

Governing Body Minutes – September 20, 2022

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, September 20, 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, Ortiz, Emerson, Kell and Dobler - 5; and Councilmembers Naeger and Duncan participated remotely -2. Mayor Padilla presided - 1. Absent: Councilmembers Valdivia-Alcala 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 by no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 20, 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 on or before September 20, 2022, for attachment to the meeting minutes.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Dobler provided the invocation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by meeting participants.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Beverly Hall to the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term ending September 30, 2025, was presented. (*Council District No. 7*)

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Karel Ramsey to the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term ending September 30, 2025, was presented. (*Council District No. 4*)

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of James Kaup to the Topeka

Planning Commission for a term ending September 30, 2025, was presented. (*Council District No. 9*)

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the reappointment of Greg Schwerdt to the Topeka-Shawnee County Riverfront Authority Board for a term ending September 30, 2025, was presented. (*Council District No. 7*)

ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT of Joe Cheray to the City of Topeka Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Council for a term ending September 30, 2024, was presented. (*Council District No. 9*)

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

CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

APPROVAL of a cereal malt license application for Fuel Espresso #53 located at 506 SW Topeka Boulevard, was presented.

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

APPROVAL of the funding recommendations by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council in the amount of \$590,000 for the 2023 Special Alcohol Fund was presented.

Don Crowder, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Council Chair, provided an overview of the process and grant funding recommendations.

Councilmember Dobler questioned how long it takes new programs to achieve grant funding eligibility.

Mr. Crowder reported there were two new programs that applied for funding, the Veterans Treatment Court which is an extension of the current Veterans Drug Court; and the Boys & Girls Club of Topeka SMART Moves. He stated excess funding was available from Shawnee County for

the Veteran's Treatment Program; however, no funds were available from the City of Topeka for either of the new programs. He reported the Advisory Council allowed each agency to submit a grant application and provide a presentation with the hope more funding becomes available, as both programs are worthy. He stated the Advisory Council plans to work with both agencies to help seek funding through other means as well as serve as a champion for the programs.

Councilmember Ortiz requested additional information on the Veterans Treatment Court and noted this is the first time she has heard about the program. She asked if a small percentage of the total amount of funding allocations, possibly 2%, could be allocated to the new programs.

Mr. Crowder reported the Advisory Council plans to make adjustments to the grant application and process as well as how funds are allocated next year. He stated the new process would be more open to accepting new programs, the expansion of existing programs, and make adjustments to the ineligibility notification process.

Councilmember Kell thanked the Advisory Council for considering changes to the process. He suggested the Advisory Council work with area youth for new ideas in developing policies.

Councilmember Emerson moved to approve funding recommendations by the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council in the amount of \$590,000 for the 2023 Special Alcohol Fund. The motion seconded by Councilmember Kell carried unanimously on roll call vote. (8-0-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT was provided by the following individual:

ShaMecha King Simms expressed the importance of the City being prepared to implement and support the new Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) position. She spoke to the difficulty of the task and commended the Governing Body for compensating the position. She expressed the importance of understanding that the process is never ending, and it will take 3 to 5 years before they will see the success of the efforts and policies starting to change.

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

Stephen Wade, City Manager, congratulated Adam Vaughn, Senior Financial Analyst, for receiving the NextGen Under30 Kansas Award. He also congratulated Joshua McAnarney and Adam Vaughn, Senior Financial Analysts, for receiving the KUCIMAT Award for Intern Excellence from Kansas University.

Councilmember Duncan commented on over populated animal shelters and encouraged animal owners to spay and neuter their pets. He announced a Policy and Finance Committee would be held on September 30, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Cyrus K. Holliday Building, located at 620 SE Madison Street, to continue discussion on ARPA funding applications.

Councilmember Hiller welcomed new City Manager Stephen Wade.

Councilmember Ortiz congratulated Joshua McAnarney and Adam Vaughn, Senior Financial Analysts, for being recognized for their professional accomplishments. She announced October is Fire Prevention Month and encouraged residents to check their smoke alarms.

Councilmember Emerson welcomed new City Manager Stephen Wade.

Councilmember Kell welcomed new City Manager Wade and thanked Chief of Staff Bill Cochran for his service during the interim. He thanked City Water Department employees for working through the overnight hours. He announced September 20 is National Care For Kids Day and encouraged those who are able to volunteer, coach or serve as a mentor for kids.

Councilmember Naeger welcomed new City Manager Stephen Wade and thanked Chief of Staff Bill Cochran for his work while serving as interim. She announced September 18-24, 2022, is Banned Books Week, an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. She challenged Governing Body members and citizens to consider reading books that are listed on the “Top 10 Most Challenged Books List,” available online at www.bannedbooksweek.org or visit the Topeka &

Shawnee County Public Library website at www.tscpl.org. She announced the first statewide Pride Festival would be held on September 24, 2022, and would include several events throughout the day which are listed online at www.pridejourneys.com.

Mayor Padilla welcomed new City Manager Stephen Wade and thanked Chief of Staff Bill Cochran for his service during the interim. He announced September 20 is National Voter Registration Day and reminded citizens the deadline to register to vote is October 18, 2022. He recognized National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 through October 15) and the Evergy Plaza Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on September 17, 2022. He thanked his parents for keeping him abreast of his Hispanic heritage, culture and pride.

Councilmember Kell moved to recess into executive session for a time period not to exceed 15 minutes to discuss employer/employee negotiations relating to multiple unions including but not limited to AFSCME Development Services as authorized by KSA 75-4319(b)(3). The following staff assisted the Governing Body in its deliberations: City Manager Stephen Wade and any other staff he deemed necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Emerson.

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 unanimously 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 6:36 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger City Clerk