

**MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL
9001 WEST 62ND STREET
July 13, 2020
7:00 P.M.
Virtual meeting via zoom.**

I. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. ROLL CALL

The following Councilmembers were present via Zoom meeting:

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

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; Bryan Dyer, Community Development Director; Donna Oliver, Finance Director; and Juli Pinnick, City Clerk.

III. PUBLIC ITEMS

In response to COVID-19, public comment that normally occurs during the City Council meeting has been temporarily suspended. Members of the public are still encouraged to share comments about matters that may or may not appear on the agenda. Comments about items on the regular agenda will be taken as each item is considered. **Please note: Public Comments will only be taken via email to the City Clerk at jpinnick@merriam.org prior to 6:00pm on the date of the meeting. Please note: individuals making Public Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.**

The city clerk read the following public comments:

Al Frisby, 10121 W 59 Ter. commented, another city pool is not opening this summer. With the covid-19 virus cases increasing in close to 2 dozen states, it is just a matter of time before Kansas cases and hospitalization of citizens also

increases, for we live on the border of Missouri. I cannot imagine people keeping social distancing in the outdoor or indoor Merriam pools or running on the track together or participating in any other activity during a pandemic. People tend to "need" social contact, it is in their DNA, but shouldn't during a pandemic. Please reconsider opening the community center this year. That decision just might save lives, specifically when young asymptomatic kids/adults go visit their grandparents and parents after exposure in one of our pools. Life is too precious to gamble on our citizens becoming horribly sick or dying. Next year we will have perhaps as many as 4 vaccines to protect us. Let's prepare for testing the pool by filling it with water just prior to opening next year. Please reconsider your position as guardians of our city.

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 separate

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held June 22, 2020.
2. Consider approval of a resolution approving the 2021-2025 County Assisted Road System (CARS) application to Johnson County.
3. Consider approval of an agreement between Johnson County and the City of Merriam for a Stormwater System Renewal Project along Mastin

COUNCILMEMBER HANDS MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1-3. COUNCILMEMBER DIEBOLD SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Proclamation honoring Parks and Recreation month.

Mayor Sissom read the proclamation declaring July as Parks and Recreation month.

VI. COUNCIL ITEMS

A. Finance and Administration

1. Community Center Update.

Assistant City Administrator Meredith Hauck provided the monthly community center update.

The project remains on budget and there may be some contingency funds that will be returned to the city. It is not clear at this time the amount that will be returned. Once the project is completely finished over the next two months, there will be a better idea of how much contingency will remain.

The building is open for tours this week with a soft opening to occur next week. The tile for the indoor pool is on site and getting installed. The indoor pool should be completed by Labor Day. Both pools will not open until the state has phased out of the Ad Astra re-opening plan.

The opening schedule for the new community center includes allowing this week for staff training and tours; a flag lowering ceremony at the Irene B. French Community Center on July 19; a flag raising ceremony at the new Community Center on July 20 at 9 a.m., which will be the date of the soft opening. On July 25, the center will be open to the public with regular operating hours. On September 5, it is anticipated that the indoor pool will be complete.

The COVID-19 supply chain delays are now mostly resolved with the indoor pool tile being delivered to the site and the fitness area now has the fans for that space. The art projects are scheduled to arrive soon and there will still be various furniture pieces that will arrive over the next few weeks, but all of the main furniture pieces are on site and installed.

Staff has developed safety and sanitation protocols which includes physical distancing guidelines with floor markings for check in and other public spaces, as well as the fitness classes. High impact fitness classes will have 10-12-foot distancing. Plexiglass will be installed at the check-in counter and masks will be required while in movement. This includes when entering the building and going to the fitness equipment or fitness class. Once on the equipment, or at your place in the class, the mask can be removed. There will be clean and

dirty equipment designations so the equipment can be cleaned and sanitized by staff.

Ms. Hauck provided a reminder about the discounts and membership extensions currently in place.

There was some discussion about safety protocol for the flag lowering and raising ceremonies. The flag lowering is an open public event, however it is not being widely publicized and is really meant to be a photo opportunity to commemorate the closing of the Irene B. French Center. The flag raising ceremony will be handled the same way with not being widely publicized and both events will require masks being worn by anyone attending and six-foot distancing is recommended.

Councilmember Silvers expressed some concern about holding fitness classes even with the safety protocols in place.

Memberships sold to date include 139 Charter memberships with 238 online requests for memberships. This includes 11 Silver Sneaker memberships and 2 additional memberships were sold as a result of the tours today. There were 53 people who attended the tours today. Staff is working on two additional health insurance membership agreements that will be coming in the next few weeks for council approval.

B. Community Development/Public Works/CIP

1. CIP Update.

Public Works Director Jim MacDonald provided the following CIP updates:

The 2020 Street & Storm Drainage - Johnson Dr. (BNSF to East City Limits) Mastin St. Improvements (Johnson Drive to Shawnee Mission Parkway) - Kansas Heavy Construction (KHC) has one remaining run of storm drain to replace on Mastin. Curbs and ADA ramps on Mastin have been replaced, with the exception of the curbs near the incomplete storm drainage section. The anticipated start date for the mill and overlay on Mastin and 65th Street is July 28. KHC is anticipating to start on Johnson Dr. July 6.

55th Street Drainage Improvements - This project is a result of deteriorated Corrugated Metal Pipe, along 55th St. just east of Switzer. The project is currently being advertised for bids, with a bid opening scheduled for July 21, 2020.

VII. STAFF ITEMS

City Administrator Chris Engel commented that there will be a budget work session via zoom next Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Last week staff received 9 bids for the 5701 property demo. All but one was within the projected budget for 2020. Staff will follow up with some of the bidders and will likely have a recommendation and next steps for this project in a couple of weeks.

Councilmember Kaldahl asked the council if they have heard any concern from the public on demolition of the old community center.

No councilmember indicated hearing any concern from residents over the demolition of the building.

Chris Engel commented that the next step for this project would be to ensure the expenditure for the demolition can be made in 2020 and ensuring the bidder understands the scope of the work for the demo including the salvaging of some stone. Then staff would come before council with a recommendation and seek next steps from council.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL, COUNCILMEMBER PAPE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:29 PM. COUNCILMEMBER HANDS SECONDED AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

APPROVED: July 27, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Pinnick

Juliana Pinnick
City Clerk