

## **Work Session – 6:00 p.m.**

This work session focused on water and sewage rates. An important issue that was discussed was to what extent should the water and sewer services should be totally financially self-sustaining as opposed to utilizing the Gaming Fund to keep rates down.

A comprehensive presentation was made by a consultant from Raftelis, the firm the City contracted with to perform this analysis. The complete report is available on the City's website as an attachment to the agenda for this meeting. <http://www.nkc.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=17885918>

56% of the 1.1 billion gallons of water distributed by the North Kansas City water system is consumed by and paid for by Ingredion.

Even though North Kansas City has its own water production system it relies on KCMO for sewer removal with increasing costs that cannot be controlled by North Kansas City.

North Kansas City's water rates are extremely low compared to any other community – regionally or nationally.

Two scenarios were outlined for City Council consideration although a decision was not scheduled for this meeting. Scenario One is to continue use of Gaming Fund for the next five years but scaling down until eliminated in five years. This would mean a 67% increase between 2022 and 2027.

Scenario Two is to stop using Gaming Fund effective in 2022.

The City plans to undertake three studies and create master plans for water, sewer and storm water.

The City's standard for cash reserves for each fund is 90 days (25% of a year's requirement). North Kansas City's water fund is above that but the sewer fund is closer to 2 weeks rather than 90 days.

City Councilman Jesse Smith suggested that the City consider borrowing with a bond issue while money is as inexpensive as it ever going to be. Others suggested considering scenario one for water and scenario two for sewer.

The City Council will have a recommendation from staff at a future City Council meeting. City staff needs clarification on exactly what rates to use for the fiscal year 2021-22 budget which is currently being assembled and must be approved for implementation October 1.

## **Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.**

### **Reduction in number of 3 a.m. liquor licenses**

Approval of this ordinance reduces to only four establishments licensed to serve until 3 a.m. now that AMF ProBowl has closed. This was previously reduced to five when River Aces went out of business. The following businesses still have permits: Spirits Lounge (American Inn), Helen's J.A.D. Bar, Neon Wild, and Chappell's Restaurant and Lounge although Chappell's does not use their license.

## **Staff Comments**

### **North Kansas City Business Council Annual Report**

This is the required annual report from the North Kansas City Business Council to communicate the use of funds received under a contract for services. The North Kansas City Business Council will be making a presentation at the September 7 City Council meeting.

### **North Kansas City Hospital Covid-19 Report**

The following information was provided by North Kansas City Hospital CEO Dr. Stephen Reintjes:

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

Total Active COVID cases: 48

Total recovering COVID cases: 21

Total Active COVID patients in the ICU: 10

Total Active COVID patients on a ventilator: 6

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 and all of our services remain open including surgery, emergency room, stroke, comprehensive heard care and trauma.

## **City Council Comments**

Various City Council members expressed support for the masking ordinance and vaccinations to do our part to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

City Councilman Zach Clevenger welcomed two new businesses: El Canelo Mexican Restaurant and Rise and Grind Bakery.

## **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Bryant Delong added that he had a conversation with Dr. Reintjes today and learned that the Covid-19 cases at the hospital have continued to rise, even higher than the report above.