



From Virtual City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
April 7, 2021

Note: As a reminder, the notes below represent topics that, in my judgement, might be of interest to the business community. It does not include everything that was on the agenda.

April 6 City Election Results

Mayor – Bryant DeLong narrowly defeated Jay Swearingen by a 4-vote margin

Ward 1 – Wesley Graves won a 4-person race

Ward 2 – Jesse Smith solidly won re-election

Ward 3 – Adam Roberts won, unopposed

Ward 4 – Amie Clark narrowly defeated Don Stielow

Ward 4 – Ana Pellumbi won, unopposed

Returning City Council representatives:

Ward 1 – Anthony Saper

Ward 2 – Lisa Tull

Ward 3 – Zach Clevenger

Net result – 3 new people: Wesley Graves, Adam Roberts and Ana Pellumbi

Departed from previous City Council – Mayor Don Stielow, Rick Stewart and Tom Farr

Additional change coming – retirement of City Administrator Eric Berlin effective July 2

For those living or working in KCMO, continuation of the 1% Earnings Tax was approved.

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public

Several people shared their concerns about elimination of curbside parking along 18th St between Swift and Clay because of the apartment construction project. This is extremely harmful to the small businesses located on that block. One suggestion was to make traffic along that block one way west to allow restoration of curbside parking.

Agenda Topics

Traffic Pattern on 18th Street

City Council members voted unanimously to approve making 18th Ave one way between Swift and Clay to allow restoration of curbside parking for the businesses in that block: Pak's Alterations, NKC Nutrition, FM Vintage Music Sounds and Hair Spray Café as well as the Alcoholics Anonymous office. Concerns were expressed by Police Chief Kevin Freeman about the hazardous entry from northbound Clay to Armour which has limited line of sight. However, City Council members were in agreement that something must be done to help those affected businesses.

Macken Park Ballfield Renovation and Maintenance Building Addition

Approvals were given for: award of contracts to Mid-America Sports Construction, Field Turf USA and MegaKC; and budget amendments to cover this project. When completed, this ballfield may offer opportunities for sign sponsorship for interested businesses which may benefit from the increased exposure the renovated ballfield will offer with tournaments and North Kansas City High School home games.

16th & Clay Parking Lot

Approval was given for budget amendments to proceed with demolition of a building previously owned by George Guastello and to build a paved parking lot extending from 16th Ave to 18th Ave. There was considerable discussion about the desirability of using permeable pavement to reduce problems with water runoff. The contractor and staff do not recommend this approach.

Removal of 50-Person Limit on Outdoor Gatherings

Approval was given for issuing an 11th order eliminating the 50-person limitation on public gatherings on city-owned property.

Staff Comments

Federal Funding for Burlington Complete Create Streets Project

Community Development Director Sara Copeland announced that another \$6 million has been made available for the Burlington Complete Streets project by a federal grant. There is now \$9,830,000 available from federal grants for this project.

Retirement of City Administrator Eric Berlin

Mr. Berlin announced that his last day as City Administrator will be July 2nd.

City Council Comments

Praise was expressed for the Operation Safe Team including Fire Chief Dave Hargis and Assistant City Administrator Kim Nakahodo and North Kansas City Hospital staff which has made the Cerner campus vaccination process extremely successful.

The full agenda for this meeting with links to critical documents is available on the City's website www.nkc.org under the heading of Agendas and Minutes.

As always, additional details about City Council agenda topics are often available as attachments on the City's website www.nkc.org and later as <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR2r-HHt4PmQLpfdToFLzhg> part of the approved minutes. The entire proceedings of each City Council meeting can be seen on YouTube, either archived or live streamed.