

Governing Body Minutes – May 2, 2023

CYRUS K. HOLLIDAY BUILDING, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, May 2, 2023. 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, Emerson, Kell, Duncan, Dobler, and Hoferer -7. Councilmembers Ortiz and Naeger participated remotely -2. Mayor Padilla presided -1.

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 May 2, 2023, 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 May 2, 2023, 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.

A PRESENTATION on the Shawnee County Nurse Navigation Program was presented by Jon Antrim, American Medical Response (AMR) Regional Director.

Councilmember Kell asked for clarification on the severity of what would be considered an emergent call requiring immediate Advanced Life Support (ALS) response; and if a partnership with the Topeka Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA) had been established.

In response, Jon Antrim reported that depending on the severity of the call there is an immediate response back to the Fire Department ALS, the local emergent response team. He stated the VA was not currently utilizing the Shawnee County Nurse Navigation Program, however, they could pursue a partnership if there was interest in services.

Councilmember Emerson thanked Mr. Antrim for the informative presentation.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she was pleased the program has started after many discussions and she looks forward to its success.

Councilmember Hiller questioned the immediate transportation options for patients.

Jon Antrim reported there are alternative transportation options including Lyft, ALS emergent response team, scheduled Basic Life Support (BLS), and AMR depending on the emergent level.

Mayor Padilla thanked Jon Antrim for the presentation and stated it is a welcome service for the community.

CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 9403 introduced by Councilmember Christina Valdivia-Alcala, approving a special event known as the Kaw Valley Bank NOTO Party, was presented. (*Council District NO. 2*)

RESOLUTION NO. 9404 introduced by Councilmember Christina Valdivia-Alcala granting Kaw Valley Bank an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150. et seq. concerning noise prohibitions, was presented. (*Council District NO. 2*)

RESOLUTION NO. 9405 introduced by Councilmember Christina Valdivia-Alcala, approving a special event known as the Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Parish Germanfest 2023, was presented. (*Council District NO. 2*)

RESOLUTION NO. 9406 introduced by Councilmember Christina Valdivia-Alcala, granting Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Parish an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions, was presented. (*Council District NO. 2*)

APPROVAL of a Professional Engineering Design CONTRACT NO. 51274 Amendment between the City of Topeka and SBB Engineering, LLC, in the amount of \$56,570.00 for the purpose of providing engineering design services on intersection improvements at N Kansas Ave and Gordon Street, T-601121.01, was presented.

APPROVAL of a Professional Consulting CONTRACT NO. 51275 between the City of Topeka and Woolpert, Inc., in the amount of \$56,145 for the purpose of providing technical consultant services for the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Public Works Technical Support Group, was presented.

APPROVAL of Letter of Understanding Contract NO. 51279 between the City of Topeka and AFSCME-Development Services Division, was presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 20422 introduced by City Manager Stephen Wade, allowing and approving City expenditures for the period February 25, 2023 to March 31, 2023 and enumerating said expenditures therein, was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of April 18, 2023, was presented.

Councilmember Dobler moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala carried unanimously on roll call vote.

(10-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9407 introduced by City Manager Stephen Wade, setting the public hearing to consider the advisability of establishing a Community Improvement District (CID) at

the corner of SW 32nd Terrace and SW Topeka Boulevard pursuant to K.S.A.12-6a26 et seq., was presented.

Steve Wade, City Manager, reported the public hearing was the first step in considering the establishment of a Community Improvement District (CID) in the area of SW 32nd Terrace and Topeka Boulevard. He noted the proposed hearing would be held on June 6, 2023.

Councilmember Duncan expressed concern with the area already being included in the South Topeka TIF District; therefore, he will oppose establishing the CID generating more cost to taxpayers. He spoke in opposition of a 2% CID in general and noted, the percentage will only increase in future years as the City receives more applications.

Councilmember Emerson moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Dobler carried on roll call vote. Councilmembers Valdivia-Alcala, Kell and Duncan voted “NO.” (7-3-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9408 introduced by City Manager Stephen Wade, setting the public hearing for consideration of the adoption of the South Topeka Tax Increment Financing District Project Plan (911 Walnut, Inc.) at the corner of SW 32nd Terrace and SW Topeka Boulevard in the South Topeka Redevelopment District, was presented.

Stephen Wade, City Manager, stated 911 Walnut Inc., is proposing a project plan in the South Topeka Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District that was established in October 2022. He stated the public hearing was the first step in the process of adopting a project plan and would be held on June 6, 2023 in conjunction with the public hearing for the establishment of a CID.

Councilmember Duncan moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Kell carried on roll call vote. Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala voted “NO.”

(9-1-0)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Stephen M. Wade amending the "District Map" referred to and amend a part of the Zoning Ordinances by Section 18.50.050 of the Topeka Municipal Code on property located east of NW Rochester Road approximately 300 feet south of Walnut Lane from "R-1" Single Family Dwelling District to "PUD" Planned Unit Development with "M-2" Multiple Family Dwelling District uses to allow for multifamily residential duplexes and 4-plexes on approximately 7.2 acres, was presented. *(PUD 23/02)*
(Council District NO. 2)

Stephen Wade, City Manager, reported the request was for a housing development located on NW Rochester Road and recommendations have been made by the Topeka Planning Commission and Staff.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if a protest petition was filed and if so, why are area neighbors protesting the request.

Dan Warner, Planning Division Director, stated the protest petition was a standard part of the zoning application and the neighbors are not in favor of the project.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if this was the only reason for the protest petition being filed or if a safety issue was involved.

Amanda Stanley, City Attorney, reported the protest petition along with detailed public comment received at the Planning Commission level was included in the agenda packet.

Councilmember Hoferer asked if the idea of installing turn lanes as part of the development to alleviate some of the traffic congestion was considered. She also asked if the property will need to be platted and if so, as part of the plat will elevations and/or more specifics be included on how the buildings will look to help the neighbors better understand if the

development will fit the character of the neighborhood. She questioned why the existing height of the buildings was increased.

Director Warner reported turning lanes were not a recommendation from the traffic engineers and essentially, a traffic impact study was not required. He confirmed the property will need to be platted before the applicant can move forward with the development. He stated included with the zoning application are building plans, proposed elevations as it relates to concept development plans and the noted of the PUD. He mentioned the PUD controls the design to some extent and reported, the buildings should be in substantial conformance with the design plans including notes related to roof lines and modulated building facades etc. He stated the height of the building increased because the existing “R-1” single family zoning allows for a maximum height of 42 feet and the requested PUD has a base rezoning of “M-2” allowing for a maximum height of 50 feet.

Councilmember Dobler referenced the many factors identified in the case of *Golden v. City of Overland Park* that must be considered when making a decision and asked why the applicant did not request an “R-1” zoning designation, the same zoning and use of surrounding properties. He asked what would prohibit the applicant from utilizing single family zoning.

Director Warner reported the “R-1” zoning was considered suitable; however, the proposed zoning designation was based on the potential shape of the parcel and the limited existing access to the parcel presenting challenges with the property.

Councilmember Dobler asked if the developer could extend NW Sproaton Lane through the proposed parcel and mimic the area platted to the north. He noted the developer would have control of the property required for right-of-way dedication.

Director Warner confirmed if developed as single-family housing, the option as stated by Councilmember Dobler would be possible.

Councilmember Hiller stated it was her understanding the property was initially set to accommodate 40 single-family homes and the proposed request was for 30 duplex units. She asked Staff to speak to the concerns expressed by area neighbors relating to current flooding and the volume of traffic on NW Rochester Road. She inquired if Staff decided not to conduct a traffic study because it was their belief the current capacity could accommodate the volume of traffic.

Director Warner reported the previous zoning case for the property was multi-family with up to 48 units; however, the proposal being considered by the Governing Body consists of duplex and quad buildings with a total of 30 units. He stated a traffic study was not required because the anticipated daily volume of traffic was not at a high enough level to warrant a study and further, the volume of traffic for the development was a small percentage of the overall traffic volume on NW Rochester Road. He stated in reference to flooding, the property was not located in a flood plain and is protected by the Soldier Creek Flood Levee.

Councilmember Kell spoke to the need of conducting a traffic study to ensure there will be adequate off-street parking and eliminate the proposed double sided street parking to ensure easy access for emergency services.

Director Warner stated the applicant was required to have an adequate number of off-street parking spaces per unit; and he was not aware of emergency service access issues being dealt with through the Planning application process. He noted he was not sure if this issue would be consider traffic study criteria.

City Manager Wade stated Staff would review emergency service access with a broader scope.

Councilmember Duncan referenced some of the concerns raised in the protest petition that are a result of growth, and he commended Staff for addressing the flooding issues. However, the concerns surrounding long-term traffic flow seem valid due to the current size of NW Rochester Road. He stated he would support conducting a traffic study and an emergency services analysis as it relates to the proposed development as it would provide the City a long-term approach for the entire area. He stated he would support remanding back to the Planning Commission for the purpose of considering the need for a traffic study.

Councilmember Dobler asked if the development were to mimic the area directly to the north he believes it would allow for an additional 14-15 single family homes and fit the character of the neighborhood.

City Attorney Stanley confirmed if the proposed development looks and feels like the neighborhood being described then it would fit the character of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala referenced the criteria identified in the case of *Golden v. City of Overland Park* to be considered when making a decision on the zoning case. She asked Staff if they ensure all criteria is met or is the criteria only a decision making tool to be used by the Governing Body. She reported she believes there is a number of criteria not being met based on driving the area numerous times while considering the side streets, Menninger Road and NW Rochester Road as well as the area where the development will take place.

Councilmember Kell asked if any of the properties would be impacted as it relates to sewer improvements.

Director Warner stated all *Golden* criteria was addressed in the Staff Report. He reported an extension of the sewer from the east will be required to serve the development; and none of the surrounding property owners will be impacted.

Councilmember Hoferer asked if there are any future capital improvement plans to widen or improve NW Rochester Road. She also asked if the applicate would be required to build senior housing as stated; and if the applicant would be required to raise the base of the homes elevation for drainage purposes and the safety of the tenants in the event of flooding.

Braxton Copley, Public Works Director, reported there were no plans currently in the CIP to improve or expand that section of NW Rochester Road.

Director Warner stated the City cannot require the applicant to construct senior housing and if the development is approved, the applicant will submit a subdivision plat that will require submittal of a storm water drainage report. He noted, because the property is not located in a floodplain he was not aware of any elevation requirements for the structures.

Councilmember Hiller acknowledged the probing questions asked by Governing Body members; however, she wants to remain respectful of the recommendation made by Staff as well as the work of the Planning Commission. She stated it seems the proposed development was in-line with the adopted Long Range Land Use & Growth Management Plan and its suggestion to consider constructing lower density housing which is also called out in the Topeka Housing Study. She noted it was not uncommon in newer developments to mix single-family and multi-family uses.

Director Warner confirmed the City's housing study does identify a need in the community for "missing middle" housing which is considered 2 to 20 housing units. He acknowledged that similar type developments are taking place in various locations of the city

addressing housing needs. He reported in reference to the Land Use Plan, single-family and multi-family dwellings are often times located side by side and used as transition elements.

Councilmember Hiller noted in-fill housing is also considered a priority in the Land Use Plan by taking advantage of spaces that have not been developed.

Mayor Padilla stated prior to proceeding with the vote, each member of the Governing Body who has engaged in ex parte communication with any individual either in favor of, or against, the matter being considered, must state that the communication occurred and indicate that even in light of having engaged in the communication they were able to fairly, objectively, and impartially consider the measure based only upon the evidence provided on the record. The record includes the Staff Report, Commission Minutes, the Testimony provided at the March Planning Commission Public Hearing or similar relevant information related to the matter. He outlined the following voting options:

1. Adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone the property. A minimum of 8 votes is necessary.
2. Amend the Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone. A minimum of 8 votes of is necessary.
3. Reject the Planning Commission's recommendation (deny rezoning). A minimum of 7 votes is necessary.
4. Remand to the Planning Commission with a statement specifying the basis for the body's failure to approve or disapprove the recommendation. A minimum of 6 votes is necessary. The Planning Commission will consider the statement at its next meeting and will resubmit its original recommendation or submit a new or amended recommendation for review by the Governing Body.

Ex parte communication was declared by all Governing Body members.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated in reference to the criteria outlined in the *Golden v. City of Overland Park* case she sees there are a number of issues related to the rezoning. She spoke to the many concerns raised by Governing Body members as well as outlined in the agenda packet by neighborhood residents. She reminded Governing Body members there are no

enhancements scheduled for NW Rochester Road or surrounding side streets to address congested traffic flow; they need to consider the elderly and how it will change the character of the neighborhood; there seems to be a need for a traffic study; there is a need to acknowledge and address potential flooding issues as well as pedestrian safety issues related to the lack of sidewalks. She recommended the Governing Body deny the rezoning request.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala moved to reject the Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons she previously stated. The motion seconded by Councilmember Dobler failed. Councilmembers Hiller, Ortiz, Emerson, Kell, Duncan and Mayor Padilla voted "NO." (4-6-0)

Councilmember Kell moved to remand to the Planning Commission to consider if a traffic study is warranted before moving forward with the plat. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Emerson.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala expressed concern with the results of the traffic study being in favor of the City due to the recommendation to approve the rezoning made by City Staff and the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Duncan asked if the Governing Body would have the opportunity to consider the request again after the Planning Commission; and if the protest petition will carry through the process.

City Attorney Stanley stated if rejected by the Governing Body it could also be rejected by the Planning Commission; however, if the action of the Body is to remand to the Planning Commission and then approved, the zoning item will return to the Governing Body for consideration. She noted the protest petition could only be used at this time; however, at the discretion of the Governing Body they could require a more strict voting option.

Councilmember Dobler stated he believes they should also require a connection to NW Sproaton Lane in order to provide dual entry of the subdivision as well as the Planning Commission take a closer look at reviewing the charter of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Dobler made a substitute motion to remand back to the Planning Commission for the purpose of reviewing the character of the neighborhood, connection to NW Sproaton Lane and the need for a traffic study. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kell.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if the substitute motion covers the concerns expressed by Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she expressed concern with traffic flow, character of the neighborhood, flooding issues and the possibility of using the development for rental property.

Councilmember Dobler made a friendly amendment to add the review of drainage issues to his substitute motion. The second concurred.

Councilmember Hiller stated she felt compelled to speak to the “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) characterization as it relates to the negative comments made by residents about the development. She cautioned against discouraging much needed development and disregarding the work of the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala stated she disagrees with the statement made by Councilmember Hiller and believes this was not a case of NIMBY but instead, a case of concerted fears that have been discussed. She reiterated that District NO. 2 continues to deal with a multitude of unsheltered and homeless encampment issues.

The substitute motion to remand back to the Planning Commission for the purpose of reviewing the character of the neighborhood, the connection to NW Sproaton Lane, the need for a traffic study, and review drainage issues carried on roll call vote. Councilmembers Valdivia-Alcala and Ortiz voted “NO.” (8-2-0)

DISCUSSION concerning establishment of the Topeka Land Bank Pilot Program and Administration Policy Guidelines. *(Continued from the April 11, 2023 Governing Body meeting.)*

Councilmember Duncan stated he intends to present the ordinance for action at the May 16, 2023 Governing Body meeting. He distributed the following proposed amendments to the City Clerk and noted, the changes were minor but also address specific concerns.

- Clarifying/stronger language that makes it clear these properties will not be sold or given to any for-profit landlords
- Keep the Board of Trustees at 5 members, but with the following clarifications:
 - Make one of the Board of Trustees a designate specifically a neighborhood delegate, appointed by the Council
 - Make one of the Board of Trustees a staff member, designated by the City Manager
 - Make one of the Board of Trustees a City Council member, designated by the City Council (for the pilot period only)
- Include a provision that gives the City Manager authority to veto a purchase or sale recommendation.
- Add the following to the Goals section:
 - Follow Topeka's Master Planning and Development Guidelines and Priorities
 - If available, other programs or program funds should be used to address an issue with a property before being accepted by the program

Councilmember Kell questioned if duplexes would be sold as units to offer multi-family living.

Councilmember Duncan stated currently the program is structured to allow for duplexes and duplexes would not be disqualified from being included in the Land Bank.

DISCUSSION regarding the proposed 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

and 2024-2026 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). *(Continued from the meeting of April 18, 2023.)*

Freddy Mawyin, Chief Financial Officer, stated all Supplement documents addressing questions from Governing Body members would be posted on the City's website as they continue discussion in upcoming weeks. He also stated the approval timeline has been revised to include continued discussions over the next several weeks with the intent to approve the proposed CIP and CIB on June 16, 2023.

Steve Wade, City Manager, highlighted following target areas for the East Topeka Master Plan improving resident mobility and attracting new growth. The following projects are new to the proposed CIP:

- SE 21st Street and SE Rice Road
- SE 45th Street and SE Croco Road
- SE 6th Street and K4 Highway
- SE 29th Street and SE California Avenue
- The Elevation Parkway project: SW 37th Street and Gage Boulevard to approximately SW 37th Street and SW Fairlawn Avenue.

Braxton Copley, Public Works Director, highlighted the following new projects being proposed in the CIP:

- NE Kansas Avenue and NE Gordon Street Intersection supporting reduction of speed and promoting pedestrian safety
- SW Topeka Boulevard and SW 45th Street Intersection improved turn lane and traffic signal

Councilmember Kell questioned if there has been communication with the Shawnee Heights School District regarding expansion plans.

City Manager Wade stated as they work to complete the Best Use Study the Shawnee Heights School District will be part of the consideration during the evaluation.

Councilmember Hoferer inquired on the detail of the Elevation Parkway Master Plan Phases and cash funding.

Director Copley reported the Elevation Parkway is in the early stages and Staff will seek support of the Governing Body at the completion of each task as well as Staff will be seeking crucial information from the Best Use Study.

Councilmember Hiller asked Staff if the developer will cover the cost of the Elevation Parkway and questioned the \$15.7 million cost expectation.

City Manager Wade, stated there will be no advance discussions until the Best Use Study was complete and the \$15.7 million was a percentage of the total \$22 million cost. He noted the next project highlights have been approved by the Governing Body and will not include increased costs due to inflation.

Director Copley noted that each CIP project has been reviewed by Staff to ensure a defensible inflation costs have been included. He highlighted the following Street projects:

- SW Topeka Boulevard and SW 21st Street Intersection
- SE 29th Street Bridge over Butcher Creek
- SE Quincy from 8th to 10th Street
- SW Topeka Boulevard from SW 21st to 29th Streets
- SW Fairlawn from 22nd Park to 28th Street
- SE 29th Street from Kansas Avenue to Adams Street
- SW 29th Street from Burlingame Road to Topeka Boulevard
- SW Wanamaker/Huntoon/I-470 Ramps
- SW Huntoon from Urish Road to Executive Drive
- SW Topeka Boulevard from 29th to 38th Streets
- South Kansas Avenue from 10th to 17th Streets
- SW Huntoon Street from Gage Boulevard to Harrison Street
- SW Topeka Boulevard from 38th to 49th Streets

Sylvia Davis, Utilities Director, highlighted the following Utility projects:

- North Topeka Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- West Plant Basin Rehabilitation \$17.05 million
- Chemical Building Rehabilitation \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million
- Central Zone Improvements & Optimizations Phase 11 \$7.6 million
- East Plant Basin Rehabilitation \$6.4 million to \$8.6 million
- West Intake Rehabilitation \$5.1 million to \$6.79 million
- Shunga creek Flood Mitigation \$1 million to \$1.1 million
- Water Treatment Plant: East Intake Rehabilitation \$3.9 million to \$5.2 million
- West Filter Rehabilitation \$3.8 million to \$5.1 million

Councilmember Hiller inquired on the Shunga Creek Flood Study as it relates to the flood risk of the Valley Park Neighborhood.

Councilmember Dobler questioned future plans for flooding mitigation inside city limits from Wannamaker Road and extending through the entire Shunga Creek area.

City Manager Wade clarified that each of the utility projects highlighted will not have an impact on recently approved utility rates as all projects have been previously approved by the Governing Body and were also part of the recent utility rate considerations.

Councilmember Hiller questioned the City's management approach to the Utility projects and if there are plans to use any leftover funding for other projects or needs.

Utilities Director Davis reported she would provide more information on flood mitigation efforts. She stated the increased funding was strictly due to inflation not changes to project scopes; and in regards to projects finishing under budget, all funds will be accounted for and approved by the Governing Body for future needs.

Councilmember Dobler spoke to overall funding sources and the importance of calculating future debt service in the General Fund as it relates to utility rate increases as well as increasing revenue and general obligation bonding averages.

City Manager Wade reported they have been carefully tracking debt service and noted the revenue bonds have been trending down.

Councilmember Dobler requested an update on Countywide Sales Tax projects.

Councilmember Ortiz commended Utilities Director Davis for her work. She encouraged Governing Body members to tour the Water Pollution Control plants to truly understand the need.

Mayor Padilla commended Utilities Director Davis, Public Works Director Copley and Staff for their hard work and great presentations.

Councilmember Hiller commended Chief Financial Officer Mawyin and Adam Vaughn, Budget Manager, for their work on the CIP.

PUBLIC COMMENT was provided by the following individual:

William Brandlin spoke in opposition of the rezoning request by Eugene & Paramore (PUD 23/02 – Agenda Item 4C) and noted, 100% of the residents are opposed to the development. He stated he believes it will drive down area property values and the character of the neighborhood. He spoke to the drainage issues on the west, east and south of the proposed parcel and noted he believes it should be included as part of the floodplain. He expressed his concern with the drastic increases to the traffic flow as it relates to the need for street improvements and conducting a traffic study. He asked the Governing Body to consider this request as if it was in their back yard.

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

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, provided an overview of the May 9, 2023, Governing Body agenda.

Steve Wade, City Manager, reported on May 4, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the City Of Topeka will host an Open

House to provide information on the shared utility relocation plans for the Polk-Quincy Viaduct Project.

Councilmember Duncan reported there is finally a redevelopment plan in place for the Menninger Clock Tower and commended the City for investing \$400,000 to assist with the infrastructure. He announced he would be hosting District 8 “Open Office Hours” on May 6, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Center, located at 2114 SW Chelsea Drive, Topeka. He stated he attended the 2023 Small Business Awards on May 2, 2023, at the Townsite Ballroom and commended the many small businesses that have impacted the city of Topeka.

Councilmember Hiller announced the unveiling of the Teresa Veuvas statue on May 5, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Evergy Plaza in downtown Topeka. She expressed her appreciation of the accomplishments of Emily Cowan regarding the redevelopment of the Menninger Clock Tower.

Councilmember Valdivia-Alcala announced the Fiesta Royalty food sales for the queen candidates would be held through the month of May at the Balandran Activity Center, located at 224 NE Branner Street, Topeka. She spoke to the hate crime displayed as graffiti on the new bus located at God’s House Church, located at 1616 NE Seward Avenue, Topeka. She thanked City Manager Wade and Police Chief Wheelles for being proactive in this problematic situation. She stated she would provide more information on how to donate to the church after speaking with Pastor Odum. She attended the Historic North Topeka West Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA) and commended the NIA for their efforts in creating a community garden.

Councilmember Ortiz announced the 10-year Anniversary of the Kids Ride Free with the Topeka Metro Summer program from May 15 – August 15, 2023 for ages 18 and under. She

spoke to the importance of the Topeka Way to Work Program and asked Governing Body members to donate neck ties for the program next year. She thanked Staff for their assistance with the program and asked City Manager Wade to allocate more funds to the program in 2024.

Councilmember Emerson offered his condolences to the Fred Martinez family.

Councilmember Kell encouraged citizens to donate their gently used items to area organizations to be repurposed. He announced beginning May 9, 2023 City Council meetings will resume being held in the City Council Chambers located at 214 SE 8th Street, 2nd Floor, Topeka.

Councilmember Naeger recognized May as Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and spoke to the importance of supporting the multi-faceted Topeka Community.

Councilmember Hoferer thanked the many City of Topeka employees for their hard work in cleaning the area of SE 37th Street and SE Kansas Avenue on April 21, 2023.

Mayor Padilla recognized City of Topeka employees for their hard work on the cleanup and expressed his appreciation for collaboration on April 21, 2023. He thanked Staff for their assistance with the Topeka Way to Work program. He thanked Steve Cadue for the gift of an apple tree on April 22, 2023 while attending the We Are the Keepers of Earth Day celebration.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger City Clerk