

## **Governing Body Minutes – June 14, 2022**

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, June 14, 2022. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M. with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Valdivia-Alcala, Kell, Dobler and Duncan -5; and Councilmembers Ortiz and Naeger participated remotely -2. Mayor Padilla presided -1. Absent: Councilmembers Emerson and Lesser -2.

Public comment for the meeting was available via Zoom or in-person. Individuals were required to contact the City Clerk's Office at 785-368-3940 or via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2022, after which the City Clerk's Office provided the Zoom link information and protocols prior to the meeting start time. Written public comment was also considered to the extent it was personally submitted at the meeting or to the City Clerk's Office located at 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603 or via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) on or before June 14, 2022, for attachment to the meeting minutes.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Chaplain Raymond Toyne, Kansas Army National Guard, provided the invocation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by meeting participants.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the reappointment of Michaela Saunders to the Topeka Sustainability Advisory Board for a term ending June 30, 2024, was presented. (*Council District No. 9*)

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the reappointment of Kenneth Scott to the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Board to fill a term ending June 30, 2024, was presented.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the board appointments. The motion seconded by Councilmember Kell carried unanimously on roll call vote. Mayor does not vote. (7-0-0)

PRESENTATION on the City of Topeka 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit was presented by Kristen Hughes, RSM Management Consulting Company.

Rachelle Matthews, Administrative and Financial Services Deputy Director, recognized finance team members in attendance and thanked them for their work on the annual audit. She stated she was present to answer any questions the Governing Body may have about the audit.

RECOGNITION of the 2022 Topeka Police Department Summer Intern Academy Program. Topeka Police Sgt. Vidal Campos, Program Administrator, introduced the students participating in the program and thanked community partners for their donations and contributions to help make the program a success.

PRESENTATION on the City of Topeka General Fund Reserves was presented by Khalen Dwyer, Columbia Capital Management, LLC, Senior Vice President.

Councilmember Hiller referenced the tremendous economic downturn in 2010 and 2011, and the City's historical General Fund Reserve balance goal of 10% that was maintained for years prior. She reported from 2010 to 2012, the Governing Body made a decision to economize on the budget and use reserve funds that were available instead of raising taxes causing the reserve fund balance to fall below 10%.

Councilmember Duncan referenced the City's current General Fund Reserve Balance of approximately 27% and spoke in support of keeping the balance at 20% to support a good bond rating for the City; however, he supports the use of the excess 7% of reserve funds to be spent in a fiscally responsible manner to help ease taxpayer burden.

Councilmember Hiller introduced Karen A. Black, May 8 Consulting, Inc., Chief

Executive Officer. She stated Ms. Black has been working in collaboration with the City on the Changing our Culture of Property Maintenance Initiative and highlighted program objectives, public input sessions and volunteer goals.

AN UPDATE on the City of Topeka Changing Our Culture of Property Maintenance initiative was presented by Karen A. Black, May 8 Consulting, Inc., Chief Executive Officer.

CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 9328 introduced by Councilmember Karen Hiller granting Miguel Lara an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions, was presented. (*Council District No. 1*)

RESOLUTION NO. 9329 introduced by Councilmember Sylvia Ortiz, granting Randy Wheat an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions, was presented. (*Council District No. 3*)

ORDINANCE NO. 20360 introduced by Councilmember Christina Valdivia-Alcala, concerning bicycles, scooters, roller skates and skateboards in the NOTO Arts and Entertainment district, amending City of Topeka Code Section 10.35.030 and repealing original section, was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of June 7, 2022, were presented.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Naeger carried unanimously on roll call vote. (8-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9330 introduced by Interim City Manager William E. Cochran amending Resolution of Advisability and Authorization No. 9279 which provides street improvements for Sherwood Park Subdivision No. 9 as more specifically described herein, was presented.

Bill Cochran, Interim City Manager, reported the petition, project budget and resolution are being revised to reflect an increase in project costs.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the revised petition, project budget and resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Ortiz carried unanimously on roll call vote. (8-0-0)

APPROVAL of an amendment to the City of Topeka 2021 Annual Consolidated Action Plan, was presented.

Bill Cochran, Interim City Manager, reported the public hearing was conducted on June 7, 2022, and Staff is recommending approval as presented.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the 2021 City of Topeka Consolidated Action Plan amendment. The motion seconded by Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala carried unanimously on roll call vote. (8-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9331 of the Governing Body of the City of Topeka, Kansas, as issuer of certain Health Care Facilities refunding and Improvement Revenue Bonds (Midland Care Connection, Inc. Projects) Series 2020, authorizing and consenting to the sale and transfer of certain property by Midland Care Connection, Inc., was presented.

Bill Cochran, Interim City Manager, reported Midland Care Connection, LLC has made the request to allow for the sale of property. He noted Kevin Cowan, Gilmore & Bell, P.C. was available for questions.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Naeger carried unanimously on roll call vote. (8-0-0)

APPROVAL of City of Topeka ARPA Funds Grant Application and Guidelines for use in social service requests for ARPA dollars as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee,

was presented.

Bill Cochran, Interim City Manager, reported the application amendments were discussed at the June 7, 2022 Governing Body meeting.

Councilmember Duncan, Police & Finance Committee Chair, reported the application has been updated to reflect suggested changes from the June 7, 2022, Governing Body meeting. He asked if there were any additional requests.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala thanked Councilmember Duncan for the work and guidance he has given during the process. She stated as a first-time member of the Policy & Finance Committee, she appreciates the work they have formulated with the assistance of Staff. She stated she looks forward to implementing the process in an intentional manner for the citizens of Topeka.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala moved to approve the City of Topeka ARPA Application and Guidelines. The motion seconded by Councilmember Naeger carried unanimously on roll call vote. (8-0-0)

Councilmember Duncan announced the application would be available June 15, 2022, on the City's website. He also announced an informational webinar will be conducted on June 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. as well as permanently posted on the City's website for reference by applicants.

Councilmember Ortiz requested Staff email her a copy of the application and guidelines to distribute to applicants when requested.

Mayor Padilla thanked the Committee for their work and contributions to the process. He stated he looks forward to the opportunity to disburse the funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT was provided by the following individual:

Benny Cochran spoke to the weed violation he received on his property that has been

corrected. He questioned why he could not be granted an administrative hearing in order to clear his violation history. He expressed concern with the stagnate stormwater on his property and asked the City for assistance with the problem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
Brenda Younger, City Clerk, provided an overview of the June 21, 2022, Governing Body Meeting agenda.

Bill Cochran, Interim City Manager, announced City of Topeka Administrative offices will be closed June 20, 2022, for the Juneteenth Holiday.

Councilmember Kell spoke to the importance of fathers and wished all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Councilmember Naeger announced the City of Topeka is donating 1,200 desktop computers to qualifying residents. She stated for more information call 785-368-3098 to prequalify or access information online at [www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org). She stated those that are interested in transforming a vacant lot into a community garden to contact the City of Topeka Planning Division or visit the City's website at [www.topeka.org/planning/community/garden](http://www.topeka.org/planning/community/garden). She recognized the Juneteenth Holiday and asked everyone to remember how far they have come and how far they still need to go as it relates to cultural awareness and importance.

Councilmember Duncan recognized Topeka Police Officers Charles Joseph Bohlender and Jeff William Howey who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2000. He encouraged residents to check on neighbors during the extreme hot weather.

Councilmember Hiller thanked City Staff and The Greater Topeka Partnership for their partnership in the Changing Our Culture of Property Maintenance Initiative. She stated she looks forward to the upcoming initiatives and the great changes in the community.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala recognized the celebration of the Juneteenth Holiday and opportunity to increase cultural awareness. She expressed the importance of fathers and wished everyone a Happy Father's Day. She thanked Karen A. Black, May 8 Consulting, Inc., for her expertise and contributions to the City of Topeka Changing Our Culture of Property Maintenance Initiative. She expressed her excitement for the initiatives and the hope it will generate to help move the city to a new level of culturalism.

Mayor Padilla invited all to attend the Juneteenth Holiday celebration on June 18, 2022, at the Hi-Crest Park; and wished all fathers a happy Father's Day. He cautioned against leaving children and pets in vehicles during the extreme hot weather.

Councilmember Duncan moved to recess into executive session for a period of time not to exceed 15 minutes to discuss matters related an individual employee, pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(1). To aid in the discussion, the following individuals were present: Members of the Governing Body; Interim City Manage and any other staff he deems necessary. No action was anticipated when the meeting resumed open session in the City Council Chambers. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dobler.

Mayor Padilla asked all those in favor of recessing into executive session to indicate so verbally by saying "yea" and those opposing to indicate so verbally by saying "no." After the voice vote occurred, Mayor Padilla announced the motion carried on voice vote. (8-0-0)

Following a 15-minute time period, the meeting reconvened into open session and Mayor Padilla announced no action was taken during the executive session.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

(SEAL)

---

Brenda Younger,  
City Clerk