



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

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
June 1, 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.

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of this work session was to view and discuss various alternatives for renovating and improving the use of the Town Square area behind Chappell’s and next to Helzberg Diamonds. It has not had any constructive use for several years in spite of its location near the center of the downtown business district. Several alternative uses were discussed. Additional input from North Kansas City residents and businesses will be sought before making a final decision. You can view the alternative concepts at this link on the City’s website.

<http://www.nkc.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=17743664>

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Topics

KCATA Bus Service or Other Alternative

Following previous Work Sessions at which the City Council had the opportunity to get additional insight about the KCATA special bus service as well as to consider a zTrip option. City Council was asked at this session to make a specific recommendation so City staff can bring forward a formal proposal at a future City Council meeting.

City Council members who commented seemed to favor continuing the KCATA alternative, perhaps with some modifications such as combining with other communities such as Gladstone and Riverside to get greater utilization with no additional cost. Another expected change is an increase in rider cost per trip from the current 25 cents to \$1.50.

Agreement was reached to have a 6-month contract with current terms and continue to evaluate possible combination with other communities and possible increase in fare per trip for trips to/from other communities.

Downtown Streetscape Project

This project with an estimated cost of \$3 million is for streetscape improvements along Armour from Buchanan to Fayette.

To move forward with the project City staff proposed contracting with a “Construction Manager at Risk” to coordinate procurement to be provided by MegaKC, a company that is based in North Kansas City. Approved. Approval was also given for Confluence, Inc. to be handled design

Callsign Brewing Relocation and Expansion

Callsign requested an alternative to installing a very costly sprinkler system to accommodate up to 150 occupants in the Taproom and Event Space area of their planned new location at 1340 Burlington. Fire Chief Dave Hargis concurred that the proposed solution will be more than adequate.

The owner of Callsign Brewery and his code consultant, FP&C Consultants, have discussed in detail with the Building Official and Fire Marshal an alternate means justification for the omission of sprinklers in the taproom area and event space at 1340 Burlington. The justification request explains how, with the proposed alternative means – two-hour rated fire barriers, fire alarm system and smoke detection, short travel distances to exits, and excess egress capacity –the space has a level of life safety that is at least equivalent to the level of life safety provided by a sprinkler system. Approved by City Council.

Burlington Water Line

Approval was given to proceed with design by Olsson to replace the water line on Burlington as part of the Burlington Complete Streets project. The existing water line is a 10-inch cast iron pipe located on the east side of Burlington; it has been repaired multiple times over its time in service. Staff and the city’s engineer believe that this line dates from approximately the 1950s. The age and condition of the pipe and associated valves makes this water line a good candidate for replacement in the near future. Relocation and complete replacement of the water line at this time offers several benefits to the City. Replacing the water line would allow the City to avoid future water main breaks or valve failures that would require emergency repair. Replacing the water line during the planned construction avoids additional excavation work in the future, when replacing new street improvements above the water line would be more costly. Replacement also gives us an opportunity to consider up-sizing the pipe for greater capacity. Even replacing the existing line with another 10-inch pipe would likely increase water capacity to the southern portion of the Burlington corridor and the older industrial area due to corrosion inside the pipe due to its age.

Approved by City Council.

North Rail Streetcar Expansion Feasibility Study

Approval was given to continue involvement with this feasibility study and to enter into a tri-lateral agreement with Kansas City Streetcar Authority (KCSA) and Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA).

Future Location and Format for Future City Council Meetings

At least one member favored requiring masks although several others favored resuming with masks optional for those who have been vaccinated. A 5 to 2 vote gave approval to resuming June 15 with masks required. A separate motion was approved unanimously for City Council members to sit at the dias. Attendees will be expected to wear masks also. Masks will be provided for those who fail to bring a mask.

Extension of Parklet License Program

City staff asked for direction from City Council about whether to extend this program beyond the currently approved expiration of June 30. City Council approved extending to October 31 using the current configurations and conditions. Future consideration will be given to making these parklets permanent.

Walker Road Intersection Improvements

After discussion City Council agreed not to proceed at this time with this project. The main reason for it being recommended was the high traffic of Cerner associates. It is uncertain when or if that level of traffic will resume due to increased remote working by Cerner associates.

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.