



From City Council meeting . . . to Business Council MEMBERS ONLY

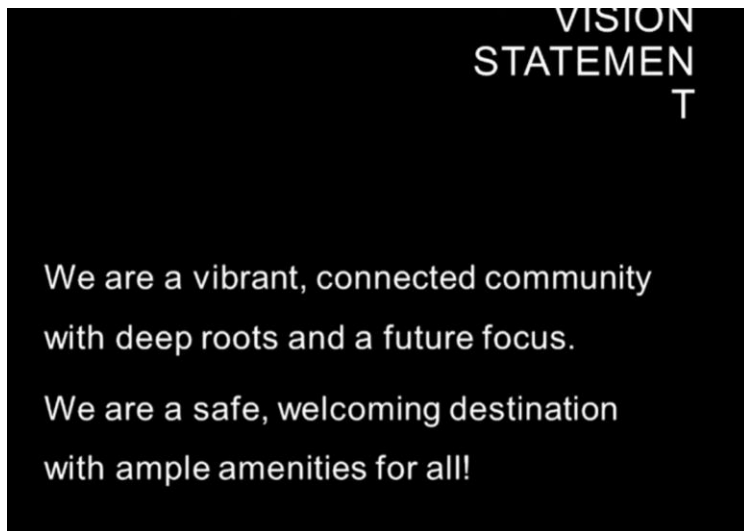
Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
January 17, 2023

Note: As a reminder, the notes below represent topics that, in my judgement, might be of interest to the business community. It does not include everything that was on the agenda.

Work Session/Special Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Strategic Plan Update

The purpose of this Special Session was to view and discuss a presentation by Deputy City Administrator Kim Nakahodo about progress toward goals established in the City Council’s strategic plan. See below for slides from that presentation.



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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #1 Use Tax	Research, develop and bring forward a strategy for the Governing Body to consider placing a Use Tax question on a NKC Ballot.	Discussions have occurred with staff.	On Hold. Need to Discuss Timelines with City Council.
Goal #2 Implement Parks & Recreation Sales Tax	Research, develop and bring forward a strategy for the Governing Body and the Parks & Recreation Board to consider placing a Parks Sales Tax question on a NKC Ballot.	A quarter-cent Parks & Recreation sales tax question will be on the April 2023 ballot.	In Progress
Goal #3 Remove Ongoing Expenses from the Gaming Fund	Through the budget process, identify and propose ways to remove ongoing expenses from the Gaming Fund.	The FY 2023 Budget process will begin in April 2022.	In Progress
Goal #4 Consider Debt Issuance for Major Projects	As part of the upcoming Stormwater, Sewer and Water Master Plan development process, where appropriate, research, develop and bring forward debt issuance options for major capital projects.	Master Plans are in progress, which will provide needed information on future capital needs and costs.	In Progress

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COMMUNITY WORKS

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #1 River Forest Park	Research, develop and bring forward a strategy for the Governing Body and the Parks & Recreation Board to develop River Forest Park.	Feasibility Study completed in 2022. Consultant on contract for design and construction phases on tonight's Agenda.	Complete!
Goal #2 Implement Complete Streets, Including Levee Trails	Complete the Armour Road Complete Street Plan.	This project is in the final stages of completion.	95% Complete
Goal #2 Implement Complete Streets, Including Levee Trails	Continue to implement the Bike Master Plan.	An East/West concept study was completed. Two planning grants for Levee Trails were awarded by MARC. Those are in the beginning stages. A concept study is underway for the Diamond to 14th Ave connector. The Armour Complete Streets project incorporated protected bicycle lanes and enhanced markings for bicycle infrastructure.	In Progress

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #1 Improve and Sustain LiNKCity	The City's operating and maintenance agreement with NOCIX expires in September 2024. Develop a strategy to sustain operations and maintenance of the City's fiber optic network.	This is dependent on the fiber technology audit, which is in progress.	To Do/In Progress
Goal #2 Replace NKC vehicles with hybrid/electric vehicles to work toward a "Green Fleet"	Create a strategy to present to the Governing Body on how to transition the City's current fleet to a 'Green Fleet'.	Three electric vehicles were budgeted for 2023. Additionally, the Police Department's 2023 vehicle purchase includes hybrid patrol vehicles.	In Progress
Goal #3 Complete a Fiber Technology Audit	Conduct an infrastructure audit of the LiNKCity network and provide the City Council with the results.	We are in the progress of obtaining the current inventory of our system from KC Fiber. As soon as that is received, we will begin the RFQ process.	In Progress

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #4 Remove Crosswalks that Lead Nowhere	Conduct an audit of the City's sidewalks and present findings to the City Council. Suggest any sidewalk removals or additions for Council consideration.	Staff have documented locations needing correction and are working to remove them. Additionally, funds were budgeted for 2023 to complete an audit of city streets, curbs & gutters, and sidewalks.	In Progress
Goal #5 Audit the City's Stormwater, Sanitary Sewer, and Water Systems	Over the next three years (FY 2022, 2023, and 2024), conduct a study of the City's three main infrastructure systems and report to the City Council on their findings and recommendations.	The Stormwater Master Plan is in progress. RFP's for Water & Wastewater are in progress and should be issued by March of 2023.	In Progress

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #1 Incent Redevelopment, Especially Industrial Areas, and Affordable Housing	Work with the Governing Body to amend the City's Incentive Policy to align with these goals.	This policy was amended regarding abatement percentages and terms of abatement. Staff continues to work on the rest of the policy.	In Progress
Goal #2 Develop housing repair and maintenance programs	Create and present a Home Repair and Modification Program to be considered by the City Council.	The City Council approved this project in the FY 2022 & 2023 Budget. Staff has executed agreements with NNK & Rebuilding Together KC. The program has proved to be an asset.	Completed/On Going
Goal #3 Offer Sidewalk Dining/Parklet Permits	Present City Code modifications to allow for a permanent expansion of the sidewalk dining and parklet permit programs.	This project was on hold due to the Downtown Streetscape project. Staff will be bringing forward items for discussion at a Work Session.	In Progress

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #4 Resolve High School Parking/General Parking	Work with the School District to resolve street parking issues.	The School District amped up its communication with students and staff on parking in the student parking lot. Additionally, parking spots in front of the library were designated as two-hour parking for the benefit of Library patrons. This strategy seems to be effective from the last conversation with the School District staff.	In Progress
Goal #5 Develop Small Business Grant Program	Develop and present a small business grant program to be considered by the City Council.	This project is on hold due to staff availability and capacity.	On Hold

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ENGAGED ORGANIZATION

Goal	Action Steps	Update	Status
Goal #1 Provide Competitive Compensation and Benefits Package with Policies that Support Individuals and Families	Conduct a compensation study and report findings to the City Council.	The compensation study was completed, approved, and implemented on January 1, 2023.	Complete
Goal #1 Provide Competitive Compensation and Benefits Package with Policies that Support Individuals and Families	Review the City's benefits package on an annual basis to ensure we are competitive with surrounding municipalities.	A review was completed by the City's benefits consultant during the summer of 2022, and will continue on an annual basis.	Complete/On Going
Goal #2 Expand Educational Assistance/Reimbursement	Research current use of educational assistance program. Suggest any expansion of the current program for budget consideration.	This program is well used and was incorporated into the 2023 Budget. It will be reviewed annually during the budget process.	Complete
Goal #3 Implement Paid Family-Leave Policy	Create a policy to allow for paid family-leave.	This new policy was adopted by the City Council in 2021.	Complete

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

- Make plans for ARPA funds
- Explore development or land use options of vacant city-owned property
- Identify other revenue sources
- Integrate strategic planning with budgeting (done)
- Implement interactive online budget tool (done)
- Create long-range financial plan (in process)
- Build out a transparency portal and project portal (done)
- Update financial policies i.e., fund balance (in process)
- Consider financial aspects of incentives (in process)
- Use financial incentives to direct public benefits (discussion coming soon)
- Implement more streamlined water billing system (in process)
- Re-examine all permit fees i.e., cost recovery, excise fees (discussion coming soon)
- Accomplish self-sufficiency with Water & Sewer rates (in process)

Theater mode (t)

Following are some items for further consideration:

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Develop native plant/tree policy
- Consider heat island effect
- Upgrade pedestrian infrastructure i.e., sidewalk width and gaps
- Implement open data plan/standardization
- Overhaul and update GIS
- Improve sidewalks in Ward IV
- Develop facilities management/maintenance plan
- Decorate sidewalks
- Parking meters downtown
- Levee District coordination

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Develop business marketing program
- Complete the downtown streetscape project (done!)
- Support continued implementation of Burlington/Armour Complete Street (in process)
- Continue relationship with NKCBC, Clay Co EDC, River North, etc. (in process)
- Increase residential owner-occupant opportunities
- Continue to support public art
- YMCA/LinkCity contracts
- Connect bike lanes to Ward IV
- Acquire key properties that are vacant and/or underutilized
- Support streetcar
- Work with KCATA to expand BRT and bus routes in NKC
- Grocery store
- Develop pocket parks
- Propose NKC/NNI home ownership partnership

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ENGAGED ORGANIZATION

- Aggressively recruit for Boards and Commissions (ongoing)
- Recruit for diversity in all levels of government (in process)
- Develop effective communication methods for stakeholders (ongoing)
- Offer organizational development training
- Encourage a culture that fosters inclusiveness and open communication
- Offer progressive employee policies
- Improve internal communications and employee engagement
- Implement employee spotlight (ongoing)
- Create a citizen's academy (done!)
- Create a youth council
- Organize post-COVID employee banquet (in process)
- Create employee days for engagement
- Provide dinner for late work sessions
- Implement succession planning
- Find funding for specialized training

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Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public

Kellen Mumm, VP with Chicken N Pickle, commented that the plan for the new Genesis Fitness Center in One North apparently includes indoor and outdoor pickleball courts. He stated that these features were not previously discussed when the Genesis project was discussed and will have a detrimental impact on other businesses in the downtown district which have been established and enhanced in recent years, bringing excellent recognition to North Kansas City.

Agenda Items

Amendment for Services for Proposed River Forest Park

City Councilman Wes Graves commented critically about what he considered excessive costs of pre-construction engineering services purchased for projects like the proposed River Forest Park. The agenda item specified \$175,560 for services to be provided by SWT Design. Other City Council members commented that these studies provide a form of due diligence to make sure projects are feasible and will be properly constructed. The amendment was approved.

Proposed Ballot Issue: Sales Tax on Recreational Marijuana

City Council opted to defer this to be considered for a Fall 2023 election so that the only tax issue on the April ballot will be for the proposed Parks and Recreation tax.

The full agenda for this meeting with links to critical documents is available on the City's website www.nkc.org under the heading of Agendas and Minutes. As always, additional details about City Council agenda topics are often available as attachments on the City's website www.nkc.org and later as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-6WpmTG2Ss> part of the approved minutes.