



From City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

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

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

Hands Only CPR

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Presentation by North Kansas City Business Council

A presentation by the North Kansas City Business Council President Jason Crowley, Immediate Past President Jack Fry and Executive Director Rich Groves offered an explanation of how the funds provided by the City through a contract for services are used. They also offered insights about the structure and services provided by the Business Council – summarized in three words: Support. Inform. Connect.

Contract for Services with North Kansas City Business Council

Approval was given for renewing the Contract for Services with the North Kansas City Business Council for \$30,000. One caveat was to remove the term “quarterly” in defining the printed newsletter. There was also encouragement to find ways to significantly decrease the cost of newsletters, by making it smaller or converting to online only. In recent years copies of the quarterly newsletters have been mailed to every North Kansas City business, whether member of the Business Council or not and also posted on the website www.nkcbusinesscouncil.com

Discussion About Recent License Changes Concerning Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the State of Missouri has made some changes to its liquor laws that have a corresponding impact on local licensing. Permanent state law changes include allowing Sunday hours beginning at 6:00am and permitting “Cocktails To Go” or sales by the drink not in the original packaging. The State has also moved away from food sales requirements in conjunction with liquor licensing.

At the local level, City staff is concerned with both the safe sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages and the reasonable regulation of activity on NKC sidewalks. Cocktails To Go and uncontrolled sidewalk liquor sales create an increased concern related to open container violations and the possibility of alcohol being consumed in moving vehicles.

On the other hand, permitting increased sidewalk dining leads to a more vibrant, active streetscape that contributes to the City's goal of preserving and enhancing the local identity and uniqueness of NKC.

City staff requested Council direction related to the following questions:

- Should Section 4.30.020 restricting the businesses that qualify for sidewalk dining and alcohol consumption licenses be amended to remove the food or movie ticket sales requirement or otherwise change the qualification criteria? There seemed to be consensus on easing the food or movie ticket sales requirements but keeping the 10:00 p.m. cessation of outside service.
- If sidewalk dining and alcohol consumption licenses are available to more businesses in North Kansas City, are there any additional regulations that should be added to Section 4.30.080 restricting the conduct or operation of sidewalk dining.

Pedestrian Safety at the Intersection of Armour and Clay

Public Works crews repainted the crosswalks on Armour Road on both sides of the intersection with Clay Street and installed Pedestrian Crosswalk signs to improve visibility of the pedestrian crossing. Staff believes these improvements to be a good short-term action to improve safety for pedestrians at this location.

Spin – Another Scooter Operator

Skinny Labs, Inc., the company that operates Spin scooters has applied for an operating agreement to serve North Kansas City with an agreement similar to the one currently with Bird scooters. This type of service is referred to as “shared active transportation”. Approved.

NorthRail Streetcar Extension

Approval was given to move forward with a memorandum of understanding with Kansas City Streetcar Authority (KCSA) and Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) to draft a request for proposals for consulting services to update the 2014 study. Approved.

Staff Comments

Covid-19 Report from Dr. Reintjes

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

Total Active COVID cases: 8

Total recovering COVID cases: 19

Total COVID patients in the ICU: 0

Total COVID patients on a ventilator: 0

NKCH continues to partner with the other participants of Operation Safe to vaccinate our community together and have administered 25,000 vaccinations. NKCH is closely monitoring CDC guidelines to determine if changes can be made related to visitor restrictions.

City Council Member Comments

A request was made to also see regional COVID trends as well as for North Kansas City Hospital.

City Councilman Adam Roberts pointed out that overall Covid trends in the metro area are not encouraging – improvement still needed in vaccination rate. He encouraged continued attention to masking, hand washing, etc.

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.