



From Virtual City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
January 18, 2022

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.

Special Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting Location

There was a brief discussion about how City Council meetings should be held during the current Covid upswing. There was a late decision to make this evening's meetings virtual only meetings. City Council representatives said this was the right thing to do but that in the future they need to be flexible but make a decision by the Friday before whether to be virtual or in-person.

Review of Draft of Strategic Plan Update

Interim City Administrator Kim Nakahodo explained the background from the August 20-21 strategic planning retreat to update strategic plan for the next five years. A draft presentation of conclusions from that retreat was explained.

City Council representatives then offered their opinions about any key goals that may have been overlooked. There was a commitment by City staff to integrate strategic goals into the 2022-23 budget in a visible way.

City Councilman Jesse Smith thought something important was missing about being open to incentives for existing businesses which are an important part of City's tax base and employment base. He expressed the belief that there should be something in the plan that clearly recognizes the importance of businesses.

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Topics

Design Services for I-29 Shared Use Path

Approval was given to fund design services for an off-street shared use (bicycle and pedestrian) path connecting Diamond Parkway/16th Avenue to the eastern terminus of 14th Avenue underneath Interstate 29/35. This connection is a critical part of the recommended network because it provides a highly needed interstate crossing while diverting cyclists away from the 16th Avenue truck route and the 16th Avenue and

Interstate 29/35 interchange or going under I-29/35 along the heavily traffic and lane restricted Armour Road corridor.

Burlington Complete Street, Engineering Services for Phases 2 & 3

Approval was given to provide funding for design of improvements in Phases 2 and 3 of the Burlington Complete Street project. This work includes preliminary and final plans for the medians and the west side of the corridor from 10th Avenue to 32nd Avenue, including sidewalks, landscaping, curb bump outs, improved bus stops, and lighting.

Olsson’s services will include coordinating with the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, and utility companies; community engagement including public open houses; and assistance with bidding. The work associated with this task order is expected to be complete by January 2024. This schedule conforms with the City’s capital planning, as construction of this project is budgeted to occur in Fiscal Year 2024. Phase 3 (west side of Burlington) improvements will be supported by \$6,030,000 in Federal Surface Transportation fund.

Sidewalk Eating and Alcohol Consumption Licenses

After considerable discussion this proposal was tabled to enable staff to re-construct these amendments to be responsive to points raised during discussion. Provisions covered include an increased fee, requirement for fence or barrier and declaration whether there will be amplified music. City Councilman Adam Roberts brought up the issue of a lower fee for businesses that have very limited sidewalk space. City Council Jesse Smith encouraged keeping the fee low to encourage businesses to do this if it helps their business viability. He and City Councilman Zach Clevenger both encouraged temporary rather than permanent barriers.

Covid-19 Report from Dr. Reintjes at North Kansas City Hospital

The most recent report reflects a significant increase in Covid cases, patients in ICU and patients on ventilator at North Kansas City Hospital in recent weeks..

	Jan 12	Dec 15	Dec 6	Nov 8	Oct 27	Oct 13	Sep 29
Total Active COVID cases:	102	90	68	20	14	26	35
Total recovering COVID cases:	17	16	13	16	18	21	19
Total COVID patients in the ICU:	28	13	16	2	9	7	16
Total COVID patients on a ventilator:	16	8	7	1	8	4	11

NKCH is closely monitoring the increase of COVID cases affecting our community and we continue to ask for all support to encourage those who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated. We will continue to meet the healthcare needs of our community. Thank you.

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.