

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL
9001 WEST 62ND STREET
January 11, 2021
7:00 P.M.
This was a virtual meeting via Zoom**

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sissom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council and staff said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sissom asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the current situation that occurred at the nation's capital.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Councilmembers were present via Zoom meeting:

Scott Diebold
Chris Evans Hands
Bruce Kaldahl
Brian Knaff
David Neal
Bob Pape
Jason Silvers
Whitney Yadrich

Staff present via Zoom meeting: Chris Engel, City Administrator; Ryan Denk, City Attorney; Meredith Hauck, Assistant City Administrator; Jim MacDonald, Public Works Director; Jenna Gant, Communication and Public Engagement Manager; Darren McLaughlin, Police Chief; Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director; Bryan Dyer, Community Development Director; Donna Oliver, Finance Director; and Juli Pinnick, City Clerk.

III. PUBLIC ITEMS

In response to COVID-19 and remote City Council meetings, the public comment process that normally occurs during the City Council meeting has temporarily changed. Members of the public are still encouraged to share comments about matters that may or may not appear on the agenda by the following process below:

Submit public comment to the City Clerk at jpinnick@merriam.org by 6 p.m. on the date of the meeting; comments are limited to 500 words; must include "Public Comment" in the subject line; commenters must include their name and their address. Late submissions, submissions without "Public Comment" in the subject line; and comments without name and address will not be read into the public record. In accordance with the *Governing Body Rules of Procedure*, the City reserves the right to refuse Public Comments that are personal, impertinent or slanderous.

There were no Public Comments submitted.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the heading are considered to be routine by the City Council and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests, in which case that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separate.

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held December 14, 2020.
2. Consider approval of a facility partnership agreement with Peerfit.

Councilmember Silvers asked that item 2 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 1. COUNCILMEMBER NEAL SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Councilmember Silvers asked how the reimbursement for use of the facility works.

Parks and Recreation Director Anna Slocum responded that this agreement is a benefit offered through an employer benefit program. The reimbursement is sent to the city based on the membership visit type.

COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 2. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. 4th Quarter 2020 Employee Service Awards.

City Administrator Chris Engel recognized the following employees:

10 Years of Service

Sheila Sheridan - Court Administrator

Laura Larison - Police Department

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

1. Consider approval of an agreement with Overland Park amending a traffic signal agreement and approval of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Police Chief Darren McLaughlin provided the background for this item.

On November 23, 2020, the Council approved the purchase in installation of License Plate Reader (LPR) cameras at 67th and Carter and 75th and Kings Cove Dr. That proposal required sharing infrastructure owned and maintained by the City of Overland Park to transmit the LPR data from the camera at 75th and Kings Cove Drive to the City of Merriam. The City of Merriam currently has an agreement with the City of Overland Park in sharing maintenance and infrastructure related to traffic signals. This updated agreement allows the City of Merriam to use Overland Park's current traffic signal infrastructure to route data from the LPR camera installed at 75th and Kings Cove drive to our server.

The Memorandum of Understanding allows for the City of Overland Park and the City of Merriam to view Intersection Camera feeds (not LPR Data). These cameras allow those with access to view real time traffic conditions and allow review of recorded video in the investigation of criminal activity or accidents. The City of Overland Park and the City of Merriam would benefit from having view only access to each other's intersection cameras because criminal activity and accidents frequently occur on or crosses each other's borders. This agreement will not grant any access to any other camera feeds, to include security camera feeds or LPR camera data.

Councilmember Neal asked if the agreement only covers the sharing of camera only on 75th St.

Chief McLaughlin responded that the Memorandum of Understanding would allow for sharing of all of the City of Merriam's cameras and the City of Overland Park intersection cameras.

Mayor Sissom commented that as crime has been increasing lately, it appears that having the capability to view this data from another cities as criminals make their way through Merriam will be very helpful.

Chief Mc Laughlin commented that there has been an increase in the number of people under the influence of alcohol. DUI arrests have had a huge increase in 2020. There appears to be more people acting violent as well, and it is unclear what the cause of the increased violence is. Having more people driving under the influence and the increase in violence is more dangerous for the public and police officers.

Councilmember Neal asked if there is video sharing throughout the county with other jurisdictions and how the vehicle pursuits coming from other cities are handled.

Chief McLaughlin commented that Overland Park has other agreements with neighboring cities however, this is the first video sharing agreement for Merriam. Having a shared system with other jurisdictions would be helpful in dealing with vehicle pursuits and he anticipates the video sharing across multiple jurisdictions will be more prevalent in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE AN ADDENDUM TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MERRIAM AND OVERLAND PARK FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OVERLAND PARK FOR VIDEO CAMERA FEED SHARING. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. Consider approval of a contract with U.S. Bank for banking services.

Finance Director Donna Oliver provided the background for this item.

The City has utilized U.S. Bank for our operating banking provider since 2009. In an effort to ensure that the City was still receiving competitive pricing on services and interest rates, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Banking Services was issued October 26, with a due date of November 24. The City received proposals from seven eligible banks. The proposals were reviewed by the finance director, city accountant and Adam Pope, a staff member of Columbia Capital Investments, the City's financial advisor.

Each proposal was judged on several criteria including financial strength and stability, governmental experience, cost, scope and effectiveness of services provided, location of branch office, and interest offered on idle funds. Staff is recommending U.S. Bank as the continued provider of banking services.

U.S. Bancorp, the parent company of U.S. Bank is the 5th largest U.S. commercial bank with assets of \$540 billion, loans of \$307 billion, deposits of \$413 billion and over 70,000 employees. The bank offers a specialized "Government Banking Division" which provides a high level of expertise to assist with the unique needs and requirements of municipalities.

U.S. Bank has provided extraordinary service to the City in the past, has been a good partner, and offers competitive fees. They have a branch located in Merriam just a few blocks from City Hall. Staying with them allows the City to avoid the implementation cost of staff time and supplies. In addition, they have included a Loyalty Bonus of \$5,000 to be used to offset costs of fees or supplies.

Councilmember Silvers asked if U.S. Bank is a B Corporation or a Global Alliance for Banking Values member business. A Global Alliance member typically supports environmental and sustainability worldwide.

Ms. Oliver said that she did not know if U.S. Bank was or not and would check to see.

Councilmember Yadrich commented that she has a list of banks and finance companies that are Global Alliance members and she will share that information with Councilmember Silvers and staff.

COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH U.S. BANK FOR BANKING SERVICES. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. CIP Update.

Public Works Director Jim MacDonald provided the following CIP Updates:

2021 CARS project - East Frontage Rd. from 67th to 75th St., staff met with Affinis to verify the quantities on the project and they are finishing the final plans for the project which will likely go out for bid in late January.

2021 Mill and Overlay Program - Affinis is working on this project as well and will be part of the CARS bid package. Streets included in the 2021 program include Goodman St. to the north city limits to Johnson Dr.; 55th Ter. from

Goodman to Lowell; 55th St. from Antioch to Hadley, 51st Place, west to Knox and Perry Ln. south to 51st St. also included with this project is Craig Rd. from Shawnee Mission Parkway to 51st St.

2021 Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair Project - this project will be included in the same bid package as well. Staff has identified several locations for sidewalk maintenance from Mastin east to Campbell Ln. from Johnson Dr. south to Shawnee Mission Parkway.

Councilmember Hands asked about the traffic calming bumps on Goodman and what will happen to them with the Mill and Overlay.

Mr. MacDonald commented that the plan is to mill them off and leave the curb bump out to assist with the traffic calming. There will be pavement markings around the bump outs.

Councilmember Silvers complimented the Public Works Department on the great job of snow removal and requested a ride along with a snow plow driver at some point in the future, if possible.

Councilmember Pape asked about adding bike lanes to the East Frontage Rd. project. He asked about the bike route emblems that some cities have painted on the pavement.

Mr. MacDonald commented that with all projects the engineer always looks at ways to improve the roadways which includes adding bike lanes, if possible. With that project, there is not enough easement to add bike lanes, as well there is concerns over the speed on that road. Regarding the bike emblems, he commented that a neighboring city received a grant to put those on the pavement however, it is unclear if having those emblems on the roadways really helps with safety.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

Assistant City Administrator Meredith Hauck commented that the Council Chamber video project is moving along and the city has received quotes for the services. It has been determined that the best option is to do the videotaping and closed captioning in house rather than use a service. She wanted to confirm that the council desires a system with a single camera shot showing the Council Chambers with the option to switch cameras to a presentation view. The video would not be live streamed but posted later with closed captioning. Because the

bids came in within the City Administrators spending authority, council would not be required to formally approve the purchase.

Councilmember Pape commented that is good with the wide angle camera shot and presentation view but, wants to make sure the system could be expanded if desired in the future but for now, he feels those options are acceptable.

Councilmember Neal concurred with Councilmember Pape's comments.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:42 PM. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

APPROVED: January 25, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Pinnick

City Clerk