction in lanes and the project will provide for construction of complete curb, gutters and sidewalks on both sides of the street. She reported the traffic study did not warrant three lanes; however, the project will allow large sidewalks; sufficient drainage and slow traffic. She stated the design change was not an attempt to save money for the Capital Improvement Budget, but instead an efficiency realized through a better design.

Councilmember Dobler asked if the turn lane was eliminated as a result of the crash history for the area.

Jason Peek, Public Works Director, stated the crash history was considered and it was determined a third lane would not address the safety issues.

Councilmember Ortiz asked when the last traffic study was conducted and why three lanes were initially proposed.

Jason Peek stated the original request included three lanes and was based on the fact NW Tyler was being considered a collector street. He noted the study was completed in 2019. He reported by removing the third lane it would minimize the impact to the adjoining properties and would not extend into the front yard of residents.

Councilmember Hiller stated she advocated for sidewalks in the neighborhood. She thanked Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala and City staff for their work on the project and commented on the extensive discussions that have been conducted with all individuals involved as well as the time spent on making sure the project was a good fit for the neighborhood.

The motion to reduce the costs associated with Project T-701019 (NW Tyler Street from Lyman to Beverly) in the amount of \$190,000 in year 2022; and reduce the costs associated with Project T-701034 (NW Tyler Street from Beverly to Paramore) in the amount of \$160,000 in year 2025, carried on roll call vote. Councilmember Ortiz voted “no.” (9-1-0)

Brent Trout proposed to amend the resolution by removing Project T-1310640 the Topeka Police Department Firearm Range Overhead Roof and Baffle system in the amount of \$980,791 in year 2024.

Councilmember Emerson moved to amend the resolution as stated by the City Manager. The motion seconded by Councilmember Padilla carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

Brent Trout proposed to amend the resolution by delaying the Topeka Fire Department Hazmat Truck Project T-861028 from year 2023 to 2024 in the amount of \$850,725.

Councilmember Dobler moved to amend the resolution as stated by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Naeger.

Councilmember Ortiz stated she would oppose the amendment and the City has been fortunate in regards to recent Hazmat incidents. She stated the Hazmat vehicle remains a crucial piece of equipment to Fire Department operations and noted response time from other communities would be too long and jeopardize public safety.

Mayor De La Isla stated she understands the need to reduce the budget; however, she will not support the proposal.

Councilmember Duncan stated he would support the amendment, with the stipulation that staff will work to secure State funding to help with the cost of the Hazmat Vehicle over the next couple of years.

Brent Trout reported staff will continue to seek additional funding sources.

Councilmember Hiller stated she supports delaying the decision for one year. She concurs with Councilmember Duncan and supports seeking funding assistance from county, state and federal governments to purchase a new Hazmat Vehicle. She suggested the City house, maintain, and deploy the vehicle for a true partnership with all units of government as a cost sharing plan.

The motion to amend the resolution by delaying the Topeka Fire Department Hazmat Truck Project T-861028 for one year from 2023 to 2024, in the amount of 850,725 failed. Mayor De La Isla and Councilmembers Valdivia Alcala, Ortiz, Padilla, Dobler, and Lesser voted” no.”  
(4-6-0)

Councilmember Hiller distributed a handout and commented on the following items:

- Regarding the facilities fund, the total of \$1.65 million would be for the whole five years. That should be adjusted for utilities and enterprise funds and could be funded for \$1.4 million a year, across the five years.
- The 2021 allocation in the chart should remain in place since it has been awarded to the East Topeka North NIA; however, after the remaining years it could stay the same or be adjusted as needed.
- Leave the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project funds as proposed so there will be optional sources of funding allowed. The GO bond funds should be reduced as much as possible to allow the funds needed for the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project to come in under the Council approved policy cap. There may only be a need for \$10 million for Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project out of the \$20 million that the City has been advised to match. Changing the budget for the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project to \$5 million for the final four years of the City’s five year budget would give the City a placeholder fund and give the City time to come up with alternate sources of funding.

Councilmember Hiller moved to direct the City Manager to include input from the Governing Body and bring the General fund GO Bonded Budget totals for years 2021-2025 to no more than the policy cap, including the higher amount for 2021, as previously approved by the Governing Body. *(The official cap would be her suggestion; the motion does not include the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project and only accommodates GO Bonding Block of the General Fund.)* The motion was seconded by Councilmember Emerson.

Mayor De La Isla expressed concern with the suggested amendments relating to the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project and noted they do not have complete information on needed funding for the project.

Brent Trout stated the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project was not included in the overall GO bonded funding cap; however, if that was the will of the Governing body many projects would have to be removed from the proposed CIP.

Mayor De La Isla stated the proposed change would have a direct impact to street projects.

Councilmember Dobler spoke in support of moving forward with the approval of the CIP and noted the overall budget process was already behind schedule due to the recent financial climate related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Hiller stated her motion was intended to include all five years 2021 through 2025.

Brent Trout stated the resolution as proposed would only approve the first three years of the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), not five years. He reported the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project will have its own funding source and the additional GO bonded funding cap was intended

to be used for the funding of additional street projects with the cap returning to \$9 million in years four and five.

Councilmember Dobler reaffirmed the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project cost was unknown at this time and the project funds would be considered place holders showing commitment by the City to the project. He noted the allocation of \$5 million over the next four years would be a reasonable proposal.

The motion to direct the City Manager to include input from the Governing Body and bring the General fund GO Bonded Budget totals for years 2021-2025 to no more than the policy cap, including the higher amount for 2021, as previously approved by the Governing Body (*the official cap would be her suggestion; the motion does not include the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project and only accommodates GO Bonding Block of the General Fund*) failed. Mayor De La Isla and Councilmembers Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Padilla, Naeger, Dobler and Lesser voted no. (3-7-0)

Councilmember Ortiz stated she supports approving all projects annually as proposed by Councilmember Dobler. She stated the City should utilize the Stages of Resource Targeting (SORT) program and other tools that are already in place and the leasing of fleet vehicles needs more research by staff. She inquired on the status of the City-County Parks and Recreation consolidation payments and asked if the City was currently realizing the anticipated savings of one mill annually and if so, how are the savings being used.

Brent Trout stated he will report back to the Governing Body on the financial status of the City-County Parks and Recreation consolidation.

Councilmember Padilla stated he concurs with Councilmember Ortiz and would like to move forward with the amendments proposed by Councilmembers Dobler and Duncan.

Councilmembers Duncan moved to add the following two projects to the Capital Improvement Budget for Facilities for year 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dobler.

1. Enhance stage power and distribution in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
2. Facilitate Wi-Fi capability, including ethernet routers and switches in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.

Councilmember Duncan reported the items were needed to enhance operations and generate revenue for TPAC. He expressed concern with TPAC's facility improvement list not matching the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project list.

Mayor De La Isla inquired on the cost threshold of items to qualify for a CIP budget list.

Brent Trout stated the items included in the facilities line items list are typically smaller amounts.

Councilmember Hiller asked if City Hall building enhancements would include TPAC if needed. She expressed the need to match up the City's facility improvements list with TPAC's facility improvements list and noted she believes the City needs to provide TPAC the ability to thrive.

Brent Trout stated Wi-Fi enhancements were not needed in the City Hall building. He reported he has had discussions with TPAC staff regarding the consideration of implementing an "arena fee" to be added to the total ticket cost with the intent to allocate the arena fee portion of the ticket cost back to TPAC for important projects.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala inquired on TPAC's efforts in applying for grants that could be used for expenses related to the enhancement operations.

Councilmember Duncan stated TPAC has received a fair amount of grants for many programs; however, no grant monies have recently been received for facility upgrades.



Councilmember Naeger asked if the improvements will enhance TPAC's ability to host virtual events.

Councilmember Duncan referenced recent virtual events hosted by the Stormont Vail Event Center and noted TPAC considered hosting similar events; however, they were not equipped to do so.

The motion to add two projects to the Capital Improvement Budget for Facilities for year 2021, failed. Mayor De La Isla and Councilmembers Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Emerson and Lesser voted no. (5-5-0)

Councilmember Duncan moved to request the City Manager change the review and approval process for future Capital Improvement Programs by placing the projects into the following categories: Utilities, Facilities, Neighborhoods, Public Safety, Quality of Life, Streets, and Traffic, and approve projects by each category to begin in year 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Emerson.

Councilmember Emerson stated he supports a change in the CIP approval process.

Brent Trout reported presentations are based on funding type to provide a clear financial picture of multi-funded projects.

Councilmember Dobler stated his proposed amendments may help with clarifying the approval process for the Governing Body.

Councilmember Duncan withdrew the amendment. The second concurred.

Councilmember Dobler distributed a handout of proposed amendments. He stated the Topeka Municipal Code requires the Governing Body to approve project budgets and amendments, and until several years ago, each and every project budget was presented to the Governing Body for approval, creating an unwieldy process. He reported the current process

approves all project budgets over a three-year span as well as a 10-year CIP allowing for very little oversight by the Governing Body. He stated he would propose a compromise in the areas where the process seems undefined at the time of the CIP approval, these areas include GO Bonded Facilities, Sidewalks, Neighborhood Infrastructure and Fleet Replacement as well as the overall use of the Half-Cent Citywide Sales Tax funds.

Councilmember Dobler stated he would propose the following amendments:

To continue approving the major GO bonded projects that are specific

Require an annual list of projects to be approved by the Council under:

- a. Facilities (pg. 27)
- b. Sidewalks (pg. 28)
- c. Neighborhood Infrastructure (pg. 29)
- d. Fleet Replacement (pg. 32)

For all projects funded whole or in part by the Half-Cent Citywide Sales Tax:

- e. Require Council approval of project budgets for all projects over \$500,000 (total of all funding sources).
- f. For projects less than \$500,000 listed under the headings on pages 127-130 - an annual list of each project is required to be approved by the Council:

Street Contract and Preventative Maintenance Program  
(Micropaver)

Curb and Gutter Replacement Program 2021

Pavement Management Rehabilitation and Reconstruction  
Program

Alley Repair Program 2021

Councilmember Emerson spoke in support of the proposal.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala spoke in support of the proposal, as it seeks a more balanced process. She asked for confirmation regarding the proposed amendment to page 29 and the deletion of neighborhood infrastructure (*i.e.* the *SORT grant for years 2021-2030*). She expressed concern with the perception of disempowerment of the NIAs and decreased impact on overall neighborhoods.

Councilmember Dobler stated the current resolution as proposed was too broad in nature and includes categories and amounts; however, no specifics of projects. He stated his intent was to approve an annual list subject to approval of individual projects over a certain amount.

Councilmember Ortiz spoke in support of approving a project list. She stated she wants to ensure the deadlines are clarified and questioned the project amount threshold of \$500,000 and would support a lower amount.

Councilmember Dobler clarified the intent of the proposal was to approve every project budget as the smaller project budgets should be included on the annual list to be approved by the Governing Body. He suggested the Governing Body test the process for one-year and revisits the issue annually.

Councilmember Ortiz and Mayor De La Isla spoke in support of revisiting the process annually.

Brent Trout asked Councilmember Dobler if the list of projects would be considered in January of each year.

Councilmember Dobler clarified there would be no changes in the line item proposals and amendments should be straight forward and included in the total project budget.

Brent Trout inquired on the SORT grant process and noted the Governing Body would approve each individual neighborhood plan; therefore, project funding could not be diverted to other areas of the city.

Councilmember Dobler stated the intent would be to approve SORT projects at a different time. He suggested the resolution be amended to include the language “or other approval process.”

Councilmember Dobler moved to amend the resolution as follows. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala.

- Lines 27-28 and delete “27 and 28”
- Line 28 – delete page “32”
- On line 32, after last period add:
- “All projects listed on pages 27 through 28 and page 32 shall be approved by the Council annually and may be submitted for approval as single list for each of the following areas 1) Facilities; 2) Sidewalks 3) Fleet Replacement
- Line 48 – remove 112 through 121, 126 through 130
- Line 53 – after the last period, add “All projects funded in part or totally with the ½ cent city-wide sales tax and a total project budget of over \$250,000 including all funding sources, shall have a project budget approved by the City Council. For projects less than \$250,000 utilizing funds from the ½ cent city-wide sales tax, the Council shall annually approve a list of projects.”

Councilmember Hiller generally spoke in favor of the amendments as proposed. She asked if the major GO Bonded projects would be automatically included at time the CIB was approved by the Governing Body. She requested the utility projects be listed in the CIP.

Councilmember Dobler suggested project lists be presented simultaneously with the budget for approval.

Councilmember Naeger spoke in support of the proposal as it supports responsible oversight by the Governing Body and transparency of how resources are being spent while involving the community.

Councilmember Lesser spoke in support of the proposal. He offered a friendly amendment to approve all projects over \$250,000 and revisit the decision in a year and increase the amount if needed.

Councilmember Dobler accepted the friendly amendment to reduce the project budget amount threshold from \$500,000 to \$250,000. The second concurred.

Councilmember Hiller asked why the utility projects were not included in the proposal.

Councilmember Dobler stated he considered including utility projects; however, those projects tend to be straight forward. He reported the intent of the amendment was to focus on smaller GO bonded and Half-Cent Sales Tax funded projects as those seemed to be the most appropriate to initiate the proposal.

Brent Trout asked for clarification on project approvals. He asked if once a project was approved by the Governing Body would there be a requirement for those same projects, no matter the phase, such as design, consulting and/or construction need to be brought back before the Governing Body for approval. He referenced utility projects and stated staff could provide the intended list of waterline projects to keep the Governing Body informed.

Councilmember Dobler stated that he would anticipate that a project would only need one project budget approval; however, amendments would have to be authorized by the Governing body. He noted the total cost of a project including contingencies should be known at the beginning of the project. He spoke in support of receiving a list of utility projects in order to keep the Governing Body informed while supporting transparency in government specifically how utility rate fee increases are being utilized.

The motion to amend the resolution as stated by Councilmember Dobler carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

Councilmember Dobler referenced the agreement that would outline the specific financial obligations of the City of Topeka and the State of Kansas concerning the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project. He requested the City Manager present the agreement to the Governing Body for approval.

Councilmember Duncan directed the City Manager to have staff review CIP process categories and bring a proposal back to the Governing Body for approval over the next 35-40 days.

Councilmember Duncan moved to direct the City Manager to provide to the Governing Body an analysis of purchasing versus leasing Motor Vehicles; and Equipment Exceeding \$5000. He stated the analysis would be provided prior to consideration of the CIB and CIP in 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lesser.

Councilmember Emerson suggested a friendly amendment to change equipment cost exceeding \$25,000.

Councilmember Duncan accepted the friendly amendment. The second concurred.

Councilmember Hiller referenced Supplement No. 5 and the amount of vehicles on the fleet list relating to traffic signals and snow removals. She asked staff to review the list for 2022.

Councilmember Duncan stated the analysis should include the vehicle list as requested by Councilmember Hiller.

The motion to approve the directive to the City Manager as stated by Councilmember Duncan carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

Councilmember Naeger moved to approve the resolution as amended. The motion seconded by Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9175 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, declaring the necessity to repair, alter, reconstruct, enlarge or improve the City's water, water pollution, and/or stormwater utility system through improvement projects authorized by Resolution and providing Notice of Intention authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds in the manner required by K.S.A. 10-1201, et seq., was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, reported there were no proposed changes to the utilities budget. He requested approval of the resolution as presented.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Emerson carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

UPDATE on City of Topeka 2020 and 2021 Operating Budgets, was presented.

Brent Trout provided an update to the 2020 operating budget. He stated the cost reductions will continue for personnel and non-personnel budget cuts; the City still plans to use a portion of the reserves for the revenue shortfall; actions have been taken in relation to reductions for direct personnel costs; finance staff has calculated the savings related to the hiring freeze and leaving the positions vacant for the rest of 2020, resulting in a savings of \$400,000. He stated these actions would not take into consideration potential retirements or departures of other staff and would have no effect on the Police and Fire Department budgets. He reported the decision to begin the Police and Fire Department academies will need to wait until it was financial feasible for the City. He noted an additional option would be to consider reducing expenses through the furlough of employees. He stated the Governing Body will receive updates once staff has the sales tax revenue numbers in order to understand what the City may need to do in the future.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed concern with the occasional closing of Fire Station No. 1. She asked how much money was in budget for “call back funds” and requested the Governing Body work to come up with an alternate plan especially if the Police and Fire Department academies are not conducted.

Councilmember Lesser requested staff find a way to fund a new recruit class for the Police Department Academy in September or October of 2020.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala reported it was her understanding, since April 24, 2020, to date, Fire Station No. 1 has been shut down approximately 29 times. She expressed concern with jeopardizing public safety as it relates to the mandate of no overtime for fire fighters. She stated all fire stations need to remain open at all times.

Councilmember Duncan referenced federal and state grant funding related to COVID-19 expenses and noted the funds have to be distributed by the end of 2020 to local governments. He asked how staff was tracking expenses related to the pandemic.

Brent Trout reported each department has been tracking COVID-19 expenses. He stated there was very limited reimbursement expenses that qualify for reimbursement and noted the City's biggest issues relate to the loss of revenue.

Councilmember Ortiz asked the City Manager to research if the cost to cancel the Police Department Academy due to a recruit contracting the COVID-19 virus could be reimbursed.

Brent Trout stated he would inquire; however, he does not believe those type of circumstances would qualify as a COVID-19 related expense.

Councilmember Padilla stated public safety needs to be the City's top priority and the Police Department Academy would be a long-term investment for the City.

Councilmember Hiller referenced the directive to the City Manager regarding budget priorities. She encouraged staff to retool or restructure services that may not be essential and would generate a savings of at least \$100,000. She asked if staff has been asked to submit ideas for consideration.

Brent Trout responded with the following:

- Employees have been asked to find and implement efficiencies for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021.
- If vacant positions can remain vacant indefinitely or at least through 2021.



- The closing of Fire Station No. 1 contributes to the long-term plan to graduate seven new recruits to back fill positions as needed.
- Substantial cuts will have to be made to cover the cost of \$1.2 million to fill all Fire and Police Department positions which includes built in raises under union contracts that must be fulfilled.
- He predicts the City will lose approximately \$5 million in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may cause a 10-15% cut to General Fund departments.

He announced the first 2021 Operating Budget Workshop would be held on July 11, 2020, with the location to be determined; and staff would release the 2021 Proposed Operating Budget on June 19, 2020. He also announced there will be a brief overview of the 2021 proposed budget on July 7, 2020, and a Special Meeting on July 28, 2020, for the purpose of conducting the 2021 Budget public hearing

Councilmember Dobler referenced the short time frame and requested the Governing Body receive information on the General Fund as soon as possible in no particular format.

Brent Trout reported the Finance Department was currently operating with limited staffing; however, they will work to accommodate the request to the best of their abilities.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Due to the public safety mandates surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic there will be no in-person public comment; however, written public comment may be submitted by email or in writing to the City Clerk for attachment to the minutes. -- Email: [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) -- Address: 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603.

The following individuals submitted public comments via electronic mail: Katrina Shaw, Teresa Miller and Joseph Ledbetter. (*Attachment A*)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL;**

Governing Body members thanked all the individuals and organizations involved in advocating for the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project. They commended the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for including the project in the 2-year transportation plan.

Mayor De La Isla expressed concern with youth in the community and recent incidents involving gun violence.

Councilmember Naeger suggested supporting local businesses; and to be safe and follow precautionary measures for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Duncan thanked former City staff members Doug Gerber, Sasha Haehn and Jim Green for their service. He commended former and active members of the Armed Forces for their service.

Councilmember Hiller thanked former city staff members Doug Gerber, Sasha Haehn and Jim Green for their service.

Councilmembers Ortiz and Padilla recognized 2020 graduates for their accomplishments in spite of the difficult social distancing mandates related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

(SEAL)

---

Brenda Younger  
City Clerk

Attachment A

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Joseph Ledbetter <joe@josephledbetter.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 4:12 PM  
**To:** City Council; Michelle De La Isla; Brenda Younger; City Clerk; Neil Dobler; Tony Emerson; Michael Lesser  
**Subject:** Ref CIP Budget My words only.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am absolutely for the setting aside of proposed \$6million dollars for Polk Quincy Viaduct(which is in very poor shape) and I am for all highway projects brought before us as a critical component of our overall local economy. I am completely opposed to narrowing 12 th Street to one lane as a horrible use of our tax money. This makes as much sense as sinking a \$1.3 million storm water crater into the middle of Gage Park. It has not been thought through and is a complete waste of tax money. Leave it a complete two lane arterial road and rebuild it that way. One Developer told me that no city he does projects in(many) would do such a strange project. He says this is part of the reason this city continues to lose population. 5,000- IN past seven years.

Storm Water Plan for \$350,000- No. I have Zero faith in management with storm water construction, and I don't want any more borrowing in this arena until we change management in Utilities(out source or reorganize the entire organization. Too much money is being Wasted. I don't want any more out of town "consultants" hired to do the work of staff. If they can't do it, then replace them!

\$6.5 million in water main replacement-I am OPPOSED since it does not have any REAL or concrete detail! We have NO Idea what we are buying, or paying for! I want the number of miles we are Actually replacing! And where. And a real timeline. This is a dangerous item of \$6.5 million, to give staff that seems inexperienced with line replacement( to the point the breaks occur year after year, often within mere feet of each other). The Council and Mayor cannot do it's oversight duties with this great lack of detail. And the people can't afford endless rate hikes because of inexperienced management.

I am opposed to any more revenue bond borrowing at this time, until we get our costs under control in Utilities. AND we are Not growing which is also a very good reason not to borrow more revenue bonds(which are usually reserved for Growing cities)-which we are not.

Thank you.

May 19, 2020

Teresa Miller  
1820 N.W. Polk St  
Topeka, Kansas 66608  
785-234-0840

City Mayor, City Manager and  
City Council Members:

The SORT Grant is something that is very important to our Neighborhood Improvement Associations. This last year the Grant was changed to only go to one Neighborhood each year. By opening the SORT Grant to all of the people in the city, it would hurt the less fortunate neighborhoods. That's why this grant has been set up like it has been for some time. It always seems when money is open up to all of the city, the areas of town with the most power ends up with the money. That is not fare, but that the truth of it. Please do not hurt the less fortunate by changing the SORT Grant so it will become up for grabs to the people that know how to get around things. If you know what I mean. I have faith in you all to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Teresa Miller

May 19, 2020

Teresa Miller  
1820 N.W. Polk St  
Topeka, Kansas 66608  
785-234-0840

City Mayor, City Manager and  
City Council Members:

I'm writing this letter to remind all of you how important the Street Project for N.W. Tyler is for anyone that drives N.W. Tyler St. This street is one of the narrowest streets in Topeka. When the large vehicles that use N.W. Tyler St. meet each other, one of them has to give and move over to the one foot dirt area of the road that people walk on. This is because the mirrors on these vehicles would hit each other if they did not. New personal trucks, like Ford, Chevy or the Ram are putting bigger mirrors on their trucks that stick out further and are having trouble traveling this part of N.W. Tyler because of this.

This project has already been downsized from a three lane street to a two lane. And still working out some other things. Dave Bevens has been working very hard on this project and I'm sure there will be more ways to cut cost. Please do not cut the street Project for N.W. Tyler.

Sincerely,

Teresa Miller

## Brenda Younger

---

**From:** Katrina Shaw <katkake1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:04 PM  
**To:** City Council; cityclerk; Michelle De La Isla; Brenda Younger  
**Subject:** 12th Street Capital Improvement Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

This email is in regard to the 12th Street Project as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. My family and I walk around our neighborhood, to and from Washburn University, to and from Randolph Elementary, and to and from the Library regularly. Part of what makes College Hill such a great area of Topeka is its walkability. As part of the recent social isolation needs, walking has become an even more important part of our daily lives. We may not be walking to and from our schools but we walk nearly every day and sometimes twice a day, if its nice enough. It's important to us because walking helps us to remain healthy physically, emotionally, and mentally. Not to mention the benefits of getting a 7 year old out and walking a couple times a day. We also ride our bikes quite a bit. Our 7 year old just got a new bike and we'd love safer alternatives for riding around town.

Please consider these activities when thinking about the continuation of the 12th Street Project. Our family and many others would greatly benefit from this project.

Thank you for your time!

-Katrina Shaw  
1501 SW Mulvane