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**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS - HUTCHINSON, KANSAS**  
**March 2, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

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1. The Governing Body of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in the City Council Chambers with Mayor Garza presiding. Councilmembers Piros de Carvalho, Daveline, Soldner and Bagwell were present in person.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

3. The prayer was given by Paul Brown, City Attorney.

4. Petitions, Remonstrances and Communications

a. Oral communications from the audience. (Please limit your remarks to five (5) minutes and to items NOT on the agenda.)

- Update by Kari Mailloux of Hutchinson Community Foundation via Zoom. Ms. Mailloux said the three attributes of non-profit agencies most referenced during recent meetings are “connected, resilient and thriving”. She said the battle against Covid has given the gift of collaboration; and said an orchestra of organizations are tackling the same issues. Ms. Mailloux said non-profits have connected by having over 120 meetings via Zoom; and said those conversations have spurred innovation. She spoke about several programs including “No Wrong Door” which is a systematic approach that is being developed meant to strengthen partner relationships. She said the meetings focus on a particular purpose each week, with this week concentrating on a door to door effort focusing on those that are isolated, etc. Ms. Mailloux asked for one or two councilmembers to join the March 26 conversation.

- Update by Jim Remar on the Cosmosphere – The City Manager asked that this update be moved to the March 16 agenda.

There were no oral communications from the audience.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2021 City Council meeting.
- b. Approval of appointment to the Hutchinson Recreation Commission of the following:

Jim Seitnater, 5 Beechwood, Hutchinson, KS, to fill the unexpired term of Ron Sellers for a term beginning 8/01/2017 to 8/01/2021.

- c. Approval of appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$1,178,664.43.

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the Consent Agenda; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. Consider Eminent Domain Ordinance. Paul Brown, City Attorney, said this is the next step in the condemnation proceeding for the Cow Creek storm water project. He said with regard to this property there is no living person to negotiate with; and there are no heirs, so a Guardian ad Litem will be appointed. Mr. Brown said appraisers will also be appointed, a value of the property will be established; and funds will be paid to the Clerk of the District Court. He said if those funds go unclaimed, the funds will be turned over to the State Treasurer. Councilmember Daveline indicated he had an unrelated question; and asked Jeff Peterson the status of the storm water project. Jeff Peterson, Director of Engineering, said he doesn't have a time period at this point, but said he did have a meeting with representatives of Burlington Northern Railroad last week; and is cautiously optimistic regarding the railroad bridges. Mr. Peterson said it's a slow process because they are dealing with three railroads. Councilmember Daveline said he knows they move slow, but said he can't emphasize enough that we need to keep pushing in a cooperative way to get these issues resolved so we can move forward with the project. Councilmember Daveline asked if discussions will be concluded yet this year. Mr. Peterson said he believes they will be; and said he hopes to hear more in a couple of weeks.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Soldner, to approve Ordinance 2021 - 7 approving the survey and description of certain interest in real property, acquisition of which is necessary for the purpose of improving, widening, rerouting and reconstructing a portion of the Cow Creek channel for storm water management; declaring it necessary to acquire such property by condemnation proceedings and directing the City's attorney to file a Petition in the District Court of Reno County, Kansas for acquisition of fee simple title in the land therein taken and providing for the costs thereof; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Report of City Officials

### a. Council

- Councilmember Soldner had no comments.
- Councilmember Daveline had no comments.
- Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said she had several items to discuss. She said some executive orders regarding the pandemic have expired; and asked when City Hall would reopen to the public. The City Manager said he is hoping for an April 1 date.

She also asked the City Manager if he had any idea about the impact the recent cold weather would have on utility costs. Mr. Cantrell said can't anticipate the costs as this is not a City utility; and is out of our control. He said most responsible utilities have capital reserves set aside for this type of event, but is assuming that we will see some cost increase over the next year.

Councilmember Piros de Carvalho also asked Chief Hooper for an update on the Orchard Park Patrol. Chief Hooper said they started the park patrol on January 1; and in January the park patrol units spent 56 hours in the parks. He said over 20 hours were spent in Orchard Park, with only one issue of a truck driving recklessly. Chief Hooper said in February those hours were cut in half due to the cold weather; and there was only one incident in Orchard Park with about a dozen cars which were parked, whose occupants were just talking and not causing any problems. Chief Hooper said the new PSA officers are now fully trained; and they were deployed as of March 1. He said the current patrol schedule is four hours a night from Sunday through Thursday; and six to eight hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Chief Hooper said as summer picks up, they will re-evaluate the schedule to see if more hours need to be added. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked about the status of other projects such as entrance gates, etc. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, said they are using a staged approach. He said if they continue to have issues despite having the park patrol, then they will revisit installing a gate or cameras. Additional discussion ensued regarding park hours, etc.

Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked if the City was going to continue it's membership with REAP. Discussion ensued regarding what REAP is, annual costs, etc. The Mayor indicated he believed we need to remain a member of the organization.

Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said they have talked about vacant buildings in the past; and said some small businesses have faltered due to the pandemic. She asked if the City could look at the economic opportunity fund a little differently; and use some of the funds as a revolving loan fund. Discussion ensued with Councilmember Daveline stating that the intent of the EOF fund was for job creation in manufacturing, research and development, etc.; and said we should continue to that path. Additional discussion ensued.

- Councilmember Bagwell also spoke about the parks, saying she knows there are concerns about the large number of vehicles late at night in Orchard Park. Chief Hooper said there are groups that gather there; and they are being monitored to make sure they are not causing problems. Additional discussion ensued.

Councilmember Bagwell said she reached out to Justin Combs about the water slide property asking for an update. Mr. Combs said the City has accepted the grant that was discussed last year; and he is currently working through the design and permitting process. He said he wants to make sure we can do everything we promised regarding the public access piece. Mr. Combs said once they have worked through some technical issues, then there can be discussions regarding leasing or selling some of the property.

- Mayor Garza encouraged everyone to get their vaccination; and to continue to wear masks.

b. City Manager

Jeff Cantrell, City Manager, said the Hutchinson Recreation Commission has renewed their request for a joint work session. He said he would like to do that this month; and councilmembers agreed on a date of March 23.

Mr. Cantrell spoke about a special event request the City received for use of Orchard Park. He said this would be a locked gate event, with over 1,000 people attending, live bands, etc. Mr. Cantrell said this would be out of character for the park, as well as the neighborhood; and he is trying to work with the organizer. Discussion ensued.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

**Upcoming Meetings**

March 16, 2021	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
March 23, 2021	8:00 a.m. (tentative)	Work session with Hutch Rec.
April 6, 2021	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
April 20, 2021	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting