



From City Council meeting . . . to Business Council MEMBERS ONLY

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
December 20, 2022

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.

Allocation of Harrah’s Charitable Fund

Each year a minimum of \$100,000 is donated by Harrah’s to an assortment of non-profit organizations based on a selection process by the City Council. That was the task for this work session – to make the best decisions concerning a total of almost \$200,000 in requests to fit within the \$100,000 available.

While observing this thoughtful process by City Council members I was impressed by their deliberate, benevolent focus and commitment to making sure that most of the funds will be used to serve the needs of North Kansas City residents.

A total of about 30 organizations will receive funds this year from the Harrah’s Charitable Fund.

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Appointment of Katie Stokes to complete City Council term of Ana Pelumbi

Funding for Sheltering

The City Council increased the amount that was requested by Northland Assistance Center to be able to fund the cost of temporary housing for homeless people during the extreme cold weather period that is expected.

Agenda Items

Special Presentation about a National Steamboat Museum

Some of the points covered were that the collection of items in the Steamboat Arabia Museum has increased, parking in River Market is a challenge, the lease expires in three years and a second steamboat (Malta) has been discovered that the owners want to combine in a new location. The owners are considering how to create a “National Steamboat Museum” whose location is yet to be determined. Could North Kansas City be the perfect location?

Wherever the National Steamboat Museum eventually ends up will require cooperation between the owners, the selected municipality, the county, the state and other funding sources. The facility would need to be at least 65,000 s.f. A recent discussion with the City of St Charles seemed promising but is not likely to move forward. Pittsburgh, PA would very much like to have the museum. The City of North Kansas City has no property to donate. A North Kansas City location would require adaptive re-use of privately owned buildings.

Salary Range Increases for “Non-represented” City Employees

Based on a recent salary study the City Council approved significant increases in salary ranges that will go into effect in the near future with a total budget impact in the 2022-23 budget.

Staff Comments

City Administrator Mike Nichols pointed out that filing for City Council positions will close on December 27. Six City Council positions will be on the ballot – four for normal cycle and two to fill positions vacated by resignation.

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/watch?v=Z-6WpmTG2Ss> part of the approved minutes.