



City of Lawrence

CITY COMMISSION

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MIKE AMYX

COMMISSIONERS
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STUART BOLEY
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October 6, 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 Commission members Boley, Hebert and Vice Mayor Soden present.

A. RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION:

1. Proclaim Wednesday, October 7, 2015 as Walk to School Day.
2. Proclaim Monday, October 12, 2015 as Indigenous Peoples Day.
3. Proclaim the month of October, 2015 as Meet the Blind Month and Thursday, October 15, 2015 as White Cane Safety Day
4. Proclaim the month of October, 2015 as Sweet Potato Month.
5. Proclaim Friday, November 13, 2015 as World Pancreatic Cancer Day.
6. Recognition of the Eutin, Germany Student delegation.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Herbert, seconded by Vice-mayor Soden, to approve the consent agenda as below. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-mayor Soden moved to remove consent agenda item no. 9.

1. Receive minutes from various boards and commissions:
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting of 09/08/15
Sustainability Advisory Board meetings of 07/08/15 and 08/12/15
2. Approve all claims to 191 vendors in the amount of \$1,336,356.03.
3. Approve licenses as recommended by the City Clerk's Office.

Drinking Establishment

Oriental Bistro
SLY LLC
1511 SW 23rd St.

Expiration

October 27, 2015



4. Approve appointments as recommended by the Mayor.
5. Bid and purchase items:
 - a) Set bid date of October 13, 2015 for Bid No. B1552 - Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program at 1014 Lawrence Avenue.
 - b) Set a bid date of October 27, 2015 for Bid No. B1546 - Water and Wastewater Treatment Chemicals.
 - c) Award the bid for Bid No. B1543, Project No. UT1417 - Clinton Water Treatment Plant Raw Water Pump Station Improvements, to the low bidder, Crossland Heavy Contractors, in the amount of \$1,527,000 and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the construction contract.
 - d) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Execute Supplemental Agreement No.4, in the amount of \$207,020.00, to the Engineering Services Agreement with Black & Veatch for additional Design Services and Construction Phase Engineering Services for Project No. UT1417 - Clinton Water Treatment Plant Raw Water Pump Station Improvements.
 - e) Award the construction contract for Bid No. B1540, Project No. UT1427 - Michigan/Arkansas, 2nd to 9th Street and Florida, 3rd to 4th Street Waterline Replacement, to Banks Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$1,141,100 and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the construction contract.
 - f) Approve change order to the emergency purchase order (No. 013418) to R.D. Johnson, in the amount of \$28,287.70, for emergency waterline repairs at 23rd and Massachusetts Street, for a new total of \$42,287.72.
 - g) Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute Supplemental Agreement No.1 to the Engineering Services Agreement with HDR in the amount of \$96,815.00 for design engineering services for Project UT1310 19th & Kasold Water Booster Pump Station Replacement.
6. Accept dedications of rights-of-way and easements for Final Plat, PF-15-00397, for Langston Heights Addition No. 2. Submitted by BG Consultants, for RSR Holdings, LLC, property owner of record.
7. Accept dedications of rights-of-way and easements for Final Plat, PF-15-00405, for Langston Commons. Submitted by BG Consultants, for RSR Holdings, LLC, property owner of record.
8. Accept dedications of easements associated with Final Plat, PF-15-00289, for Dream Haven II, a 7 lot residential subdivision containing approximately 9.27 acres, located at 2910 Peterson Road. Submitted by Treanor Architects, P.A. for David A. and Anne K. Gnojek and Dream Haven II LLC, property owners of record.

9. **REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION.** Approve final grant submittal for the National Endowment for the Humanities Our Town Grant, as recommended by the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission.
10. Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2015-2016 Safe Winter Walkways Program.
11. Authorize the Mayor to sign a Subordination Agreement for Ronald P. Hayes, 1215 New Jersey Street.
12. Authorize the Mayor to sign a Release of Mortgage for Charles R. and Ruth M. Hurst, 831 Elm Street.
13. Authorize the Mayor to sign load modification documents for Rosemary J. Seiger, 340 Pleasant Street.

Vice Mayor Soden removed consent agenda item No. 9 for separate discussion.

Vice Mayor Soden: Porter, will you come up? I thought it might be good if you broadcast the latest news, the late breaking news of today.

Porter Arneill:
Director of Arts & Culture

As of last evening we attended, Susan Tate and I attended the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association Meeting, presented information about the grant. Appreciate the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, accepting us for their agenda. There was some healthy discussion, and debate and ultimately they voted in favor of providing a letter of support for the Our Town Grant and they're also going to send a letter to me and the city articulating some of their frustrations and concerns about how that process unfolded.

Vice Mayor Soden: Good. Thank you. I had a question for Susan. I don't want to say last year because it wasn't last year it was in July, I guess, it would have been June. Was that when the Free State Festival was, July?

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

The Free State Festival was the last week of June, yes.

Vice Mayor Soden: Thank you, June. I just wanted to point out, I had some comments about the big billboard at the end of Ninth Street at Delaware, and you could see it from Connecticut. I just wanted to see if you were going to have that again this year, or I guess I'm asking if you could not have such a large display. It's very distracting for drivers apparently.

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

If we have the Free State Festival in '16 or in future years, everything that happens outdoors, whether it's a sign or a projection, or a concert. It has to go through a very detailed approval process, and everything we do next year will go

through that same process. Those LED screens to which you're referring, one was on Weavers, and one was the one you are mentioning, is at the east end of Ninth Street. Those both went through the city approval process, and were fully approved. We won't do anything, and we never do, that is not fully approved by the city when it's on a public right-of-way.

Vice Mayor Soden:

I think that was the first time that you had that sign.

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

That's the only time we've had that sign. We had the two, one on Weavers, but certainly the one at the end of Ninth Street, seemed a bigger production.

Vice Mayor Soden:

It's good to try things. Certainly appreciate trying things, so I guess I'm just asking to make it not so large next time.

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

I can assure you that we will go through the approval process for anything we hope to do during the Free State Festival, and we will leave it in the hands of ... I'm not sure who all the people are we ask. We start with Public Works usually, we draw diagrams, we talk to neighbors about sound, and then it always comes, I believe, to this body.

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager

I think it's a special use permit.

Mayor Amyx:

Right.

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

It's a special use permit, but the city is great about walking us through. It may be that having seen it once, this body will say no, and didn't quite picture it before. I can assure you that we will continue to follow all of the processes the city has in place.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay.

Vice Mayor Soden:

Thank you.

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

I'd be happy to answer any other questions about the applications. Thank you very much.

Mayor Amyx:

Thank you for what you've done. Any other questions? Other public comment on this item?

Amanda Monaghan:
President
Lawrence Art Guild

I'm here just to comment on the lack of transparency, and equitable arts funding in the local community. We've been putting on the Art in the Park Festival since 1962 so this Spring, it will be the 55th Anniversary of that, and to our knowledge, meeting with Porter, there is no funding for that kind of thing. For the city to fund the Free State Festival being new, and kind of not necessarily supporting local artists, we're just kind of questioning if the ultimatum process is how you get that thing,

or if you follow some kind of cyclical cycle that we need to be informed of?

Mayor Amyx:

We're going to get you an answer to that.

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager

I will say that the city actually has participated in funding for Art in the Park at the request of the Lawrence Art Guild for a number of years. The Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission has provided that funding, so I would just encourage the Arts Guild to submit a request that can be forwarded through the Arts Commission, and then to this body regarding that funding.

Amanda Monaghan:
President
Lawrence Art Guild

All right, well that funding is like \$5,000 for the entire arts community, not just for one.

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager

I would just encourage, Mayor, the group to submit that request and outline what their needs are, and the purpose of it. In the past, the amount that has been requested from the Arts Guild has been a very small amount, but that amount has been fully funded by the Arts Commission at their request every year.

Amanda Monaghan:
President
Lawrence Art Guild

And that money is to offset the rental of the park, because the city doesn't provide the park for free. So we're paying for the park, and then the city is also putting on Art in the Park events, which according to the recent Arts and Culture funding budget is \$50,000 a year for Art in the Park, craft fairs, city band concert, downtown concert series, and the outdoor sculpture installation. Is that funding that would be available to us, that we're just out of the loop on, because that is not a part of the Cultural Arts Commission?

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager

Mayor, I would certainly be happy to meet with Ms. Monaghan, along with Mr. Arneill, and talk about these things and get an idea. I will say though, it's the first time, and I'd been a long time liaison to the Arts Commission, that I was aware of a greater funding need from the Arts Guild. So I think we can certainly get that request, and forward that to the appropriate channels.

Mayor Amyx:

I've been doing this quite a while, and I don't ever remember an application other than what we've seen so far.

Amanda Monaghan:
President
Lawrence Art Guild

Yeah, because we've been told that there's no funding available, and that there's no process for us. No one's ever said, "Hey, you know you should try this," or reached out, and made it so that there's not one organization that kind of receives all of the attention in the community.

Mayor Amyx:

Well I think the interim City Manager has reached out, okay?

Amanda Monaghan:

Yeah.

President
Lawrence Art Guild

Mayor Amyx: Fair enough?

Amanda Monaghan:
President
Lawrence Art Guild
Awesome.

Mayor Amyx: Okay. Other public comment.

Nicholas Ward: Mayor, commissioners. I think what you were just hearing from the President of the Arts Guild was frustration coming from the meeting that would have been, I think, the 15th of October, is that correct? The meeting of the 15th where funding was approved for \$60,000 out of cycle, for the Lawrence Art Center to host the Free State Film Festival going forward. I know just in conversations I've heard that that was being received by a lot of people as the word there we heard used during the election, and also tonight as an ultimatum. I think, in a way, the people may be feel that for other arts organizations, smaller organizations in town, that a lot of these festivals, and monies are being monopolized, especially when we're granting things like that out of cycle. Then other arts organizations who have been hosting something for 55 years in this community have to battle with other small organizations for a total of \$5,000, and so I think that's something that needs to be addressed. I also think, I was at the meeting last night for ELNA, just to watch, and what I saw ... Let me step back once, I was also at the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission meeting about a week ago, where this was brought to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission what we're talking about tonight, and this was a last minute thing being brought to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, and they had to make a quick decision on it so that this funding could through. This grant could be submitted, which is due on the 8th which I believe today is the 6th, is that correct? Two days. The Art Center had some challenges with timing things like that which is understandable, but to me, and as someone who spends time following this stuff, it takes a lot of energy, as well as for you I'm sure, and for the people to sit on the Board of the Lawrence Arts Commission, to take in all of that information when it comes in so quickly, and without notice to process all that, and then to make a split second decision on that. I saw that happen last night at ELNA, and people were very frustrated with having to make that decision. It was also put forth as a statement that if ELNA would back the Free State Film Festival, that that was a stipulation to even consider approving it. For Leslie to make a consideration of supporting the vote that's going to happen tonight, that it would have to be approved by the ELNA neighborhood association, and I think the way that that was heard by a lot of people, and again, I'm

speaking just as a viewer, is Susan made a statement that if they didn't approve it, and if Leslie wasn't going to vote for it, that they might not make the jump to submit the grant, that they might not make that effort. Then that responsibility is being put on the backs of the people of ELNA to see that this festival goes forward. That's how I received it as a viewer in the audience, and I think that's unfair. I think it's unfair to bring things last minute. The suggestion that I would make just as a citizen, is that there be some kind of protocol put into place, where if you want to bring something like that to the table, that you do it five or six weeks ahead of time. That way it has time to go through not-for-profit, neighborhood boards, and things like that. Also, the same thing for neighborhood committees. They need time to review this. If people there didn't have to make that decision, split second, conversations would happen. They would have time to read this lengthy put together grant. This grant, people want to read through, and be able to take time to process. I think those considerations need to be made for people to have that time to do so. I know I've taken a lot of time so I'll stop. Thank you.

Mayor Amyx:

Other public comment. Any other public comment? About this item, yes sir. You have a public comment?

Susan Tate:
Executive Director
Lawrence Arts Center

I do. We attended, at our request, the Cultural Arts Commission meeting on September 9th, and everything we've done since September 9th has been at the recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission. We are responsible to bringing information to the Cultural Arts Commission where it relates to city, and private partnerships. We did that as soon as we realized that we were going to move forward, and the meeting that was last week was set by the Cultural Arts Commission, and we attended it. They're both public meetings. It did happen in a quick period of time, but there were about four weeks between when we brought the grant to the Cultural Arts Commission and today. Also, it's the same grant we brought to this body a year ago, and was approved with a couple of changes. We have taken out all references to East Ninth as a project that's going to be completed at the request of, I believe, this commission and of the cultural arts commission. Finally, the Free State Festival spends over a hundred thousand dollars on artists who live and work in Lawrence. Musicians, visual artists and so on, and it actually takes quite a large arts organization to be able to pull off a particular thing like this, and compete for grants like this. We're very pleased to do it if Lawrence is enthusiastic about it. That's the deal. We really do appreciate being at the East Lawrence meeting last night, and their letter of support for the project.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay, thank you. Other public comment. Anyone else? Okay back to the commission.

Vice Mayor Soden: When the city was first hearing the idea of having a Director of Arts and Culture, I was in support of it, because obviously arts and culture history is a bit of an economic driver for us. Especially with our downtown, so I certainly would like Porter to make sure that the cultural plan that the consultants gave to us a month or so ago, I think if I remember right, I had a really large list of cultural entities in our city. That would be art and history. I certainly hope that you're reaching out to all of them, and just asking them what we can do to help, just like we do to any other business. Because definitely equity was one of the reasons that I thought a Director of Arts and Culture would be a really good position. A position that would bring inside of city hall, and make sure that we're treating all of our cultural organizations fairly and equally. I hope that Porter, who is new, you've been here a couple of months now, can certainly take a good lead role on that.

Mayor Amyx: Other comments?

Commissioner Boley: I'm very pleased that people have come together on this to a certain extent. I hope we have good results for the grant.

Mayor Amyx: Well, I just want to thank everybody for the work that they've done. In short order, and understand everything that's happened. Anyway, I think it's a, let's say, it's a big step. I think everything, everybody is working together today, and I appreciate all the work that's been done. Thank you all. The item on the agenda is to approve the final grants submittal for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Our Town Grant as recommended by the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission. Any other questions or comments?

It was moved by Commissioner Boley, seconded by Commission Herbert to approve Consent Agenda Item No. 9. Motion carried unanimously.

C. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Diane Stoddard, Interim City Manager, presented the report regarding Central Maintenance getting a jump start of fleet replacements due to manufacturer production schedules; July 2015 City Population Estimates and Projections; Pooch Plunge makes another successful splash; and, Eagle Scout project adds way signs to new trail.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Pryor A couple of caveats before I begin. Several people here, many of you know as a volunteer at Just Food, and thank you for asking, we're doing very well. I wish the shelves weren't as empty. We can't seem to keep them stocked like we used to, but that's because just a terrific number of people we're

serving. 2nd, some of know me as the head of the Douglas County Coalition for Bernie Sanders for President. He'll be the President, you won't laugh then. I'm kidding. I do want to just separate myself. What I have to say here tonight has nothing to do with either of those organizations. I will be quick because in 4 1/2 minutes I'm supposed to begin a meeting for the Douglas County Coalition. It was though, a result of my working at Just Food that I came across a situation about a year ago. It bothered me a lot, and I began investigating it. Because I know many of you commissioners, and have observed you, I honestly felt you cannot be aware of this. The city has quite a legal and purposeful contract with a company called ISS to clean your buildings, and I am not questioning the legality of such a contract, or anything about it. What I'm about to give you is some information because I have interviewed several employees of ISS, and there is a connection between their livelihood and Just Food. I'll show that in a minute I want to take you through a week of an average employee of ISS. Monday ... I will not mention any names. A matter of fact, none of them agreed to give their names. They're afraid. I won't mention any buildings either. Monday, building number 1, this person worked 3 1/2 hours. Actually works close to 4, sometimes longer, but can only sign for 3 1/2 hours. At \$10 an hour. Also on Monday, after 5, this individual then goes to another building for 1 hour, for \$9. On Tuesday, this individual goes to building number 1 again, 3 1/2 hours at \$9 an hour. To another building then, in the afternoon, late afternoon, and gets 2 hours, 7 - 9 pm for \$9 an hour. Wednesday, to reference this again, the 3/12 hours at \$10 an hour in building number on, then to building number 4 in the late afternoon for 2 hours at \$9 an hour. Then Thursday, again, and this person considers himself very lucky to have a same building 5 days in a row. Building number 1, 3 1/2 hours, \$10 an hour. Then building number 4 for 2 hours in the evening, late afternoon for \$9 an hour. Thursday, 3 buildings. Building number 1, building number 4, and building number 2 again at the end. The day starts at 8 o'clock in the morning. Does not end until 7, but they've only managed to work 5 1/2 hours. Sorry, my math is off. 6 1/2. Friday, again ... now they've got the day starts at 8 o'clock in building 1, goes through building 1, building 4, building 3, building 2, and ends at 9 o'clock at night. Yet totals, 3 to 5, 7 1/2 hours. Big day. A total income for a week is \$287.50. For the month it's \$1,150.00. I hear comments all the time, and people hear about our volunteer Just Food route. "Well those bad people just don't want to work." Are you kidding me? How do you work a job like this, and support a family. Now this is a great city, and frankly I know you didn't know about this. There's also, a lot of times when these people have been shorted on their hours. 3 of them swear to me that was a regular occurrence, and they're terrified to challenge it, or do anything

about it. One man had a (??) last week and quit. He has a wife, and 3 kids to support. This isn't right folks. This town has the money to support hiring your own cleaner's full time. Damn it, when I was a kid a man could work 40 hours a week, and raise a family. You can't do it today. It's wrong. I apologize; I don't know why I'm getting so emotional. It's been a long day. We've served, I don't know, about a 175 families today at Just Food and 99% of them needed it, and thank us. Now I'm deeply embarrassed because I got so emotional about it. Thank you for listening.

Mayor Amyx: Thanks Mike. Diane, get us information on making sure people are not being shorted on their hours, okay? Make sure we do a follow up on that okay?

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager We'll certainly look into our contract provisions on that, and report back.

Mayor Amyx: Okay, thank you. Any public comment?

Vice Mayor Soden: I have something to say. You should never be embarrassed to care. I don't know where he went. He was leaving, but you should never be embarrassed about that.

Mayor Amyx: Other public comment? Please.

Jennifer Newlin: Good evening, I live at 530 Louisiana Street. I know it is out of time, but I and two other signers to memorandum, a request to reconsider the approach to execution of the trail along the river between Burcham and Constant Park, is our request. May I approach with these?

Mayor Amyx: Sure.

Jennifer Newlin: Thank you. I've handed you two. One is for tonight's lucky winner. First, I also want to apologize. It's an 8 page document. I was sadly still typing at 4:30, and then embroiled with Fed Ex Kinko's I think until about 6:15. It's disorganized, and it has given me even greater appreciation of your service to the city. Over the past 6 weeks, I've carved out some time to do what I assume you do, week in week out, which is talk to as many people as possible. Learn as much as possible in a short amount of time. Learn new things. Do some organizing, planning, deciding what to do, and what is right, and like the last commenter. I guess Ms. Soden is supportive of the fact that I admit twice in talking to people about this, I broke down in tears, to the point of being unable to speak, and I don't think I'm going to do that tonight. To highlight the document that the other citizens cannot see at this point, the highlights of this request are to reconsider the decision of March 2015 made by this body to spend \$107,950 to pave a 10 foot wide, now

100% concrete trail along the 0.64 mile of the Kansas river between, as I said, Constant and Burcham Parks. Then on September 22nd, an additional \$78,650 was approved in, obviously a late breaking decision to make this then, all concrete. I did attend that meeting, but was unschooled and not hearing the board/commission very well, and missed my chance to speak at that time. We're asking that the commission be certain that they are respecting the river. The power of water is well known, and one thing that I did not mention in this disorganized shambles of a document, is that over the weekend, probably everyone is aware of the tragic flooding in parts of South Carolina, particularly historic Charleston. I hope I'm speaking both as a citizen, but also as the owner of a, I guess a brick home built in 1867, so another parallel perhaps to Charleston. This walk is part of a flood plain, and there are homes much closer to potential danger in the future, especially if you believe in climate change, and the possibility that we really don't know what's to come in terms of the volatility of weather. Initially, I think on Sunday, I heard that South Carolina was a 500 year flood. Then within 24 hours, the Mayor of Charleston, I believe it was, either that or Governor of South Carolina was calling it ... I don't know if this is accurate, but a thousand year flood. I feel that this is a critical issue that deserves potentially more consideration on the front end. The beginning of the memo also asks that we restore, in other words, possibly save the river bank before we pave the river bank and not take any unnecessary risks knowingly, and potentially avoid city money in the future needing to be dedicated to some kinds of repairs, and rethinking of this. Obviously, every time you meet, and consider things, you have, and should have, wise use of resources of very much at the head of priorities. Money cannot buy a beautiful area like this path along the river, but it obviously can destroy it. I know that the desire is to create this continuous loop. I think that's a great idea, but certainly that begs the question, at what cost. Knowing what we know, or what we may find out. I mentioned that, in this memo, that after the September 22nd meeting at Mary's suggestion, we had a wonderful and informative talk with two representatives of the Parks and Recreation Department. One of their comments was, certainly they would be planting native grasses along both sides of the walkway. Planting more trees, but of course, I also mentioned that I don't really have much background information on this, but over the past, maybe two years, significant numbers of trees were taken out. There is a much wider swath, open swath. It's still very pretty, but the thicket, the woods used to go right up to the patch, which is on the river bank. One of the other signers of the, Shelly Bender, I believe is going to speak to her observations over 30 years. That path has moved inland 2, maybe 3 times since she's been walking that trail on a regular basis because it was gone,

the banks were falling in. They have less to anchor them now, and I also list in this memo, concerns about the effect of a 10 foot wide swath of concrete. The earth absorbs water. It will have limited capacity to do so under all this concrete and that tiny bit there a long the bank is critical. I also mention my unprofessional measuring of the distance from the proposed path to the bank, in sections particularly on the Burcham side. The, I guess, west side, for 300 feet, from a tree to a tree, in other words, now lone trees 300 feet apart, which concerns me as well, that distance ranges from 4 ft. 9 inches, to approximately 14 feet. There is also in the middle of that 300 feet, roughly, a waterway coming in, and then, I'm not an engineer or a scientist, but a culvert thing. The path goes over the culvert. In other words, that trail really can't be moved farther in at that point without a bridge or something like that. It's flooded. It will flood again. We possibly don't know, well of course we don't, we don't know the proportions, but I think there is a body of evidence saying, "Buckle in." I just feel that this is critical, at this point, to examine this issue further. As I explained in my wordy memo, my initial reaction was just, "Oh, this is going to be so ugly." That reaction became so much more than that. I just like to walk on the ground. In the beginning weeks of looking into this, it was hard. Maybe I was doing a bad job, but I couldn't get through to people to tell me about it. Everyone I asked, except for the mentioned member of the Pinckney Neighborhood Association. They knew about it because they had written a letter of support, had held a discussion, which was described to me as a discussion, I'm guessing prior to the March 2015 discussion, but obviously I don't know. The Journal World has done a great job in recent weeks of covering it, so finally when they published information including links, for example, to the memo, which informed this board of how this decision was made to go from part asphalt millings to all concrete, that was really helpful. I may have missed it, but I never found a link to the letters, but the Pinckney Neighborhood Association officer said the discussion, to their recollection, was about upgrading a multi-purpose trail. That sounds wonderful. I don't think they knew anything about what it would be made of, how wide, any other specifics. Of course, again, the decision to go all concrete due apparently, according to the city memo, due to the extreme wetness of the area, which raises red flags right there on the face of it. That creates concerns, and I question then whether the other several letters, from interesting bodies. The Jayhawk Audubon Society, I think it's called. Friends of the Kaw. I'm not sure what they were supporting, and I don't know really if they knew what they were supporting. I feel even if ... I mean, I didn't go down there today, I've been going there regularly. Maybe they're pouring today, or setting up the wood frames, or however you do that. Even if the city has to buy out of a contract, or pay to significantly change that contract, I believe

this is potentially such a critical issue that it would be well worth it. I think that it would come to a net savings in the future, in terms of safety, in terms of damage to the river bank, which could result ultimately in the damage to scores of homes. I admit, it's my own neighborhood, but as I said, my initial concern was just what a magical, lovely place this is. For some children, whose parents don't, or are unable to take them to the countryside, to Colorado, that could be these children's only chance to experience a sense of the wild. I'm not saying that the river banks along there is as it was a 1,000 years ago, but using your imagine one could believe so. I emailed people to get comments, and among them I think it's significant, or was significant to me, that an email that I received from retired KU professor Elizabeth Schultz who did establish the environmental fund in her name, and I'm going to read this. Elizabeth Schultz wrote: "The story in the paper this morning suggested that the concrete was almost a done deal. Don't people know that running on earth is better for the feet, the heart, the soul, so I'm with you on this one, feet, heart and soul. Even sole. Why do we have to pave the earth?" I also communicated with a citizen of Marquette, Kansas about 11 miles from Lindsborg. Population maybe 250. Maybe not quite that large. He was an instigator, and co-founder of the nature trail in Marquette, which is according to Mr. Thibodeaux, made of asphalt millings. When they started building the trail, he walked without the aid of a wheelchair, but in the past year or so, he has begun to use a motorized wheelchair to get around Marquette, Kansas, and reported to me that the motorized wheelchair works well on this asphalt millings trail. Which I've walked. It also blends better than a grayish white sidewalk. Some of that sidewalk has been built, as you know, down from the railroad tracks to that Western end. The Burcham Trail site and it has gone from bright white, when I first saw it on August 22nd to, in the last week I've noticed, it's covered in yuck, ewe, mud and dirt. I like walking in mud and dirt, but not so much on a sidewalk and it's next to the woods, but it will be increasingly along the river under trees. I hope. It will require a good deal of maintenance, just housekeeping, but if there is a flood, it will be beyond housekeeping.

Mayor Amyx:

Jennifer, excuse me for just a second. Diane, where are we at in this process? Excuse me.

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager

Mayor, I do not know, but I will check with our Parks and Rec Department. This particular change order to this agreement was approved two weeks ago, I believe, so I'm not sure whether they have mobilized to proceed with the paving. I apologize, I've just not aware of the current status.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay. Jennifer, the reason that I bring that up is because you're asking us to reconsider the item, and so I want to make

sure that we have time to discuss that. If we want to put it back on the agenda, that's where we head.

Jennifer Newlin:

Believe it or not, I am close to concluding. That is just to say that I reconsidered, I know myself several times have. "Well I guess that's it. This is done." But I couldn't stand it. I was so heartened to read the comments that came out of the recent meeting with now, the two final candidates for the commission. It was just a real boost to read that candidate Lisa Larsen used her expertise to question how closely this has been considered, talked about the floodplain, wondered if that had been taken into account, and also questioned the dollars being put into this effort and that Scott Morgan, not as to this issue, but commented on, well quote, "I've learned sometimes in Lawrence, sometimes the quickest route is not the best route. You need to hear the communities concerns. Alter the plan, and go forward with a plan B." I consider myself a super sleuth, but it was very difficult in my spare time, as you well know, to find out what was happening. I'm going to let a couple of other people here speak. Thank you so much for your time.

Mayor Amyx:

Other public comment?

Allie Roepe

Mayor and commission, it's an honor to be able to stand up and speak with you this evening. I live at 1627 Learnard Avenue in East Lawrence. Before I moved there, I lived right over next to Burcham Park on Indiana Street. I think it was in 2006, give or take a year; my daughter was in high school and Burcham park flooded and because my property, you know the railroad track goes past behind my house, and I could look out from the upstairs window of my house and see the water was up to the railroad tracks. If they hadn't been there, it would have been in my backyard. That's pretty dang close for comfort to have water coming that far. I am absolutely for access for all people. I don't have a fight with that idea, but I've been an environmentalist most of my life, and so this is a very important issue to me. I spoke today to Dawn Buehler who is the new river keeper, and she says its 173 miles. It's the biggest river in Kansas, and she said it's very hard to keep track of it all, all the time, and she depends on local people to give input on to the status of the river. She has watched the river in Lawrence because she lives here, and her concern is also for the erosion factor. I wasn't able to ascertain what the rate of erosion is in this area. Are any of you guys aware of that? I could not find that figure. Like Shelly and Jennifer, I've walked the trail for 10 years, and I have seen it erode, and erode, and erode. As a naturalist, I enjoy nature as its happening, that's part of the beauty of everything but when Dawn and I were speaking about any kind of reparations that were being made; she said that there is a plan to put a bunch

of rocks along the river there, and to stabilize it that way. I did walk down there today. They're not pouring concrete today. What I notice is the stabilization that was done with the rocks in that area, a lot had slid down into the river already. I was there when they were doing some of that rocking originally, so it's not been that long the rocks been there. That's frightening to me, if that's the big plan for stabilizing things. Dawn agreed with me that this really feels like an emergency to spend a little bit of time, and study this, and really find out. She was talking about the pit mine that was over by the mud creek that comes in north of Lawrence, over by the river there. She was talking about a 75 foot pit that was dug for the sand, and that part of the deal is that contractors are supposed to repair the area. First they rip out the riparian forest area, and then they dig away for the sand. What happens is that the erosion is extreme because the water is going into that pocked out area. She said that nobody in the city ever holds those contractors feet to the fire. They don't repair that area so that's why we have a lot of erosion going on. So her concern is that this will not be attended to, and part of the money that you were speaking about Jennifer, was from a Douglas County Foundation that the river keepers have access to this certain amount of money, and they give their approval, I believe to you all to use that money in the repairing of that area. Not necessarily goes to the concrete fund, but to actually do remediation work along the river. I just feel so strongly that it's important to, you know in order to share nature; we need to preserve what we have. I agree that this is a place of beauty that we have in Lawrence, and there's a lot of concrete everywhere in other parks. I like the idea of a trail also that goes around town, but I feel like it may be money spent that is going to end up in the river because, like Jennifer said, there are areas, and I walked by them today, that is 4 feet from the path from the edge of the bank of the river to the path. Any conservative repairing in a riparian forest requires at least 80 feet to plant the native grasses, the willows, the cottonwoods. All the different kinds of plants that really anchor the bank, and that just planting grass like we have in our back yards is not going to do the job. Dawn was saying that she hopes the city would also consider doing some kind of environmental impacts research on this to just determine how fast the bank is falling off. What we need to do to stabilize it that will really do that. I'm just asking to please, can we look into this forward before we go forward with anything else.

Mayor Amyx:

Thank you. Okay, was there another comment?

Shelly Bender:

Thank you for allowing us to make these comments. It's very much appreciated. Unfortunately, there's been disconnect between working with the city with this plan, and what has transpired over the 32 years that I've owned house. My house

is probably the house in Lawrence that's closest to the river. Several years ago, and I've walked the trail with my dog, oh probably almost every day for the past 32 years. My various dogs, I should say. I wish they could live that long. What I've noticed, and had been a great concern, as Jennifer indicated, is that the bank and the trail have moved probably, I want to guess 7 to 10 feet. We've had 2 or 3 trails since I've owned my property, and about 15 years ago, I noticed that some of the trees were getting eaten by the beavers all along the river bank. I called the ... I started chicken wiring the bases of these trees that were closest to the river bank to try and support the river from coming in any further because the root systems of these trees are critical to the bank. I spoke to, I called Mike Wildgen, and we talked about it. I talked to the Park and Rec people, and they got their crews out there to help me. Every winter as I noticed the beavers taking the trees out, we would chicken wire more and more trees until we had most of the big trees chicken wired to protect the bank. Recently in the last, I guess 6 months, I noticed the bulldozers taking out all those trees, and bringing the tree line way, way closer to the railroad tracks than it had ever been. All I could think of was, oh my God, we no longer have trees holding the river bank. We don't have rocks. We don't have trees, roots. We have nothing. In 1991, I was in contact with the city on a daily basis, if you remember, the river was up to Indiana Street then. We had, my husband and I had stakes in the ground by the railroad tracks. Every day we were watching the water advance closer and closer to our house. Everyone was calling me, and saying just let us know how it's changing because we had our markers on this stick in the ground. Let us know; we'll be there to sandbag your house in an instant. The water was raging. I mean it was all the way up to Indiana. It was a good 6 foot deep. There was a very good chance that the river was going to come right in through my front door. My whole point with this is that we have a very fragile bank. We need to do everything in our power to keep that bank. To repair that bank. To preserve that bank. Because our homes are very close to it. We have all in Pinckney, we have been watching for years, this bank be diminished. We need to, rather than worry about paving a path, we need to worry about supporting our bank, and putting the money into that before the bank is in our front yards. I have been working... my concerns have been the city concerns. For years we were working together on this. It seems like something has gone amiss. I travel a lot for a living, and this whole thing was brought to me. I thought someone has forgotten what we have been doing all these years to preserve this bank. I think it would be very irresponsible, and I'm sure that someone is overlooking the necessity, to really research this, as we have very little control over the river. It's not a stream, it's not a pond and it's not a lake. I mean, it's a major river. We saw what happened in North Lawrence on the

other side of the tracks, and there was a lot of work done as that went under. I could see that we could have the same problem on our side. On the side of the river that we're talking about right now. I urge a revisiting.

Mayor Amyx: Okay, thank you.

Shelly Bender: Thank you very much.

Mayor Amyx: You bet. Any comment? Joe, did you have a comment? Okay so, Diane you will get us information on this, and where we are right now.

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager Mayor, I didn't realize that Mark Hecker is here this evening from Park and Rec, and so I understand that time is of the essence, but Mark can provide a brief update with regard to where the project is.

Mark Hecker:
Assistant Director
Parks & Recreation Good evening commissioners. Currently, we're pouring bridge abutments. Hope to put the bridge in end of this week, first of next week. Concrete will begin poured on the paved portion of the trail next week, is the plan. We're in a little bit of a time crunch as far as weather, because we're trying to beat winter basically on this project. We're proceeding as planned, unless we get different direction.

Mayor Amyx: Okay.

Shelly Bender: Can I just say one more thing really quickly? It just occurred to me. Over the course of the 32 years that I've been walking this trail, the bridges, more than once those bridges have had to be replaced because they were under water. That park has been under water, I would say 3 times in those years. The worst was the flooding of '91, but we've had it under water about two other time.

Mayor Amyx: Okay, thank you. We need to make a decision tonight?

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager I think that would be preferable, Mayor. In order for us to have something. If you wish to have something reconsidered, next week would be the appropriate time given the schedule, and the need to proceed if that's the direction.

Mayor Amyx: Okay. To the commission on this subject now.

Commissioner Herbert:
Mayor Amyx: Given that this wasn't on the agenda. Can we take an action? No, we have to place the reconsideration item next week. In light of the new information, would the majority of this commission like to hear additional information?

Vice Mayor Soden: Well, it sounds to me like we should reconsider it next week.

Mayor Amyx: Okay.

Shelly Bender: Can I say one more thing, please?

Mayor Amyx: The item is going to be reconsidered next week. No. Thank you. You'll have to come back next week, okay?

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager We'll make sure that's on the agenda. Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Amyx: Any other public comment? Well, we're on to the regular agenda.

E. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Receive comments from Mayor Amyx and City Commission.**

Commissioner Herbert: I'd be happy to start if no one else wants to take the lead. This has been something that's been weighing on my mind for quite a bit of time. I'm sure I'm not telling you all anything either. I'm sure that I ran into Mayor Amyx this morning in downtown Lawrence, and he asked me how I was sleeping. I said, "Just as good as I've been sleeping for the last week." Right? One of the things that I've been trying to consider. I think, Leslie, it was you who had asked the question in the forum about what has the election in April taught us. I believe that was your question. One of the things that I've been considering with this appointment is your question, actually. What has the election in April taught us? I think what I took from that election were two things. I took that, in speaking with individuals, there was a massive lack of transparency as they saw. That there were a lot of mistakes made with process. Okay, so I take those two ideas, and I apply it to what we're trying to do tonight. How do we achieve transparency? How do we achieve process? Well, I think, I feel, I hope that the transparency was achieved through the process that we utilized. We created a committee of 12, each of us hand selected 3 individuals for that committee. I feel like it was truly a team effort on the behalf of the commission to put this group together of the 12 members of our community who we feel are influential, who we feel brought to the table a set of ideas. All of these things. Okay, so I think the transparency was achieved. Then the question becomes, how do we fill that seat in a way that demonstrates good process? That's been what's kept me awake the last couple of nights, is thinking about what the answer is to that question. Here's what I come back to, and I certainly welcome anything the 3 of you have to say, and I certainly respect the 3 of your opinions. To me the process is this. When we put that group of 12 together, they had 14 applicants. Those 14

applicants submitted resumes. Based solely on the language on the paper, that committee of 12 cut those 14 down to 12. In doing so, they also ranked them. At that point the first was Scott and 2nd was Lisa. We then brought them back, and we had a forum right here on the floor of the city hall. At that forum our committee of 12 which we all hand selected, cut it from 12 to 6. At that time, they also individually ranked them. At that time, Scott was ranked first, and Lisa was ranked 2nd. When I look at the two candidates that we have before us tonight, it would be an honor to serve with either one of them. I think they are both incredible candidates. Last week when I had the chance to vote for 3 candidates, I put both Lisa and Scott on my ballot. I think both of them would be incredible, but when we look at what the election in April taught us. The importance of process. To me what that says is people desire the community to make this choice. I'm sure you've received the same emails, and phone calls that I have, but there is a great deal of anger in the community that a special election wasn't held. We had heard from our city attorney as to why that was. To me, it comes down to this. I think we selected that committee. I think the committee was made up of truly intelligent people. I think all 3 of you did a great job of picking your committee members, and tonight I would recommend that we follow their recommendation both times. Both times they ranked Scott Morgan 1, Lisa Larsen 2. I would recommend tonight in honor of process, that we do the same thing.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay, thank you. Did you want to go?

Vice Mayor Soden:

Sure, I'll go. Well it's funny because the vacancy committee that we had did do a great job. I had a little bit of a different take away from them, and that was that we had the 4 of us selected 3 people each. What I found was interesting when I tallied up all the votes, and who voted for which. When they named their top candidates is that each camp, I guess you might call them camp. Like I had my camp of appointments when each of you had yours. That each of our camps, all of them actually selected Lisa Larsen, at least one of them did. Then when we had our ballot, of course, last week, what I also found interesting was that out of these 4 commissioners, all of has Lisa Larsen on our ballot. Not only that, but Scott Morgan, who's a great guy, he wasn't first on any of ours ballot list, but Lisa Larsen was first on 2 of our ballots. To me, I have a little bit different of a take away, so that's why I support Lisa Larsen. To me that showed a little more solid consensus out of all of the different camps we had, as well as the 4 of us.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay. Stuart?

Commissioner Boley:

I would like to say thank you, to all the candidates that stepped forward. It's a difficult decision to make, and it's a

difficult process to go through. I'd like to thank Joe Harkins, and the committee for the work that they did. Ultimately however, this is our responsibility to make this decision. It's been tough. Scott has an incredible background. He's a great guy. He has experience, and he would do this job well. To me, the question really is, what do we need to be complete? I believe that Lisa will make us more complete. With her experience as a scientist, and her analytical processes, and her clever talk. Have convinced me to support Lisa Larsen.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay. You know I didn't think that I would have such an interesting time when you all decided to name me Mayor for the additional \$19.23 a week that I make. This decision, you know I go back and I want to thank all of the members of the committee that came forward, and put in quite a bit of time. Joe thank you again for the work that you did, in doing this. I think one of the things that this committee did, is they sent us 6 very qualified people to consider. They did their homework, and they did it right, and they sent us 6 people that are very good. Last week, last Thursday night we spent time, and we were able to reduce the number from 6 to 2. Matthew, I appreciate the work that you've done, in the way that you've looked at this. The other commissioners also. The ballots, I will say one thing that as I've looked at this, Lisa was on all 4 of our ballots, and I think that that happened and probably the last 3 nights I could have called any one of you in the middle of the night, and probably had conversation with you, because I have been awake. This is tough. We're talking about people. People who have stepped forward, and want to serve along with us to do good things for the City of Lawrence. To do things right. To be able to make decisions for our community. The big job that we have is that we got to pick one. This is the second time in my career that I've had the opportunity to do this. Once in 1983, and here we are in 2015. You know, it's no easier today than what it was all so many years ago. The truth of the matter is that we're not talking about a zoning issue. We're not talking about the items that come forward many times that we have to deal with. We're talking about people. People that have stepped forward, and want to do the job. Now, I know that in this particular case, we're getting ready to vote here in a minute. This is still, you know I am still making up my mind, but still it's a tough decision because the candidates that we have are so good. They are so good. We have big decisions to make. We have big decisions to make. In that we're going to hire a new city manager. We have big decisions to make. We have a number of big zoning issues that are going to come forward. We have any number of things going on, and on top of everything else we have a budget process that will begin probably right after the first of the year as we start this all again. I'll just tell you a little about this entire situation, what's made it really tough. Is that I think our

community looks to us to make decisions. I think one of the other thing that's happened is, that it's been hard for me is that, I know that because of the split that we have in our commission, I can send this item to the city attorney for final decision. I have that kind of deal, but I believe that I was appointed by you all. I was elected by the folks in this community to make decisions on their behalf. I think that my job is to make those decisions. Again, I have taken into consideration, and I bet I have changed my votes multiple times in the last 48 hours especially. I think that, and Matt it goes back to everything you've said, it has. In the end the one thing that I think is so important in all of this is that, the way I see my responsibility, in being able to make a decision on behalf of this community. Tony, I know that you would make a great decision. Not going to ask what it is, but I do believe that in fairness, we are going to be a part of a body that we will work together. That will be our commitment to make sure that we work together. That being all said, I think that based on that, and not wanting to ask the city attorney to step forward and make the decision for us. I believe it is our responsibility. I believe Lisa Larsen should fill the vacant city commission position.

Vice Mayor Soden:

Do we do public comment?

Mayor Amyx:

Okay. Any comment? Okay, so that you know in a minute, once that vote happens. You'll be given the opportunity to give a speech, you can

Lisa Larsen:

I just told Scott I want to go home with him right now actually.

Mayor Amyx:

Do what?

Lisa Larsen:

I just told Scott I want to go home with him right now.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay, but if you'd like to make a comment please.

Lisa Larsen:

Thank you. Thank you very much, I really appreciate it. I want to thank all my friends and family for being on this little trip with me for the last month and a half. It's been quite a wild ride. I also want to thank the commission, as well as the staff for being so professional about this. Not least, is also the committee that you folks put together, they did a wonderful job of going through that process. I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay thank you. Okay. Any other questions or comments.

Vice Mayor Soden:

I was wondering if we needed to ask both of them if they still wanted to do it, at this point in time.

Mayor Amyx: Here again, we appreciate you stepping forward, and look forward to working with you. Scott, we appreciate you stepping forward, and the work, and everything that you've done in wanting to become a member of this body. We're very fortunate to have people willing to do the job. Anyway, thank you. We'll get to you in just a second. Frank did you have a comment?

Frank Janzen: I wanted to comment on what Commissioner Herbert was saying about the people's choice as he saw it from the previous 2 events in which he had Scott and Lisa, first and second. This is a very unusual situation, as we understand, thanks to Jeremy Farmer. So what we have here before us, were actually the elected officials, who in their experience and knowledge, in the end, make the final decision. I just wanted to say when the 6 were here last time, I was surprised. I didn't know much about Lisa, but her response to me was outstanding. I told her afterwards, I said I was really impressed with her responses, and I think you guys were too. Thanks.

Mayor Amyx: Thank you. Okay, any other comment?

Commissioner Herbert: Can I make a comment to that?

Mayor Amyx: Yes, please.

Commissioner Herbert: I just want to be very ... you know I had a chance to speak to Lisa after the forum, and I made the same comment to her, Frank that you just made. When I walked into the forum, I probably of my own ignorance, but she wasn't even on my radar and I was absolutely blown away by her comments. Very quickly, she moved onto my ballot for the just the same reason you mentioned. I appreciate that Frank.

Mayor Amyx: Okay, other comment? Yes sir.

Scott Morgan: I'm actually not going to sign in just because I'm grumpy. No, I'm kidding. I'm Scott Morgan. I live in Lawrence. I just wanted to thank you all for the consideration, and the thought you put into this. I wish you all, and Lisa certainly, all the best. I think the community is really ready for you to get back to work, and I'm sure you're really excited about it. I got to say, it's with mixed emotions, but it's not the worst thing that's ever happened to me. Thank you very much.

Mayor Amyx: Scott. Well again ... hey Scott? Don't run off.

Vice Mayor Soden: Well, I was just going to tell you. I hope you run again. Maybe ... come on ... I'm really. Thank you Scott.

Mayor Amyx: The next item on the agenda then is to conduct the election to

the successor to the vacant city commission position, and this is pursuant to section 1-201 of the city code. Tony, do you have any comment about the code, or the language? Excuse me. Excuse me, I can't hear. Okay. Just a simple majority?

Toni Wheeler:
City Attorney

Yes.

Vice Mayor Soden:

Do we do a nomination?

Mayor Amyx:

Okay, at this time I will open the floor up to nominations.

Vice Mayor Soden:

If that's all right? I would like to nominate Lisa Larsen to fill the vacancy that we have here at city commission.

Mayor Amyx:

Okay, and did we decide yesterday we do, or do not have to have seconds to nominations? We do not?

Toni Wheeler:
City Attorney

You do not have to.

Mayor Amyx:

Are there any other names that we wish to place into nomination for the vacant city commission position?

Vice Mayor Soden:

Well, my friends baby who was here earlier.

Mayor Amyx:

Hearing none, I will close the nominations. We have entered the name of Lisa Larsen to fill the vacant city commission position. Is there any other comments or questions?

Vice Mayor Soden:

I'm looking forward to being back to 5.

Mayor Amyx:

Me too. Okay. Do we have to do a motion now?

Diane Stoddard:
Interim City Manager

Just for the election of the individuals that will be considered.

2. **Conduct the election of a successor to the vacant City Commission position, pursuant to Section 1-201 of the City Code.**

Moved by Vice Mayor Soden to nominate Lisa Larsen to fill the vacant position on the City Commission. Aye: Mayor Amyx, Commissioners Boley and Herbert, and Vice Mayor Soden. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Conduct swearing in of the newly appointed City Commissioner. The new Commissioner will be seated.**

Brandon McGuire, Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk swore in new City Commissioner Lisa Larsen to the City of Lawrence, City Commission.

RECESS FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES

4. **Consider a motion to recess into executive session for the following items:**
- a) **For approximately 30 minutes to discuss confidential data relating to the financial affairs or trade secrets of a corporation. The justification for the executive session is to protect the confidentiality of the corporation's data related to its financial affairs or trade secrets.**
- b) **For approximately 15 minutes to consult with attorneys for the City on matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship. The justification for the executive session is to keep attorney-client matters confidential at this time. At the conclusion of the executive sessions, the Commission will resume its regular meeting in the City Commission Room.**

Moved by Commissioner Boley, seconded by Commissioner Herbert, to recess into executive sessions for approximately 45 minutes for the purposes stated above. Motion carried unanimously.

Nothing to report from the executive session.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Diane Stoddard, Interim City Manager, outlined potential future agenda items.

G: COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Herbert: Just had an opportunity to do a little mum planting this weekend. Yeah, we hit downtown. Beautified the neighborhood a little bit there. Hopefully you've got a few more walk-in haircuts because of that, I'm sure.

Mayor Amyx: I'm sneezing regularly. It's great.

Commissioner Herbert: Friday and Saturday, we had a large number of people show up. They estimated on Saturday that it was going to take about 3 hours to plant 400 mums, and we finished it in 54 minutes, that's how many people we had 3 hours, worth of planting in 54 minute.

Vice Mayor Soden: Good work.

Commissioner Herbert: It was awesome. The showing from the community was outrageous. People just kept showing up. There was not enough shovels, or gloves to go around. It was wonderful. It's a good problem to have.

Mayor Amyx: There're very few projects that I like to put my thumbprints on, or take credit for having maybe a little thumbprint on. That's one. That I like because everybody said ... I had friends of mine that said, "Why don't you let the master gardeners do it?" There're a lot of people like gardening.

Commissioner Herbert: I've already heard that the master gardeners don't like mums. We've had our first great divide already.

Mayor Amyx: I mean to tell you, it's great to see people stepping forward and taking pride in their community. Other Commission items?

Vice Mayor Soden: Yeah, Stuart and I went to the Lawrence/Douglas County Fire/Medical barbeque and I'm completely enamored with their old fire engine. I can't keep it straight if it's from 1951 or 1955, but they pull it out for parades and stuff, I guess. It's really great. I mean, but the firefighters are great too, obviously.

Mayor Amyx: The only other Commission item that I would have, again, Lisa, welcome to the Lawrence City Commission.

H: CALENDAR:

Diane Stoddard, Interim 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 Commissioner Boley, seconded by Vice Mayor Soden, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 29, 2015



Brandon McGuire, Acting City Clerk