

Governing Body Minutes – August 11, 2020

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, August 11, 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, Valdivia-Alcala and Duncan -3; and the following Councilmembers participated remotely: Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Naeger, Dobler, and Lesser - 6. Mayor De La Isla presided -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, RD Cogswell, Mission Church Pastor and Aim5 Foundation President, provided the invocation.

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

CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 20250 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout designating a portion of the Crosby Place Parking Garage as temporarily exempt from the provisions of K.S.A. 41-719(d) and TMC 9.15.020(e), was presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 20251 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, allowing and approving City expenditures for the period March 28, 2020 through May 1, 2020, and enumerating said expenditures therein, was presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 20252 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, granting a nonexclusive Contract franchise agreement to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Kansas for the provision of telecommunications services in the City of Topeka, Kansas, was presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the regular meeting of July 21, 2020, and special meeting of July 28, 2020, was presented.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ortiz.

Councilmember Duncan questioned if a percentage of the franchise fees collected were allocated back into the General Fund to help bolster the fund.

Jessica Lamendola, Administrative and Financial Director, confirmed none of the fees collected are contributed back to the General Fund and noted the current line item budget for franchise fees was \$104,000.

Councilmember Duncan requested staff redirect a percentage of the fees collected to help supplement the General Fund.

The motion to approve the consent agenda carried on roll call vote. (9-1-0)
Councilmember Duncan voted “no.”

ORDINANCE NO. 20253 authorizing the issuance by the City of Topeka, Kansas, of its revenue bonds, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$13,000,000 to provide funds to finance and refinance projects for Midland Care Connection Inc., and its affiliates and authorizing and approving certain documents and actions in connection with the issuance of said bonds, was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, stated approval would enable the developer to issue tax exempt bonds for the project.

Kevin Cowan, Gilmore & Bell, P.A., reported the City would act as a financial conduit for Midland Connection, Inc. (Midland Hospice) and authorize approval of the proposed ordinance subject to certain parameters as well as various bond documents including a base lease agreement and federal tax compliance agreement. He stated the bonds would be considered a

special limited obligation by the City of Topeka, solely payable by Midland Care Connection, Inc., and would not be a debt or liability of the City.

Councilmember Naeger moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Lesser carried unanimously. (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Naeger, Dobler, Duncan, Lesser and Mayor De La Isla -10.

ORDINANCE NO. 20254 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout authorizing and providing for the issuance of \$94,885,000 aggregate principal amount of Combined Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2020-A, of the City of Topeka, Kansas; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof and authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith, was presented.

Jessica Lamendola, Administrative and Financial Director, stated the City received a good response in regards to the sale of bonds. She reported the City will realize a better interest expense on refunding bonds than anticipated and approximately \$30 million in temporary notes will be financed as long-term notes. She noted the resource savings will be allocated back into the City's utility system resulting in significant work being performed.

Khalan Dwyer, Columbia Capital Management, L.L.C. reported the winning bid from JP Morgan offered a true interest rate of 1.8% for a 30-year bond. He stated the City will refinance outstanding debt producing an economic savings of \$5.1 million which equals 16.8% of the principal amount of the bonds refunded.

Councilmember Duncan asked what the payoff date was for some of the existing bonds versus the new payoff dates for the newly issued bonds.

Khalan Dwyer stated there would be no extension of payoff years for the refinancing of bonds.

Joseph Ledbetter asked for clarification regarding the \$35 million of temporary notes being issued and how the corresponding projects are approved as well as how often the City refinances bonds. He referenced the 7.5% utility fee rate increase slated for next year and expressed concern with the lack of water line replacements projects being proposed.

Bob Sample, Utilities Director, highlighted projects slated to be completed as a result of the funding.

Councilmember Emerson requested Mr. Cowan comment on the bond approval process.

Kevin Cowan reported the Governing Body could chose to approve a parameters ordinance if there was a timing constraint and some State of Kansas statutes require a public bid be conducted on certain types of bonds, however, acceptance of bids will always be subject to Governing Body approval.

Councilmember Naeger moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Dobler carried unanimously. (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Naeger, Dobler, Duncan, Lesser and Mayor De La Isla -10.

RESOLUTION NO. 9193 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, prescribing the form and details of and authorizing and directing the sale and deliver of \$94,885,000 aggregate principal amount of combined Utility Refunding and Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2020-A, of the City of Topeka, Kansas, previously authorized by Ordinance No. 20254 of the issuer; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith, was presented.

Councilmember Lesser moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Emerson.

Joseph Ledbetter asked if the unpaid interest amount would be included in the reissuance of bonds including interest for short-term notes.

Khalan Dwyer reported the City was refunding principal amounts and paying the accrued interest which is part of the redemption price of the bonds, and not refunding interest payments. He reported the renewing of temporary notes entails accrued interest as well.

The motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9194 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout temporarily suspending certain Governing Body Rules and Procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic until November 18, 2020, was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, stated based on progress of the pandemic he proposed suspending the Governing Body Rules and Procedures for a three-month time period instead of 30 days.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if approval of the resolution would include any and all meetings in person and by virtual applications such as Zoom.

Lisa Roberston, City Attorney, reported approval would apply to all committee meetings and Governing Body meetings.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adopt the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Naeger carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 20255 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, approving and adopting the operating budget for calendar year 2021 and appropriating the amounts for the purpose set forth therein was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, reported staff was prepared to provide feedback on proposed amendments as they work through the adoption of the 2021 City of Topeka Operating Budget.

Tim Vincent, Topeka JUMP member, spoke to the condition of homes in the Hi-Crest Neighborhood and the need for affordable housing in Topeka due to high eviction and rental rates. He asked the Governing Body to allocate \$75,000 to the Housing Trust Fund in 2021.

Yvonne May referenced projects resulting from empowerment grants and spoke to the importance of keeping the program intact. She expressed concern with duplication in weatherization services and asked the Governing Body to implement an enhancement program for housing.

Joseph Ledbetter suggested the City not refinance interest payments on temporary or long-term bonds; enforce property codes so residents have homes that are livable; offer early retirement packages and reduce the number of full time employees. He spoke in opposition of funding cuts to the Topeka Police Department and suggested the City privatize the Forestry Division and services for pot hole repairs.

Lazone Grays distributed a handout outlining the City of Topeka procurement practices and Vendor Diversity Reports. He stated he has been speaking to this issue for over a decade and expressed concern with the lack of action taken by current and past Governing Bodies regarding economic disparities and oppression. He asked the Governing Body to take action as outlined in the Topeka Municipal Code and establish a committee to review the matters he continues to speak about.

Brent Trout stated the City has begun the process of reenergizing fairness in City processes and reaching out to diverse groups through various City activities.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she would be willing to become more involved and has already begun discussing the importance of business diversity with many of her constituents.

Councilmember Duncan requested staff review the matter as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the Topeka Municipal Code.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala moved to allocate an additional \$75,000 to the utilities franchise fee program administered through Community Resources Council (CRC) specifically for gas and electric assistance. She asked the City Manager to look for the funds in carryover or reserve funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ortiz.

Councilmember Hiller cautioned against allocating funding to specific programs as opposed to specific activities as it could result in unintended restrictions. She spoke in support of conducting a comprehensive review of all programs offering assistance.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she respectfully disagrees and expressed her confidence in the CRC in administering the weatherization program.

Councilmember Ortiz spoke in support of the motion and noted it would be a good resource for those individuals in need.

Councilmember Duncan stated he supports the intent of the motion; however, there could be other funding sources available such as a percentage of the utility franchise fees generated.

Jessica Lamendola noted the Governing Body could earmark the funds at this time and determine a funding source later in the year.

Councilmember Padilla stated he concurs with Councilmember Duncan and would like to understand all funding options available.

Councilmember Emerson stated he will support the allocation of funding; however, he would prefer to use CARES Act funding if possible.

Jessica Lamendola stated staff anticipates Shawnee County will issue the City's share of CARES Act funding for 2020 within the next two weeks. She reported the City intends to use \$500,000 of the CARES Act funding for assistance with foreclosure and eviction prevention and \$1 million for assistance with prevention of utility disconnections. She noted there was a high probability the City will receive far less than what was requested; however, they anticipate \$75,000 of the 2020 CARES Act funding could be allocated for the purpose of helping with utilities.

Mayor De La Isla spoke in support of having funds available for families; however, it will be difficult to support the proposed motion at this time when there was potential to receive CARES Act funding of up to \$1 million for utilities assistance.

Councilmember Naeger stated she concurs with Mayor De La Isla and expressed the importance of the City remaining fiscally responsible.

The motion to allocate an additional \$75,000 to the utilities franchise fee program administered through Community Resources Council (CRC) specifically for gas and electric assistance failed. Councilmembers Hiller, Emerson, Padilla, Naeger, Dobler, Lesser and Mayor De La Isla voted "no." (3-7-0)

Councilmember Hiller distributed a handout (Attachment A) outlining the following amendments:

- A simple resolution that guarantees the Council will provide at least \$200,000 in annual competitive funds for Neighborhood Improvements each year.
- Two lists in the agenda packet that they could approve at this time or set for discussion and approval, hopefully at a meeting in mid-September, whereby they could give the City Manager direction as to the Opportunities and Efficiencies the Council would like him to pursue before the end of the year and through 2021.

- A list of suggestions that could improve the Budget review process in 2021.

Councilmember Hiller moved to approve a commitment by the Governing Body to provide at least \$200,000 annually in competitive funds for Neighborhood Improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dobler.

Brent Trent reported SORT and Empowerment funding would be used to accomplish the amendment.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala spoke in opposition of the amendment. She expressed concern with how the funds would be utilized as well as what funding source would be used to support the allocation of funds. She also expressed the importance of transparency in regards to the use of SORT funding.

Councilmember Hiller stated all neighborhood improvement associations would have the opportunity to apply for the funding.

Mayor De La Isla spoke in support of providing additional funding to neighborhoods without affecting the overall budget.

The motion to approve a commitment by the Governing Body to provide at least \$200,000 annually in competitive funds for Neighborhood Improvements carried on roll call vote. Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala voted “no.” (9-1-0)

Councilmember Ortiz spoke in support of the City and County consolidating efforts to provide animal control services. She expressed the importance of animal control staff members being available on evenings and weekends when the services are needed the most. She commented on reduction in staff in the areas of community service and public relations within the Topeka Police Department.

Councilmember Ortiz stated she would like to allocate an additional \$20,000 for assistance with behavioral health services specifically to address homelessness and mental health issues. She reported she has been working with Councilmember Padilla on the creation of an ombudsmen position that could serve as a point of contact for City of Topeka information.

Councilmember Padilla spoke in support of allocating funds for an ombudsmen position for the purpose of improving customer service and addressing the need for direct access to the Police Department and providing information to the public.

Mayor De La Isla asked how adding the new position would impact the budget.

Brent Trout proposed utilizing Community Engagement Division employees for the ombudsmen position. He stated he would report back to the Governing Body later in the year on the progress of the position.

Councilmember Ortiz requested her and Councilmember Padilla be involved in how to develop the Ombudsmen position duties and processes.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala spoke in opposition of creating an ombudsmen position as she believes it will bottleneck customer service, specifically the phone calls relating to serious crimes. She made reference to the goal of the Governing Body to streamline customer service and stated it needs to be addressed in all City departments.

Councilmember Naeger asked if the position would replace or enhance existing customer services.

Councilmember Padilla stated the intent would be to facilitate communication as a supplement or an enhanced communication.

Councilmember Hiller reported customer service issues surface consistently; therefore, she believes the City needs to scale down the overall customer service network. She stated in

terms of creating an ombudsman, she believes the position should consider the needs of all City departments.

Councilmember Lesser stated he would envision a point of contact that answers questions and helps prepare individuals for upcoming interaction with a City employee or department.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to direct the City Manager to begin evaluating the position of an ombudsman that will begin this year with existing staff, and further, to consider adding the new position to the 2021 budget pending communication with no additional expenditures to the budget. The motion seconded by Councilmember Padilla carried on roll call vote.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala voted “no.” (9-1-0)

Councilmember Padilla encouraged Governing Body members to provide input to the City Manager regarding the ombudsmen position.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to allocate an additional \$20,000 to assist with Behavioral Health Services specifically to address homelessness and mental health issues. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lesser.

Jessica Lamendola reported staff will determine where the funds would come from after the budget discussion has been completed. She noted staff will manage the budget from a personnel cost perspective throughout the year or look at contractual services to generate the additional \$20,000 in funding.

Councilmember Hiller questioned if Police Chief Cochran supports the motion and if CARES Act funding could be used to fund the additional \$20,000.

Councilmember Ortiz reported Chief Cochran supports the need for additional funding.

Jessica Lamendola reported Chief Cochran and City Manager Trout realized early in the budget discussions there would be a need for additional funding and staff will continue to closely monitor applicable uses for CARES Act funding.

The motion to allocate an additional \$20,000 to assist with Behavioral Health Services specifically to address homelessness and mental health issues carried on roll call vote.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala voted “no.” (9-1-0)

Councilmember Padilla moved to direct the City Manager to allocate \$77,000 to the Utility Franchise Fees Fund specifically for gas and electric assistance to the extent possible even if CARES Act funding was not available. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ortiz.

Councilmember Emerson asked if the language of the motion would jeopardize the use of CARES Act funding if it should become available.

Lisa Robertson reported the language would not jeopardize the use of CARES Act funding if it comes available.

The motion to direct the City Manager to allocate \$77,000 to the Utility Franchise Fees Fund specifically for gas and electric assistance to the extent possible even if CARES Act funding was not available carried on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

Councilmember Naeger moved to approve the 2021 City of Topeka Operating Budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ortiz.

Councilmember Ortiz recognized the reduction in funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the City of Topeka Youth Employment program in 2021; however, she will be proposing to reinstate funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2022 City of Topeka Operating budget.

The motion to approve the 2021 City of Topeka Operating Budget as amended carried unanimously on roll call vote. (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Valdivia-Alcala, Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Naeger, Dobler, Duncan, Lesser and Mayor De La Isla -10.

DISCUSSION concerning adoption of the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code was presented.

Richard Faulkner, Development Services Division Director, provided an overview of the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code. He stated approval of the proposed ordinance will allow the City to update their 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code to the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) for the purpose of providing consumers with safe and sanitary plumbing systems.

Councilmember Hiller asked for confirmation regarding updates approximately every six years and if the 2018 Version of the Plumbing Code was a good fit for the City of Topeka.

Richard Faulkner reported the City continues to update uniform codes to remain current with industry standards. He stated the 2018 Version of the Uniform Plumbing Code keeps the City moving forward with changes in the building and trade industry which will lead to a safer community and improved quality of life.

PUBLIC COMMENT was expressed by the following individuals:

Bryan Brewer referenced City employees not being required to follow face mask mandates in City buildings and reported he was recently asked to leave a City building unless he wore a face mask. He questioned why the City of Topeka was enforcing Shawnee County mandates and believes the face mask requirement stifles his civil right to use a public building.

Lazone Grays stated he will follow up on what he spoke about at the last Council meeting. He mentioned the need for an equity plan or statement for the Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) and questioned how much of the CARES Act funds will be distributed to women owned or minority businesses. He expressed the importance of equity and

inclusion and asked what regulations are in place to ensure small businesses receive an equitable fair share of the CARES Act funds.

The following individuals submitted public comment via electronic mail: Joseph Ledbetter and Clark Trammell. (*Attachment B*)

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

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, provided an overview of the August 18, 2020, Governing Body Agenda.

Brent Trout, City Manager, reported he will continue to review all budget recommendations relating to efficiencies in operation made by Governing Body members as they move through the remainder of 2020 and into 2021.

Mayor De La Isla reported as a result of requiring face masks the COVID-19 virus cases have reduced. She stated school representatives and emergency officials continue to meet for the purpose of addressing continued challenges related to the crisis of the pandemic.

Councilmember Lesser referenced the area of SW 8th and Randolph Street and thanked staff for working to address the flooding issues in that area. He thanked staff and Governing Body members for approving the budget.

Councilmember Hiller thanked staff for their work on the budget and Councilmember Padilla for his work on the 2020 U.S. Census. She encouraged members of the public to participate with input or learn how to help get involved with race relations or ways to improve policing in the community. She announced the Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) group would host a meeting on August 12, 2020, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. and on August 13, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room at the Cyrus

K. Holliday building. She announced the new Save Program managed by Topeka Center for Peace and Justice would promote how to engage in the community to reduce and prevent violence in the community. She reminded citizens a special meeting of the Governing body would be held on August 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala thanked Jessica Lamendola, Administrative and Financial Services Director, for her assistance during budget deliberations. She stated she received an email regarding the closing of the Billard Community Pool and she believes it should not be closed or replaced with a water park and should be maintained as the neighborhood deserves.

Councilmember Ortiz announced eighteen tons of trash was picked up in the East Topeka South neighborhood during cleanup day on August 15, 2020. She thanked participants and City of Topeka staff members for their assistance with the event.

Councilmember Emerson thanked City management and staff for their work on the 2021 budget.

Councilmember Padilla thanked City management and staff for their responsiveness and helpfulness in regards to the budget. He encouraged citizens to participate in the 2020 United States Census. He commented on the great initiatives being offered through the new Save Program managed by Topeka Center for Peace and Justice.

Councilmember Naeger thanked those that voted in the 2020 Primary Election. She announced the Topeka Human Relations Commission was seeking nominees for the Troy Scroggins Award, recognizing people and organizations that further the human relations commission call, to ensure equal rights to all citizens of Topeka.

Councilmember Dobler thanked City Management and staff for presenting a budget with no mill levy increase.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala moved to recess into executive session for a time period not to exceed 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and to include the City Manager and the Governing Body. The motion died due to lack of second.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she called for executive session because the City Manager refused to hold an executive session at her request. She stated she would like to discuss the outcome of screen shots posted on Facebook by a City of Topeka municipal court judge, which appeared bias in nature. She reported she has yet to receive information on the matter and believes there should be consistency when conducting executive sessions and noted executive sessions have been called in the past regarding social media posts by City employees. She stated she will continue to push for an executive session.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger
City Clerk

Attachment A

2021 City of Topeka Operating Budget – Motions and Comments

I appreciate the work that the City Manager and all Staff put in to this budget, and their time with us exploring questions and issues. The changes were tough, thoughtful and prudent. With staff, we look forward, with some trepidation, to the coming year.

I have three things to offer:

- 1) A simple resolution guaranteeing that we as a Council will provide at least \$200,000 in annual competitive funds for Neighborhood Improvements each year.
- 2) Two lists that we could approve this evening or set for discussion and approval, hopefully at a meeting in mid-September, whereby we could give the City Manager direction as to Opportunities and Efficiencies the Council would like him to pursue before the end of the year or through 2021
- 3) A list of suggestions that could improve the Budget review process in 2021

Regarding fund balances: Staff and I have settled the issue of fund balances and “other” ...they are unique to each fund. I have chosen not to ask for any changes at this time...but to trust in the prudence of the staff that no projects will be funded without approval of the Council.

Regarding the budget: I have learned countless details, as well as what work continues to be in progress. I am willing to pass this budget as it is, with assurances that we are continuing to work on restructurement and efficiencies.

Attachment B

Brenda Younger

From: Jessica A. Lamendola
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Brenda Younger; Governing Body
Cc: Department Directors; Nicole Malott; Rachelle Mathews; Braxton Copley
Subject: RE: For the record :Questions on Rev Bonds of approximately \$90 million plus on August 11th ,2020 council meeting. the August
Attachments: post_pos_topeka_ks_curirb_2020a.pdf

All of these projects were previously approved by the Governing Body and the sale is set for Tuesday. We expect the City will experience strong reception and good pricing.

The City's Preliminary Official Statement (POS) is attached to his email and includes information about both the sale and the City. This is a standard document that is issued prior to the bond sale. The current estimated par value is \$96,730,000.

Approximately \$30 million of the bonds pricing on Tuesday will refinance outstanding bonds of the City. Based upon current markets, we anticipate interest rate savings of approximately \$4.8 million in 2020 dollars, after accounting for all transaction costs. (The savings accrue ratably over the remaining life of the bonds, much like the effect of refinancing a home loan.)

It is important to note that approximately \$35 million of the bonds will be used to pay off one-year notes issued in 2019 in support of Combined Utility projects. The 2019 Notes are due and payable on October 1, 2020, and are an absolute obligation of the City ("full faith and credit").

The specific project list was attached to the City Council Agenda packet.
<https://topeka.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=14811&MeetingID=759>

I hope everyone had a good weekend.

Jessica

From: Brenda Younger <BYounger@Topeka.org>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Governing Body <governingbody@topeka.org>
Cc: Department Directors <DepartmentDirectors@Topeka.org>
Subject: FW: For the record :Questions on Rev Bonds of approximately \$90 million plus on August 11th ,2020 council meeting. the August

Governing Body Members,

Public comment regarding the budget.

Thanks.

From: Joseph Ledbetter [<mailto:joe@josephledbetter.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2020 8:42 PM
To: Spencer Duncan; Karen A. Hiller; Tony Emerson; Michael Lesser; Neil Dobler; Brenda Younger; Sylvia Ortiz

Brenda Younger

From: Joseph Ledbetter <joe@josephledbetter.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2020 7:22 PM
To: Michael Lesser; Tony Emerson; Brenda Younger; Neil Dobler; Karen A. Hiller
Subject: For the record, Budgets We are probably 150 FTE's too many in Topeka w 1200 FTE's
Attachments: Lawrence FTE's.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Retirement incentives should be paid to trim up to 100 Non-emergency FTE's.

Brenda Younger

From: cwiliet@aol.com
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 1:17 PM
To: City Council; Brenda Younger; Michelle De La Isla; Tony Emerson; Karen A. Hiller; Michael Lesser; Sylvia Ortiz; Spencer Duncan; Michael Padilla
Cc: joe@josephledbetter.com; La Zoneg; hedgetree@yahoo.com
Subject: \$96,730,000 Revenue Bond Agenda Item

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.

Greetings...reviewing the city budget and actions to fund various core services/projects especially during this financial crisis brought on by the pandemic I am skeptical of certain decisions you are being presented with i.e. this upcoming agenda item referenced above. This is a huge amount of money-debt especially for a city with an annual budget of \$300mm. I suggest that with the many demanding issues currently taking up your time as council members that you postpone any decision on debt creation until you can thoroughly review the details and future effects from all aspects.

Taking on this request begs a host of key questions:

- (* You need details of covered projects and completion timelines
- (* How much of this funding/debt goes to new and existing projects
- (* What sub-budgets receive funds from this debt and for what point specific projects
- (* Is this enough money to complete these projects...prove it...or, will you be borrowing \$\$\$ down the road to complete the listed projects
- (* What are the fees for bonding and paid to whom (is this bid out for sales-servicing of bonds)
- (* What is our current bond debt and related servicing expenses
- (* Are these the most critical and needed projects for funding-repair etc.
- (* What is our staffing to complete this work and competency of staff/administration to service and do this work
- (* Is this the right place to spend these \$\$\$

A thorough underwriting and understanding of this request must take place before any competent decision can be made by this governing body.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark W. Trammell