

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL
9001 WEST 62ND STREET
August 26, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sissom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Scott Diebold
Al Frisby
Chris Evans Hands
Nancy Hupp
Brian Knaff
David Neal
Bob Pape
Jason Silvers

Staff present: Chris Engel, City Administrator; Nicole Proulx Aiken, City Attorney; Todd Allen, Acting Police Chief; Cindy Ehart, Finance Director; Jim MacDonald, Acting Public Works Director; Jenna Gant, Communication and Public Engagement Manager; Sari Maple, Human Resource Coordinator; Anna Slocum, Parks and Recreation Director; Bryan Dyer, Community Development Director and Juli Pinnick, City Clerk.

III. PUBLIC ITEMS

Members of the public are encouraged to use this time to make comments about matters that do not appear on the agenda. Comments about items on the regular agenda will be taken as each item is considered. ***Please note: individuals making Public Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.***

Billy Crook, 6636 Wedd St., commented that previously there was some discussion about a postcard system used by Prairie Village for resident input prior to a Capital Improvement Project coming to their neighborhood. Mr. Crook indicated that he hopes the City of Merriam could implement that system to allow residents to receive information and give input on those projects that would affect their neighborhoods.

Whitney Yadrich, 9620 W 57th Pl., commented that she is a candidate for the Ward 2 city council seat, and she attended the gun safety roundtable hosted by Congresswoman Sharice Davids last Saturday. She was surprised to learn that the state has passed legislation back in 2014 that does not allow municipalities to regulate additional restrictions on guns. She was able to talk with some folks and gather information and engage with individuals who had differing opinions, thoughts and beliefs than hers. This interaction enlightened her to discover that while elected representatives at the municipal level really are powerless regarding this issue, as an individual, she does have the power to make changes.

Mayor Sissom commented that regarding the postcard comment, there will be further discussion by the council on this issue in the future.

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 or citizen so requests, in which case that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council Meeting held August 12, 2019.

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

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Confirm the appointment of Chris Engel as City Treasurer.

City Administrator Chris Engel provided the background for this item.

The Finance Director, Cindy Ehart will be retiring September 23, 2019 which leaves the city without a Finance Director or City Treasurer as she holds both of those positions. This appointment is not a permanent solution, as a new Finance Director will be hired within a couple of weeks of her departure. There were discussions among staff to leave the position vacant for that time period, however there are several reasons why that position cannot be vacant.

Appointing the City Administrator as the Treasurer was suggested by the Finance Director as the most logical choice as the City Administrator is already a signatory on all of the city accounts. Naming someone else would require new authorizations on these accounts only to undo that authorization in a few weeks.

Mr. Engel explained that many cities the size of Merriam do not have a Treasurer position, as the practice of a City Treasurer was implemented many years ago when the city did not have professional staff such as a Finance Director. Duties of the Treasurer include being a signatory on all the accounts and checks, and providing a quarterly Treasurer's Report depicting account balances which is published by the Treasurer. Additional duties of the Treasurer include a signatory on all Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses, as well as a signatory on the city's business licenses. Business licenses are issued on a daily basis, and per Merriam City Code, the Treasurer has to sign off on business licenses. While the code could be changed to eliminate this requirement, it would take a couple of council meetings to get that legislation approved.

Mr. Engel recognized that there may be some concern that appointing the City Administrator as the City Treasurer results in no segregation of duties when it comes to check signing. However, currently all checks require two signatures, the Mayor and City Treasurer. The city's check issuing system goes through many checks and balances and has many internal controls through the city's accountant, accounting clerk, and a positive pay system. The positive pay system requires all checks issued by the city to be digitally sent to the bank in order for that check to be paid. The City Administrator does not have the ability to send or authorize checks to be paid through positive pay. The city's accountant must send the file to the bank to confirm that the check is legitimate or it does not get paid.

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRIS ENGEL AS CITY TREASURER EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 24, 2019. COUNCILMEMBER FRISBY SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. Confirm the appointment of Kyle Cooper (Ward 1) to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the term expiring December 31, 2019.

Kyle Cooper, 1009 W. 50th Ter. introduced himself and provided a brief biography. Mr. Cooper grew up in Kansas City, Kansas and he and his wife purchased their first home in Merriam 5 years ago. Growing up, his father always told him to be a good citizen. He never knew what that really meant until he was grown and had his own family. He has a young son and is always looking for outdoor and community activities to engage him in. He feels that being on the Park Board will provide him an opportunity to add input and improve the community.

COUNCILMEMBER HUPP MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF KYLE COOPER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2019. COUNCILMEMBER DIEBOLD SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

A. Finance and Administration

B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP

1. Community Development Update.

Community Development Director Bryan Dyer provided the following Community Development updates:

The Comprehensive Plan Update Advisory Committee held their first meeting on July 31st. Their next meeting will be October 16th. All information presented at that meeting is on the city's website. The consultants are working on a website dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan.

The Audi dealership is open for business as of last Friday.

Advent Health has opened the new parking garage and the new access road to the garage is open as well. The medical office building on their campus is nearly ready for tenant finish as the shell of the building is complete.

The medical office building on E. Frontage Rd. will be the new facility for ENT Associates and they are nearly complete with the tenant finish for the two suites in that building as well.

Reed Automotive has submitted building permit plans for their new dealership.

Switzer Senior Villas have also submitted building permit plans for their project.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:35 PM. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

APPROVED: September 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Pinnick

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City Clerk