



From City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director  
North Kansas City Business Council  
September 21, 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 review progress and planned steps to complete the Armour Road Complete Streets project.

#### Background

The “complete street” improvements to Armour Road were guided by the Armour Road Complete Street Plan that was adopted by the Council on December 5, 2017 after a ten-month planning process supported by a Planning Sustainable Places grant from the Mid America Regional Council.

“The ultimate vision for Armour Road between Burlington and Ozark is a corridor that is safe, serves all users, incorporates sustainable measures, is visually appealing, and is economically vibrant.”

The plan identified three unique segments along Armour Road:

- The Downtown Zone from Burlington to Fayette
- The Transition Zone from Fayette to Knox
- The Commercial Zone from Knox to Ozark

For the Downtown Zone, the intent is to build on the classic “main street” character of the area through placemaking and gateway elements. In the Transition Zone, the intent is to expand the intensity of downtown and support additional development, and to transition the spatial experience of the street to the less intense development on the east. For the Commercial Zone, the intent is to soften the impact of auto-centric development patterns, expand green spaces and define gateways.

#### Recommendations for completion

City staff offered four main recommendations for the Armour Road Complete Street at this time:

1. Consolidate the outstanding work:

- Green markings in conflict zones
- Fayette right turn lane
- Left turn signal at Iron
- Phase 2 improvements to the Armour and Howell intersection
- Phase 3 (bump-out islands at Gentry and Knox)
- Phase 4 (mid-block crossing between Macon and Ozark) improvements

2. Incorporate mill and overlay for Armour Road from Fayette to Linn into this project. Including the mill and overlay will require a budget amendment, as the cost of this work was not included in the proposed budget. Staff will continue to negotiate a cost-share with the Road District.

3. Continue to investigate low concrete walls for bicycle lane protection to replace remaining delineators, primarily at Fayette, Gentry, and between Knox and Linn.

4. Put the consolidated project out to bid this spring.

For those of you wishing to have more details about what was presented and comments by City Council members you can view that at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFAz0FtLbuA> and the written report at <http://www.nkc.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=18014340>.

City Council member Anthony Saper expressed frustration about the many months that have elapsed since suggestions by the City Council were made.

It is anticipated that after allowing for time for getting bids, reviewing bids and approvals work would not occur until early Spring 2022.

### **Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Comments from the Public**

Several residents offered criticisms of the proposed budget.

#### **Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 City Budget**

This topic followed a protocol of first offering a public hearing with the opportunity for public comments following the staff report. The staff report highlighted any changes made following detailed reviews with City Council in the past two weeks.

The City Council had reviewed the proposed budget in two previous lengthy budget review sessions.

It was pointed out by City Council members that the budget is a fluid document and that each major expenditure is presented in the future to the City Council when calculated/bidded costs are known to obtain City Council approval.

Budget was approved.

## RideKC Service Update

KCATA staff provided an update on current RideKC services in North Kansas City and on the Northland Flex Modernization Pilot that affects the North Kansas City Flex service. The Flex service provides very low cost to the rider point-to-point transportation within North Kansas City. It is, however, the most expensive component of the City's contract with KCATA.

## Emergency Order Reauthorization – Covid 19

Councilmember Smith requested that an extension of Mayor DeLong's Order No. 21-002 for mask requirements be placed on the City Council Agenda so that the Council could vote to extend the Order for a period of thirty (30) calendar days from September 25, 2021, until October 23, 2021.

Approved 7-1.

## Zoning Map Amendment to enable more of One North to be Mixed Density Neighborhood

This proposal will enable the apartment proposal for One North by Milhaus to move forward with a multi-family residential development near the current Backyard apartment complex.

Approved.



Please note: this map shows the existing boundary of Lot 2. The rezoning request excludes approximately 2.7 acres in the northwest corner of this parcel.

## City-Subsidized Memberships with the North Kansas City YMCA

On July 6, 2021, Tina Weaver, Executive Director of the North Kansas City YMCA, presented the NKC Healthy Citizens Initiative proposal which would offer North Kansas City residents a city-subsidized membership rate to the NKC YMCA.

Approved. The program will go into effect on October 1, 2021.

## Requirements to Obtain Sidewalk Alcohol Consumption License

At the September 7 City Council meeting, the Council discussed amendments regarding eligibility criteria for obtaining a license. The City Council was generally receptive to amendments that would remove food sales as an eligibility criterion. The Council also had further discussion about amendments to the City's

regulations on sidewalk dining and liquor consumption. The Council directed that these amendments be brought back for adoption as quickly as possible. Staff concerns and recommendations were as follows:

1. Prohibition from drinking alcoholic beverages on any public street, alley, open space, or public parking area, among other locations. Staff feels that there is a risk that downtown NKC becomes known as an area where public drinking is allowed, resulting in unwanted behavior. Staff outlined three areas of concern including sidewalk encroachment and accessibility, building egress, and enforcement capabilities in the Amendments to Section 4.30.020, Requirements to obtain sidewalk alcohol consumption license memo.

Recommended language: To qualify for a sidewalk dining and alcohol consumption license, the establishment must have a valid license issued. There would no longer be a 50% requirement for food service.

Approved.

2. Staff concerns for discussion:

Drinking in Public – Section 9.24.020 prohibits any person from drinking alcoholic beverages on any public street, alley, open space, or public parking area, among other locations. This would be very difficult, if not impossible, to enforce.

Staff feels that there is a risk that downtown NKC becomes known as an area where public drinking is allowed, resulting in unwanted behavior.

Sidewalk encroachment and accessibility – The regulations for sidewalk dining require establishments to leave four feet unobstructed for pedestrian traffic. This is an ADA accessibility requirement. Access controls help ensure that sidewalk furniture does not encroach into the pedestrian area, intentionally or unintentionally. Keeping a clear pedestrian area is essential to ensuring that all visitors to downtown NKC are able to access local businesses and accommodations.

Building egress – Sidewalk dining areas are often near the entrances to buildings. Similar to the concern about sidewalk encroachment, staff is concerned that without access control, sidewalk furnishings or groups of patrons might congregate in areas that would block building egress, ultimately creating a life-safety concern.

Enforcement capabilities – City staff does not have the capacity to provide ongoing enforcement of sidewalk dining areas to ensure that they do not encroach into building egress or sidewalk areas improperly. Static access control in the form of railings provides constant, passive enforcement to address these concerns.

Staff recommended including a railing requirement for boundaries. Generally supported by City Council members.

## **Staff Comments**

## **Covid-19 Report from Dr. Reintjes**

---

	Sept 15	Sept 8
Total Active COVID cases:	41	41
Total recovering COVID cases:	25	18
Total COVID patients in the ICU:	16	19
Total COVID patients on a ventilator:	14	15

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. Thank you.

---

The full agenda for this meeting with links to critical documents is available on the City's website [www.nkc.org](http://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](http://www.nkc.org) and later as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-6WpmTG2Ss> part of the approved minutes.