MINUTES
City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 – 3:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Members Present:	Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member Lauren Wise, Vice-Chair, Council Member Owen Carson, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Wesley Shook, Acting Public Works Director Dennis Richardson, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Emory Owen, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Aaron Winans, WWTP Staff Tom Jordan, Police Chief Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk
Guests:	Harvey Sankey

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

City Clerk Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Carson, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2024 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Wise, seconded by Mr. Carson to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Review of City's Landscape Management/Depot Maintenance Practices

Mr. Hooper explained that this item is to address a couple of inquiries from Council this week regarding landscaping management and some challenges we are having at the Depot. He asked Mr. Shook to describe the department's landscape management

practices. Mr. Shook explained that he has 4 men that maintain all of the city's buildings and grounds. They do all the mowing; all building maintenance; and currently they are doing twice daily housekeeping at the Depot on weekdays and once daily on weekends. He noted that the Garden Club volunteers have been uncomfortable coming to the Depot to maintain the gardens because of the unhoused people camping out there. Cameras have been installed at the Depot and will be monitored by Community Center Director Tyree Griffin and the Police Department to dissuade littering and other such behavior. Staff have suggested turning off the wi-fi and electricity to the outlets overnight to deter such camping. Mr. Shook said he has received a number of calls regarding the kudzu and invasive vines growing on the fence behind the Depot. He explained that his crew is not allowed to enter onto the SAFE property on the other side of the fence. There was discussion about what could be done to clear the vines including using a targeted herbicide and suggesting to SAFE that removing the vines would enhance security.

Mr. Hooper mentioned that the Dog Park is difficult to maintain due to the nature of its use. One issue that has been brought up is that weeds are coming up through the gravel pathway and staff is debating the idea of replacing the gravel with concrete, but there is question whether concrete is appropriate in a dog park. It was mentioned that a barrier beneath the gravel would be one solution, but it would require removing the gravel and then putting it back down. It was noted that any solution would need to be ADA compliant. Mr. Hooper will bring this to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee for its consideration. Mr. Morrow noted that staff is also working on getting power hooked up for the lighting that was part of the original design.

Mr. Carson suggested the idea of converting some of the heavily maintained areas into lesser maintenance areas by changing the vegetation pattern and establishing meadows and other things like that that don't need any sort of maintenance as a way of maximizing staff time. Mayor Copelof noted that the landscaped area at the Tannery Skatepark is not being maintained by the community and we are not able to maintain it. She proposed removing it and looking into replacing it with something less maintenance intensive.

F. Project Updates

Mr. Hooper reported that the Times Arcade Alley project is wrapping up with just a few small things left to complete, mostly drainage adjustments to capture more water in the alley. We have asked Duke to look at the pole in the bumpout to determine whether it can be moved.

Mr. Hooper informed the committee that staff anticipates that the WWTP upgrade kickoff meeting with KCI will be scheduled sometime in mid-September and they will review their schedule of tasks for the next few months. We have submitted our funding request to the state to use a portion of the $13M earmark to begin engineering work. They are evaluating the request and he expects to hear back from them soon.

Mr. Owen and Mr. Winans reported that they are still doing tests to determine the effectiveness of PAA and the state has given us another 3 months because the results have been inconsistent. They have been meeting with the businesses projected to incur the high-strength waste surcharge and advised them on the process of testing their discharged water.

Mr. Hooper gave an update on traffic calming measures on Probart Street. An amendment to the Traffic Schedule to add a 3-way stop at the intersection of Probart and Railroad Ave. will go to Council for public hearing at the next meeting. He has sent dimensions to the speed cushion company and expects to place the order soon, with an anticipated delivery time of 4 to 6 weeks.

G. Public Comment

Harvey Sankey had some questions of staff regarding what KCI has been doing and what to expect during the kickoff meeting.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Public Works & Utilities Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

I. Closed Session

At 4:49 pm Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Carson to enter closed session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion carried unanimously. Authorized to remain for the closed session with committee members were City Manager Wilson Hooper and City Clerk Denise Hodsdon.

At 4:40 pm the committee resumed the meeting in open session. No official action was taken in closed session and the minutes of the closed session are authorized to be sealed.

J. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Minutes Approved: September 3, 2024

X Mac Morrow

Mac Morrow
Chair, Council Member

X Denise Hodsdon

Denise Hodsdon
City Clerk