

**City of Westwood, Kansas  
City Council Work Session  
4700 Rainbow Boulevard  
January 11, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor  
Andrew Buckman, Councilmember  
Jeff Harris, Council President  
Jason Hannaman, Councilmember  
Laura Steele, Councilmember  
Holly Wimer, Councilmember

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Leslie Herring, City Administrator  
Curtis Mansell, Police Chief  
John Sullivan, Public Works Director  
Ryan Denk, City Attorney  
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk

**Call to Order**

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on January 11, 2024. Mayor Waters noted all members of the Governing Body were present along with Ms. Herring, Ms. Schneweis, Chief Mansell, and Mr. Sullivan were present. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner with attendees being able to join in person and virtually via Zoom.

**Discuss 2024 work plan outline and council priorities**

Mayor Waters conducted a discussion among the Governing Body of possible issues to address in 2024.

Ms. Herring provided an update of the Administration Department staffing reorganization. Members of the Administration Department have been working to cross train more duties, Ms. Herring also highlighted trainings staff members are planning to attend in 2024.

Mayor Waters said he is in the process of selecting members of a steering committee for planning the feature park. There was a general discussion about the demographics of the steering committee.

Mayor Waters provided an update on the Rainbow Boulevard corridor study. An open house will be held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at City Hall to share renderings of possible improvements to Rainbow Boulevard.

Ms. Herring provided a general update of the joint project with Roeland Park to redesign Mission Road to add bike lanes and enhance pedestrian features.

Mayor Waters shared that Councilmember Wimer and former Mayor Karen Johnson are working on updating a book about Westwood's history in anticipation of Westwood's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June, and thanked them for their work. Councilmember Wimer said she is working to organize a group of residents

to plan events for the community to celebrate. Councilmember Wimer said those that are interested in helping plan these events are encouraged to reach out to her.

Ms. Herring provided an overview of the planning process for a community survey to be conducted in 2024. The Governing Body will be able to use the results from the survey to strategically set priorities for the future. The Governing Body will meet with Kate Bender of Porchlight Insights during the February 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Body work session to begin discussing the survey process.

Mayor Waters asked the members of the Governing Body for their thoughts on issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to redevelop the property City Hall currently sits on. Councilmember Harris said given that the contract with Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) to purchase the property at 2511 W 50<sup>th</sup> Street has been extended to July 2024 it might be too much land use discussion, but he would consider other arguments. Councilmember Hannaman said if for some reason the Karbank proposal does not move forward, he does not think sitting on the City Hall property instead of redeveloping it is an option, it will be required to generate the revenues needed to provide the services Westwood residents desire. Councilmember Hannaman acknowledged that the RFP could generate more strong feelings in the community. Councilmember Harris said he agreed with Councilmember Hannaman. Councilmember Wimer noted the longer the Governing Body delays the RFP process, the information and data in the 2022 Facilities Assessment becomes more outdated. Mayor Waters noted the RFP process could potentially provide ideas for redeveloping the property that the Governing Body has not considered before. Ms. Herring reminded the Governing Body that the proposals submitted do not have to be accepted and acted upon.

Ms. Herring provided an update on the development of a communications plan for the City.

#### **Adjournment to Regular Meeting**

The Work Session adjourned at 6:56 p.m. to prepare for the regular City Council meeting.

**City of Westwood, Kansas  
City Council Meeting  
January 11, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor  
Andrew Buckman, Councilmember  
Jeff Harris, Council President  
Jason Hannaman, Councilmember  
Laura Steele, Councilmember  
Holly Wimer, Councilmember

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Leslie Herring, City Administrator  
Curtis Mansell, Police Chief  
John Sullivan, Public Works Director  
Ryan Denk, City Attorney  
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk

**Call to Order**

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 11, 2024. The City Clerk called the roll. A quorum was present. The evening's meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with attendees joining both in person and via Zoom.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to approve the January 11, 2024 City Council meeting agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

**Public Comment**

Stephen Platt, 4910 Glendale, Westwood Hills, said a petition has been submitted to the City to compel the City to hold an election regarding the sale of Joe D. Dennis Park. Mr. Platt noted there were 169 validated signatures on the petition. Mr. Platt said the City got ahead of itself by rezoning the park. Mr. Platt said he believes the Governing Body should invalidate the zoning change and start the process of rezoning over. Mr. Platt said he believes the City can hold the election in August of 2024 at no additional cost to the City.

**Presentations and Proclamations**

Lauren Schaumburg, Mid America Regional Council, presented the City with a Gold Level achievement in the Communities for All Ages program.

**Consent Agenda**

All items listed below are considered to be routine by the Governing Body and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Governing Body so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately following approval of the consent agenda.

- A. Consider December 21, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes

## B. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 758

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Ms. Schneweis conducted a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Waters said he made an address at the State of the Cities event hosted by the NEJC Chamber earlier that day.

### **Councilmember Reports**

Councilmember Wimer announced that volunteers are needed to help plan and hold a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in June.

Councilmember Steele noted there will be an open house event at City Hall on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. to share plans for a redesign of Rainbow Boulevard.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Administrative Report**

Ms. Herring provided an overview of the January 2024 Administrative Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

#### **Feature Park Planning Process Report**

Ms. Herring provided an overview of the Feature Park Planning Process Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

#### **Public Works Report**

Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the December 2023 and January 2024 Public Works Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

#### **Public Safety Report**

Chief Mansell provided an overview of the December 2023 Public Safety Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The December 2023 Treasurer's Report was included in the agenda packet, no questions or comments were made about the report.

#### **City Attorney's Report**

Mr. Denk did not have any items to report.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business items were considered.

### **New Business**

#### **Consider Ordinance 1039 approving a Franchise Agreement with Kansas Fiber Network**

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to adopt Ordinance 1039 granting to Kansas Fiber Network, LLC a contract franchise to construct, operate, and maintain a telecommunications franchise in the City of

Westwood, Kansas. Second by Councilmember Wimer. The City Clerk conducted a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

**Announcements/Governing Body Comments**

No announcements were made.

**Executive Session**

**Consultation with the City Attorney on matters relating to that property located at and around 5000 Rainbow Blvd. which would be deemed privileged in the attorney client relationship under K.S.A. 75-1319(b)2**

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to recess into Executive Session for 45 minutes for consultation with the City Attorney on matters relating to real property located at and around 5000 Rainbow Blvd. which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)2 present will be the members of the Governing Body, the City Administrator, and the City Attorney for, the regular meeting will resume at 8:45 p.m. Second by Councilmember Harris. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

At 8:45 p.m. the Governing Body returned to the dais. Mayor Waters announced no actions were taken during Executive Session.

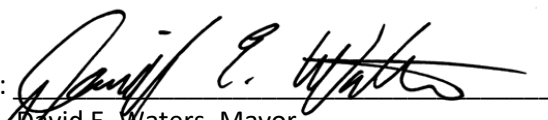
**Discuss the City Administrator's annual performance review under K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel**

Motion by Councilmember Harris to recess into Executive Session for 10 minutes. Second by Councilmember Buckman. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

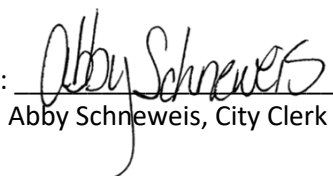
**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Buckman to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk