



From City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
August 17, 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.

As a reminder here are the names of the Mayor and City Council members:

Mayor – Bryant Delong – first term as Mayor; 2 terms previously as Ward 1 City Councilman

Ward 1 – Anthony Saper – 2nd year, 1st term

Ward 1 – Wesley Graves – 1st year, 1st term

Ward 2 – Lisa Tull – 2nd year, 1st term

Ward 2 – Jesse Smith – 1st year, 2nd term

Ward 3 – Zach Clevenger – 2nd year, 4th term

Ward 3 – Adam Roberts – 1st year, 1st term

Ward 4 – Amie Clark – 1st year, 2nd term

Ward 4 – Ana Pellumbi – 1st year, 1st term

City Council representatives are elected for two year terms with terms for half of them expiring each year. The Mayor serves a four year term.

If you wish to contact the Mayor or any of the City Council representatives on any matter of concern, their phone numbers and email addresses are on the City's website.

http://www.nkc.org/government/elected_officials/mayor_bryant_delong

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Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

The work session was devoted to a presentation by attorney Mark White, a national expert in developmental regulations, form-based zoning and growth management. The content was extremely well-organized and fairly detailed for a 55-minute presentation. I will not attempt to paraphrase his presentation other than to say that North Kansas City as a Third Class city (population between 3,000 and 29,999) in the State of Missouri is much more highly dependent on State statutes than a Home Rule city.

If you are interested in learning more about the concepts in this presentation I encourage you to go to the City's website to view this discussion on a recorded YouTube session.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CityOfNorthKansasCityMissouri>

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Health Insurance for Employees

I normally would not include this but the City was able to obtain a 7% decrease with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City resulting in a savings of \$174 thousand.

Emergency Order Extension

Missouri law limits any single emergency order to cover not more than 30 days. Likewise, extensions can only be for 30 days. The Mayor must provide information to the City Council of justification for the extension. Mayor Delong provided such a report to the City Council last Friday, August 13, based on significant increases in active Covid cases at North Kansas City Hospital. City Council approved an order to enable the Mayor declare a 30 day extension until September 26 after the current order expires August 28.

City Council representatives Ana Pellumbi and Jesse Smith stated their support strongly for extending the mask ordinance. Further, City Councilman Smith also asked City staff to explore how implementation of a “vaccine passport” might be implemented and suggested that business leaders consider how that would be implemented. City Councilman Anthony Saper pointed out that even people who have been vaccinated could be carriers of the virus. City Councilman Adam Roberts, who also is owner of the Screenland Armour Theatre, stated that most businesses have adapted to the mask ordinance and are aware that finding a way to reduce the spread is important for eventual return to normal.

A question was raised about enforcement of the mask order. The City responds to calls about violations but does not “patrol” to inspect. The first step is for the Interim City Administrator to have a conversation with the owner/manager of a business that is reported in violation by either staff or customers. The next step would be a call or a visit by the Police Chief or another police official. The emphasis is on education and reminding why wearing masks is important.

City Councilman Wes Graves expressed a strong opinion about basing the decision to have a mask mandate using the guidance of the Clay County Public Health Department rather than making that decision as a single municipality.

Approved 7-1.

Virus Testing Equipment for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Dave Hargis explained the request to purchase PCR testing equipment to reduce the time, paperwork and other inefficiencies getting test results. This would be available for use with any City employee. The cost of the equipment is \$15,605. The City has spent more than \$5,000 in recent weeks for testing at other available testing sites. This does not include the cost of the wasted time getting to and from testing sites.

Approved.

Staff Comments

Proposed 2021-22 Budget

Interim City Administrator Kim Nakahodo proudly announced that the proposed budget is now available for review. There will be two detailed review sessions in September. She expressed appreciation to City Finance Manager Nick Hawkins for coordinating the creation of the budget and to department heads for their timely and thorough input.

Covid-19 Report from Dr. Reintjes

NKCH has seen a significant increase in the total number of COVID patients over the last couple of weeks.

Total Active COVID cases: 53

Total recovering COVID cases: 15

Total COVID patients in the ICU: 18

Total COVID patients on a ventilator: 9

NKCH is closely monitoring the increase of COVID cases affecting our community and we continue to ask for all support to encourage those who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated. We will continue to meet the healthcare needs of our community.

City Council Member Comments

Zach Clevenger expressed his support for being able to distribute some of the Federal funds that are expected to the business community. Nothing is known yet about timing, amount or restrictions on the use of those funds.

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.