



City of Lawrence

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CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR
MIKE AMYX

COMMISSIONERS
JEREMY FARMER
DR. TERRY RIORDAN
ROBERT J. SCHUMM
MICHAEL DEVER

February 3, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Lawrence met in regular session at 5:45 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall with Mayor Amyx presiding and members Dever, Farmer, Riordan and Schumm present.

A. RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION:

1. None.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Riordan, seconded by Schumm, to approve the consent agenda as below. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Received minutes from various boards and commissions:

Community Development Advisory Committee meeting of 01/08/15
Horizon 2020 Steering Committee meeting of 01/12/15
Public Transit Advisory Committee meetings of 07/08/14 and 09/09/14

2. **PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE VOTE.** Approved claims to 504 vendors in the amount of \$3,629,155.44 .
3. Approved license as recommended by the City Clerk's Office.

Drinking Establishment

Genesis Health Clubs of Lawrence North New License
Genesis Health Clubs of Lawrence North LLC
3201 Mesa Way

4. Bid and purchase items:

- a) Authorized the City Manager to execute an Engineering Services Agreement, in the amount of \$17,083, with BG Consultants for Preliminary Engineering Services for Project UT1421 Kaw Water Plant Field Operations Expansion.
- b) Authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement with The Watershed Institute and Land Trust and purchase 0.85 wetland credits in the amount of \$63,750 related to UT1304 Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Plant and Conveyance Corridor.



5. Approved Special Event Permits, SE-15-00023, requested for seasonal garden sales at 2300 Louisiana Street from March 20 through June 30, 2015. (Four (4) administrative permits have been approved for this property for March 20 through May 15.) Submitted by Kaw Valley Greenhouses, Inc. for 2300 Louisiana Co, LLC, property owner of record.
6. Approved the following items related to Cedarwood Senior Cottages:
 - a) Approved Site Plan, SP-14-00525, for Cedarwood Senior Cottages, located at 2525 Cedarwood Ave. Submitted by Grob Engineering Services, LLC for Douglas County, property owner of record.
 - b) Approved Site Plan, SP-14-00526, for the United Way Building at 2516 Ridge Court Drive. Submitted by Grob Engineering Services, LLC for Douglas County, property owner of record.
 - c) Accepted dedications associated with Minor Subdivision, MS-14-00327, for Southridge Addition No. 6, located at 2516 Ridge Court Drive. Submitted by Grob Engineering Services, LLC for Douglas County, property owner of record.
 - d) Received a letter from Tenants to Homeowners requesting funding from the City of Lawrence in the amount of \$100,000 to assist with infrastructure improvements associated with the Cedarwood Senior Cottages project.
7. Authorized staff to negotiate an agreement with CFS Engineers for engineering services for the Kasold Drive Reconstruction Project, Project No. PW1505. The agreement will be presented at a later date to the City Commission for approval.
8. Authorized the Mayor to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with the Kansas Department of Transportation for Iowa Street, Irving Hill to Harvard Road, Project No. PW1012.
9. Concurred with the Traffic Safety Commission to establish No Parking along the west side of Tennessee Street for 50 feet north of the exit from Melrose Court, 1605 Tennessee Street and adopt on first reading, Ordinance No. 9072, establishing the No Parking (TSC item #6; approved 6-0 on 11/3/14).

Amyx pulled consent agenda item no. 2 regarding claims for a separate vote.

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Riordan, to approve non-Rock Chalk Park related claims to 501 vendors in the amount of \$3,615,932.49. Aye: Amyx, Dever, Farmer, Riordan and Schumm. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Dever, to approve Rock Chalk Park related claims to 3 vendors in the amount of \$13,222.95. Aye: Dever, Farmer, Riordan, and Schumm. Nay: Amyx. Motion carried.

C. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

David Corliss, City Manager, presented the Lawrence VenturePark End of Year Budget Report and introduced the City new Finance Director, Bryan Kidney.

Amyx stated, "Bryan, we are extremely happy to have you on board. I know Dave's been looking for you for quite a while. We're extremely happy to have you as part of the City family."

D. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Considered the recommendation from the Traffic Safety Commission to establish No Parking along the west side of Quail Creek Drive between 22nd Street and the northerly drive to Quail Creek Apartments and considered adopting on first reading, Ordinance No. 9071, establishing the No Parking (TSC item #5; approved 4-2 on 11/3/14).**

David Woosley, Transportation/Traffic Engineer, presented the staff report.

Schumm asked, "Is that 24 hour no parking."

Woosley stated, "Yes."

Schumm asked, "The situation is when there's something going on at the new catering hall, is that correct?"

Woosley stated, "That's correct."

Amyx asked, "So this would take parking off of the east side?"

Woosley stated, "Off the west side. The east side doesn't have as many driveways so there's more parking that would be available along there. The west side has a number of driveways through there so you would actually be removing fewer parking spaces by doing it on the west side instead of the east side."

Schumm asked, "Is the owner of Arterra aware of the on-going proceedings?"

Woosley stated, "We advised them of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting as well as this meeting this evening."

Schumm asked, "Have they commented at all?"

Woosley stated, "I have not heard from them."

Mayor Amyx called for public comment. None.

Schumm stated, "I live over there and I'm up and down that street a couple of times a day usually. When it's parked double, it's pretty tight. There are some children that are in the parking complex. There are townhouses on the west and there's the parking complex on the east so it's pretty confining. If the owner of Arterra didn't object, I think we should move ahead and probably agree with Traffic Safety."

Amyx stated, "We can do that and go ahead and adopt on first reading and if there is comments from that business owner, we can listen to that before we give final approval."

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Farmer, to concur with the Traffic Safety Commission to establish No Parking along the west side of Quail Creek Drive between 22nd Street and the northerly drive to Quail Creek Apartments and adopt on first reading, Ordinance No. 9071, establishing the No Parking. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Considered setting a bid date of February 24, 2015 for the construction of the Maple Street storm water pump station - Project No. PW1133.**

Matt Bond, Stormwater Engineer, presented the staff report.

Dever asked, "Can you touch on the cost of this type of improvement, \$4.279 million or something along those lines? What's the lion's share of those costs? What's included? What's the major cost of this type of improvement?"

Bond stated, "The major cost would be the pump station itself and then, unfortunately, with the way the alignment is set up down 6th Street once we get south of the railroad tracks we have to rebuild the whole west half of the road. There's an existing sanitary sewer that runs smack down the middle of 6th Street itself and so the only way to get this in is we moved it over to the west edge of the existing streets so we're going to have to rebuild 6th Street full length from the railroad tracks south. So, you're looking at all the pavement reconstruction but the lion's share of the cost would be the pump station itself."

Amyx stated, "Compared to Commissioner Dever's question, I compared this to Pump Station 10 at 31st and Louisiana Street, any idea of the similarity in costs between those two?"

David Corliss, City Manager, stated, "It's the big sanitary sewer pump station that we have there, probably not all that similar, Mayor. This is about the same size in pumping as the existing pump station along North 2nd Street."

Bond stated, "It's actually bigger. The drainage study was 380 CFS and we provide 197. To put that into perspective, 2nd Street Pump Station is 90."

Mayor Amyx called for public comment.

Ted Boyle, President, North Lawrence Neighborhood, stated, "I'd just like to say that this is a long time coming. Some of us remember the flood of 93 and the big hole in front of Johnny's and here's the deal, we're having a hard time swallowing in North Lawrence two years later we had a pump on North 2nd Street. That took care of all of the commercial part of North Lawrence, did nothing for the 1250 residents that live in North Lawrence in the residential section. During that 25 year time period there's been over 150 homes built in North Lawrence with, primarily, no storm water modifications or improvements made in the residential section. We've been patiently waiting for this pump and the City's bought out a couple of properties over there, one on North 8th Street and the other one on 7th and Lincoln Street. I think that was somewhere around \$250,000 for both of them. We've been waiting for this for a long time and then the sales tax, the last one we had, I believe that was 2007 or 2008 and that was infrastructure, fire, buses and all that. I'm on the sales tax audit committee so I've kind of been watching that all these years and finally got enough money spread out over this timeline that hopefully we're going to get that pump started, groundbreaking, sometime maybe in March and hopefully the spring rains won't deter that and maybe a year from now we'll have that pump to relieve some of those residence flooding over there to their basements and to their homes. I really encourage you to sign this and get this thing moving forward, because we're kind of getting a little bit impatient, but I also want to thank you for your hard work and also Matt Bond. I've been communicating with him monthly on this pump. I know there's been a numerous

setback because it really was supposed to be started over a year ago and the Corps of Engineers has been the major hang up on this project with the levee.”

Amyx stated, “The item before us tonight is to set a bid date. I know we’ve had a lot of discussions and we had bought a couple of properties. Ted, I apologize that it’s taken a long time but we’ll get caught up pretty quick. Matt, I had one question for you that had to do with the ring levee. Is the top of that ring levee going to have a bath on top of it?”

Bond stated, “Yes, we still need it in case we have to flood fight so it’s going to be left open for crews to get through. We’re going to cut it off at 3rd Street and 8th Street. So, while construction is happening at the levee, if you want to use the top of the levee for recreational then you will have to detour around.”

Amyx stated, “We’ll have that all properly signed and everything else?”

Farmers stated, “I think this is great because we made a promise to voters in 2008. Part of the .3% infrastructure sale tax that was passed, we’re following through. It’s taking us a little bit. I remember when I was campaigning in 2013, Ted said, ‘Meet me at Wheatfields, I got to take you for a ride’ and he threw me in his truck quite literally, gently of course, and we went around and drove around and he was talking to me about this and I know it’s a big deal for North Lawrence. This is dated back to 2006 with the North Lawrence Drainage Study so 9 years worth of commitment, finally seeing it come to fruition.”

Moved by Riordan, seconded by Farmer, to set bid date of February 24, 2015 for the construction of the Maple Street storm water pump station. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Received recommendation from Cultural Plan Steering Committee to proceed with Christine Harris Connections/Creative Community Builders to complete the Cultural Plan. Considered authorizing staff to negotiate and finalize an agreement with the firm based on the proposal submitted.**

Diane Stoddard, Assistant to the City Manager, presented the staff report.

Amyx stated, “Diane, go back and tell us a little bit about what all the grant does include dollar wise.”

Stoddard stated, "It is \$75,000 and it's broken down \$25,000 in each of the three phases that I mentioned. This is a reimbursed grant so the City has to front the money and then we get reimbursed. So, \$25,000 toward the Director of Arts and Culture position, \$25,000 for the cultural planning itself which would be this particular component, the consulting services to assist with that, and then the third part is \$25,000 that would go toward marketing material that would flow out of the cultural plan. So, exactly what that will look like, we don't quite know, but Callahan Creek, a local design firm, has volunteered its services and donated a significant amount of in-kind services to actually develop those at no cost but then the funds are actually to produce those materials. We really see that coming at the very end of the cultural planning effort, and we have a little overlap built into the schedule, but we really feel this second component, the cultural planning, needs to be completed on the timeframe by the end of June."

Amyx stated, "If we were allowed to wait when we would the lose money, we would probably lose the in-kind help from others. It just can't be and it can't work. Is that right?"

Stoddard stated, "Unfortunately, we really looked at this in a variety of ways and we've already gone to the State and asked for this extension because we were unfortunate in receiving no responses to our RFQ that went out in the fall. So, we feel like we have already made that request. We requested it again and unfortunately the State's just not able to do it given their grant obligations on this particular grant."

Mayor Amyx called for public comment.

K.T. Walsh, speaking only for herself stated, "I'm part of the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture of the local field office of a national organization and you probably got our letter today encouraging you to take the advice of the advisory board and to slow down the process until we've hired our Cultural and Arts Administrator. I was wondering would it be a time to ask one of our Senators or someone in Washington to talk to the NEA and ask for an extension. This is very important and we probably won't do another cultural plan for five or ten years and I'd hate to do it in kind of a, we have so little money to do it with, I'd hate to do it in sort of a slip shod

manner. Also, I am so grateful to Callahan Creek and their constant donations to the community from moving 70 employees to Downtown Lawrence, and they give and give, but should we lose that match from Callahan Creek, we've studied cultural plans from all across the nation, most of them aren't fancy, most of them aren't glossy, a lot of them are just Xerox pages. It would be great to have Callahan Creek do a phenomenal job that they would do but should we lose that in-kind match, we can do it in-house."

Farmer stated, "I've heard this term U.S. Department of Arts and Culture and I'm trying to wrap my brain around this because I don't know. Is this actually a Federal entity?"

Walsh stated, "No, it's somewhat tongue and cheek. It's a grass roots movement that started over a year ago in Washington and I don't even know how many field offices there are around the nation and the goal is to incorporate arts and culture into every aspect of our public lives because the government isn't doing it because there's been so many cut backs for arts and culture and humanities nationwide, but most especially in Kansas. So, that's who we are and we had the big happening out at Haskell. We did the Imagining Lawrence in the Next 30 Years where we've had a huge turnout. We did one in Salina, they asked us to come. We did the Imagining for East Lawrence, what would you like to see 9th Street look like."

Farmer asked, "Is it really called the US Department of Arts and Culture."

Walsh stated, "It sure is."

Farmer stated, "Okay. I think a lot of folks including me are a little bit confused at that name."

Walsh stated, "I can see why."

Farmer stated, "I was going to say if it's the US Department of Arts and Culture you guys should contact the Senator."

Walsh stated, "I know but it's because we want one so bad, a US Department of Arts and Culture."

Nicholas Warren stated, "I just wanted to speak to this same point. As you know, this type of plan is much more than a single project. It's really the guiding architecture for projects and cultural planning to come and so I think to hurry this opportunity we're going to try and speed track this because funding could potentially be an oversight in a way. I worked with the NEA on grants before, two years ago, one in South Dakota and that project had to be extended and that took a little more than partnering agencies that were working on the project to contact them, explain the circumstances, and ask for an extension. That's definitely something that could be done is kind of the question. I think the issue is really just weighing what the overall impact of this plan is. I think it's also making an effort not to under mind the actual Director of Arts and Culture and what their position is in relation to a project of this scale."

Amyx asked, "Any questions or comments about asking about an extension or go ahead and proceed the way that we are without a Director of Arts and Culture at this time? I guess my question would be, can we go ahead and move forward and maybe ask for an extension or ask someone to ask for an extension for us so that we can just buy some more time that way. Is that a possibility? I don't know the rules here."

Stoddard stated, "Again, I already spoke with the State and after the committee had made that recommendation to hold off and this was after, by the way, we had already asked for an extension from the State because of the first situation. According to the State, the individual that I spoke to who's the Director of the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, he had indicated to me that the State, because these are NEA grant funds that are to the State, the State has a deadline with them that cannot be changed. I had requested, could we have several more months toward the end of this project and the answer was no. The timeline for the project already has been extended a bit over the State fiscal year into August in order to allow time for the last phase of the project which is, again, Callahan Creek creating marketing materials and the funds are for marketing whatever needs to be marketed or developed as a result of the cultural plan. I think we may be able to have a little more overlay between the cultural planning

part and Callahan Creek's work, which we did take into account somewhat, but he had indicated to me that we really need to have it wrapped up by the end of June."

Amyx stated, "So, if we're going to get it done, we got to start now?"

Stoddard stated, "Unless you want to delay and maybe risk the not receiving the funding on the grant."

Amyx stated, "Bob, you spent a lot of time on this, a lot of hours."

Schumm stated, "Well this is the outcome with the little exercise with the Cultural Task Force trying to come up with the ultimate plan for the community so this is just a follow through of what we've been doing. The challenge here tonight is just do we have to hang loose and wait for the new Cultural Director, and these things aren't usually staff driven, they're driven by the consultants. It's likely that we'll have somebody on line within 60 days. Is that about right 60 to 90 days?"

Corliss stated, "Yes."

Schumm stated, "So, I think that person could get on board quickly with what's going on. Planning scenarios usually start off kind of slow with the collection of data and then gather of information and then gathering of public comments and so you know most of that planning and most all planning is probably 60 to 70 percent collection of data and they still have to assimilate it in some way. My guess is that person would be on-line for the nuts and bolts of the operation. If it meant losing this grant, I think that's important to consider. We rely heavily on this grant for part of the salary for the new person for the first half year as well as the plan itself. I think it behooves us to move on.

Riordan stated, "I just don't see us losing anything if we move on because if we get somebody who comes in they can certainly pick up the reigns and go with it. If they don't come in right away, we might lose it. So, I think, to me, it makes sense to start this and not stress ourselves with trying to get the plan done in a very quick manner and maybe not have a good as plan if we wait for the new hire. I would recommend that we move on."

Amyx stated, "It does seem like to me we spend a lot of time in discussions about people who are going to be donating time, and Callahan Creek, and all of the financial ends of this, seemed to me that I agree. I think we need to move ahead with it and we'll have somebody on board quickly and get them up to date fast. We have a lot more to lose by waiting."

Riordan stated, "I think the comments tonight were very good and in an ideal situation, if we weren't in such a timeline and risked losing the grant, I think I would delay but with what we know and what we don't know, I think we recommend moving ahead."

Amyx stated, "The item before us this evening is to authorize staff to negotiate and finalize an agreement with Christine Harris Connections/Creative Community Builders to complete the Cultural Plan. Dave, if we give this direction, that final contract will be back on our agenda?"

Corliss stated, "That's correct."

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Riordan, to authorize staff to negotiate and finalize an agreement with Christine Harris Connections/Creative Community Builders to complete the Cultural Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Received staff report and considered authorization of proposed Police Service Dog Program.**

Chief Khatib introduced the item.

Shawn Gross, Police Department, presented the staff report.

Riordan stated, "There was the alternative getting a new vehicle versus refitting some of the older vehicles. Can you explain to me what the benefits of getting a new vehicle are exactly?"

Khatib stated, "I just want to say thanks to Officer Gross because it was very well done and, you could say, I couldn't have pretended to know that much about the issue than Shawn did so I appreciate the presentation to the Commission. I think he did a great job. In answer to your question, you can't share vehicles. So, a vehicle that is specifically designed to carry a K-

9, the whole back part of it has to have the K-9 enclosure so it has to be specifically assigned to that K-9 handler. The plan, without additional funding for additional vehicles, would be to pull two relatively low mileage cars out of the fleet, retro-fit them, put the equipment in them to utilize. But, that would take them out of the rotation for the rest because they couldn't really be used by anybody besides the K-9 group."

Riordan stated, "Now, when we use these K-9 units are they used around the clock or every patrol will have them used? How do you do that?"

Khatib stated, "There's probably a need to have them around the clock but with just two people you're not going to be able to do that. So, what we'll do is identify the most active times. We've already kind of done that in the past where we've readjusted our patrol schedule to have the most officers on the street between about 10:00 or 11:00 in the morning until about 3:00 the next morning so about an 18 hour period where, statistically, we have the most calls of service. So, if we have two K-9 handlers we probably what them on opposite shifts, on duty during those busy times. That's still not going ensure 24 hour coverage, and there may be times we'd have to call them out, but a response in Lawrence would be obviously quicker than from out of town."

Riordan asked, "Eventually you predict you'll need five K-9's all together?"

Khatib stated, "At some point, yes, if we can do a good proof of concept and this is successful. If you wanted that 24 hours or longer, probably around 5 dogs would be the right amount to do that with."

Amyx stated, "The comments Shawn made on the Lawrence data, it talked about zero incidences where K-9 is used as a force tool and earlier in the presentation you talked about the potential for the reduction and the use of force. Tell me the difference in those two lines."

Shawn stated, "Just simple presence means that it could be a show of force. If we have an incident where there's a dangerous person we're confronting and that dog is there, from what I've read and what I've spoken with other agencies, just having the dog there, I can't tell you why, maybe it's because criminal offenders may have had a history or past with getting in fights

with people so they know they can tell us when a person maybe they feel like they can't negotiate with the dog, I couldn't tell you. The fact is, just having the presence of the dog reduces the amount of times someone is likely to be combative."

Amyx stated, "After you're explanation, I think I can answer the question."

Dever stated, "I was reading through the operations manual and it looks like, as discussed, the handler and the PSD will have a pretty close relationship, obviously. It kind of makes it sound like the PSD is really a worker dog and that it's supposed to be kenneled and kept in its proper container at all times unless they're doing some other activity. I think that's interesting and I have dogs, and always had dogs, and it's kind of hard to imagine them not being also social and so can you touch upon that because, for me, that is kind of the last understanding I need to have of these dogs because I believe they deserve to have a reasonable quality of life, not just work all the time."

Khatib stated, "I think they do. I think Shawn could expound on that. The dog, from my understanding, doesn't just sit in the kennel, that's for secure basic needs."

Shawn stated, "The dog is essentially a member of the officer's family. However, I don't know if you know animal, dog, wolf pack structure and what not, there's the alpha male and alpha female beta. There are just certain precautions that you take with the dog. The dog only takes commands from the handler. They have to see itself as having a higher structure and it can't be the omega otherwise it won't perform and it won't have very high confidence. The long and short of it, the dog isn't just locked away in the kennel. At night, that's just its go away place to cool down after work. That's where it could go. Handlers have an indoor and outdoor kennel but the dog it still a part of the family. It's treated a little differently in the fact that it's not a pet but it's still a working dog. It's still given affection and still treated with care."

Amyx stated, "In the operations manual, the PSD is very protective of its handler and you talked about kids love dogs, police dogs. Do you ever have any concerns about that? Kids will be kids around dogs. How is that handled?"

Gross stated, "First off, there's a lot of handlers that I know that have kids in the house. Today's police dogs, agencies go out and select dogs for service. They lean more toward a more sociable animal. The dog doesn't know a good guy from a bad buy, that's for the handler to decide. Obviously, the dog's not going to just attack somebody unless they're going to apprehend somebody. It's going to be with the handlers command. This dog, it's a living animal. However, it's a piece of equipment and it's something that the handler is trained to retain, just like anything else that we have. It's just a matter of the handler being responsible with the animal and the type of dog that is selected."

Mayor Amyx called for public comment. None.

Amyx stated, "As somebody who has tried to learn as much as he could about this item over the last several weeks, I got to say one thing, that I'm a big supporter of this. I think this is something and I appreciate Shawn's comments about the questions about force. I do see the positives here as an additional tool for the police department. I did visit yesterday, along with the Vice Mayor and our staff, about the possibilities of working with groups here in town and being able to get help. I notice on the presentation that we had about selecting a veterinarian. Maybe we can get some help there. Obviously, I'd suggested a big company about maybe getting some help with dog food and things with some advertising kind of swaps but try to get people involved in this. I think it could be a very good program to build special relations with the public and I think that that's something, under community policing, I know that's the Chief's goal and our departments goal. This is something that I can absolutely support and I like the way it's laid out and it makes a lot of sense to me. One of the things, missing persons. As we get older and we have responsibility with family members and, in my particular case, I know as much as I hate to admit it, the possibility could happen sometime. I hope that it could be something that could be good for all members of our public and I know it will be. What kind of action do we need to take Dave?"

Corliss stated, "Direct the Police Department to implement the program."

Amyx stated, "And to follow the budget that was outlined. We will be taking one of our current vehicles and retro-fitting it. Is that correct?"

Khatib stated, "That's correct. We'll use the least costly option to start with."

Amyx stated, "Let us know how we can help."

Moved by Riordan, seconded by Farmer, to direct the Police Department to implement the program." Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Considered adopting on first reading, Ordinance No. 9074,** establishing 5:45 p.m. as the time for the beginning of City Commission meetings.

David Corliss, City Manager, presented the staff report.

Amyx stated, "My only concern was, obviously, was it going to be a hardship on the public in not being able to attend our meetings and being able to participate in our process. I believe that we've had good participation at every one of the meetings that we've had. We've always had a pretty good crowd. I haven't heard really from anyone saying that it is a hardship coming in at 5:45 pm. In fact, one individual told me they liked getting out a little bit earlier rather than after 10:00 or 10:30 at night. 5:45 pm seems to be working and I don't see any reason why we don't make it kind of permanent I guess."

Riordan stated, "I would be in favor of making it permanent. I've had several comments from people who say they are able to attend the meetings because they're not that late and it actually benefits us and gets better public comment and people are more willing to come and stay because they have children to put to bed and they have other things that they need to do at night and it has less interference for them. I haven't had any negative comments yet."

Amyx stated, "The one person that I did talk to, and they were only able to come to a couple of meetings, they came by bus and that seemed to work well because there part of the meeting was done and they were able to get back home by using the bus system and I'm glad for that."

Mayor Amyx called for public comment. None.

Moved by Farmer, seconded by Riordan, to adopt on first reading, Ordinance No. 9074, establishing 5:45 p.m. as the time for the beginning of the City Commission meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

David Corliss, City Manager, outlined potential future agenda items.

G: COMMISSION ITEMS:

Schumm stated, "This is an idea, and I don't know how it will work out, but this is with regards to try and increase our voter turnout on the next couple of elections. I'm somewhat of the opinion that a lot of people just forget to vote or when coming home from work or something and they get home and they go gosh, I forgot to vote and I'm already home and I don't want to go out again. I'm wondering if we could look at putting a few of our mobile traffic advisory signals on some key thoroughfares that would just say 'Vote Today', same things we use when we're having some road construction projects and if you had that on East 23rd Street, maybe Bob Billings Way at the University, maybe 6th Street going west, maybe somewhere on Connecticut and east Lawrence, just where the major traffic patterns are just to remind people that today's the vote. The cost would probably be minimal. It would require some man hours of our Public Works Department. We own the signage but I don't know how many signs we own."

Riordan stated, "Two."

Schumm stated, "It seems like we have lots and lots of them."

Chuck Soules, Public Works Director, stated, "We have some that are permanently placed, right now, on 31st to make sure people didn't make those turns. We do have 4 but only 2 available, unless you want to pull those off."

Schumm stated, "Can the two just be changed to Vote Today?"

Corliss stated, "We wouldn't recommend that."

Schumm stated, "Our voter turnout is pretty poor and anything, especially if it's not a big cost driver to try and encourage people to vote and to remind them, then it behooves us to do that. That's just a thought I had. I don't know if the County has any of those pieces of equipment."

Riordan stated, "I would suggest we do it the day before. A lot of people need to plan their days and if they're reminded the day before, they're more likely to do it than even that day because they made plans. I think it's a good idea Bob. The more votes we have, the more people that vote, the better representation this board will be."

Schumm stated, "You can do it two days and could say Vote Tomorrow and then change the message to Vote Today."

Amyx stated, "I don't really mind if we do that. I would like to check with the Ethics Commission on things that we can and can't do. Make sure that we can advertise."

Corliss stated, "Do you want us to direct us to do it unless there's a legal reason that prohibits it."

Amyx stated, "That's fine."

Farmer asked, "Scott, are there any sign ordinance prohibitions."

Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services Director, said, "For candidates, yes. With this particular issue, we can look at that."

Schumm stated, "It seems like 6th Street would be a huge number of vehicles and then probably Clinton Parkway. I'm not sure, but then again, you don't want to skew it to one side of town or the other. That needs to be thought about too."

Farmer stated, "We have traffic counts, I think, where we can see where the highest number of traffic is."

Amyx stated, "As just mentioned, make sure it's fairly distributed."

Corliss stated, "If that's the direction of the Commission, that's what we'll do. We'll look at the City Code, state law, see if there's any particular issues but it's not, just saying Vote Tomorrow and Vote Today, and whoever programs those, will have that correct. '

H: CALENDAR:

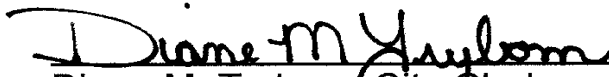
David Corliss, City Manager, reviewed calendar items

I: CURRENT VACANCIES – BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:

Existing and upcoming vacancies on City of Lawrence Boards and Commissions were listed on the agenda.

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Riordan, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON MARCH 24, 2015.


Diane M. Trybom (City Clerk)