PRAIRIE VILLAGE
KANSAS

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE
APRIL 21, 2025

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, April 21, at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Mikkelson presided.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called by the City Clerk with the following councilmembers in attendance: Cole Robinson, Terry O'Toole, Ron Nelson, Dave Robinson, Tyler Agniel, Greg Shelton, Nick Reddell, Ian Graves and Terrence Gallagher. Staff present: Eric McCullough, Chief of Police; Melissa Prenger, City Engineer; City Attorney Alex Aggen, Hunter Law Group; Wes Jordan, City Administrator; Nickie Lee, Deputy City Administrator; Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator; Meghan Buum, Assistant City Administrator; Jason Hannaman, Finance Director; John Kinney, Special Events Coordinator; Ashley Freburg, Public Information Officer/Deputy City Clerk; Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dave Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves and passed 9-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:32 p.m., Mr. Gallagher made the following motion:

"I move the City Council recess into an executive session for a period of 25 minutes on the subject of consultations with the City Attorney and legal counsel representing the City which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2). The Governing Body, City Administrator, Deputy City Administrator, Assistant City Administrators, City Attorney and outside legal counsel will be present. The open meeting will resume at 6:00 p.m."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Agniel and passed 9-0.

The open meeting resumed at 6:00 p.m. At this time, Ms. Selders, Ms. Sharp and Ms. Nguyen were present.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS AND SCOUTS

There were no students or scouts present at the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

- Lindsay Voitik, Tree Board Chair, noted an upcoming Arbor Day event on April 26, and presented former Tree Board Chair Kevin Dunn with a certificate of excellence. Ms. Nguyen read a proclamation declaring April 25 as Arbor Day in Prairie Village.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The following residents spoke in opposition to the construction of a new city hall building and/or utilizing LEED building practices:
  - Rob Kohl, Ward 2
  - Karen Gibbons, Ward 3
  - Chet Hanson, Ward 2
  - Jerry Hughes, Ward 6
  - Jim Rosberg, Ward 1
  - Mike Kelly, Ward 4
  - Scott McKensey, Ward 1
  - Steve Snitz, Ward 1
  - Kevin Donnelly, Ward 1
  - Barbara Cantrell, Ward 4
  - Amy Aldrich, Ward 3
  - Sarah Cochran, Ward 3
  - Kelly Sullivan Angles, Ward 4
  - Jan Lane, Ward 1
- The following residents spoke in favor of the construction of a new city hall building and/or the utilizing LEED building practices:
  - Anne Melia, Ward 6
  - Tom Melia, Ward 6
  - Melinda Lewis, Ward 1
  - Margaret Thomas, Ward 5
  - Ed Stevenson, Ward 5
  - Alan Bauman, Ward 5
  - Tom Jacobs, Ward 4
  - Kristin Riott, Ward 1
  - Jennifer Brown, Ward 1
- Pat Daniels, Ward 4, and Ruth Hopkins, Ward 2, noted their support for a financial donation to the city of Dolyna, Ukraine.
- Susan Hornung, Ward 3, shared her opposition to a financial donation to the city of Dolyna, Ukraine.
- Pam Justus, Ward 6, noted her disagreement with information provided by the City regarding the city hall project.
- Anna Gepson, Ward 2, shared her opposition to a proposed composting pilot program in City parks.

- Tom Clough, Ward 5, asked the Mayor and councilmembers to consider ways to reduce division in the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Mikkelson asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda for discussion:

1. Consider approval of regular city council meeting minutes – April 7, 2025
2. Consider approval of expenditure ordinance #3049
3. Consider appointment to the Diversity Committee
4. Consider construction contract with Trekk Design Group for the 2025 residential street program

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": C. Robinson, O'Toole, Selders, Nelson, Sharp, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Shelton, Agniel, Reddell, Graves, Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Environmental Committee
  - Climate action plan update
    - Mr. Shelton provided an update on the status of the plan. He noted that the council had adopted the "Cities Raze to Zero" initiative in October 2021, with the goal of getting the community's emissions to a net zero by 2050 or sooner. Staff, with the assistance of the City's consultant KERAMIDA, developed the municipal climate action plan in 2023, to focus on reducing emissions in municipal operations. He added that the municipal campus project, including a new city hall building, was a key component of that effort.

      Mr. Shelton said that the next step was to create a broader community action plan that could be shared with residents, and that a community-wide questionnaire had been developed for that purpose. The questionnaire was available on the City's website for residents to complete.
  - Consider approval of a food composting pilot program with KC Can Compost
    - Ms. Freburg, staff liaison to the Environmental Committee, stated that the committee had recommended a drop-off food composting pilot program to address capacity concerns at the Johnson County landfill. She noted that the landfill was expected to reach capacity between 2037 and 2042, and that it was estimated that 27% of the material in the landfill was food waste.

In 2020, the City conducted a six-month curbside food composting pilot program. While participants indicated that they were satisfied with the experience and interested in seeing it continue, the City opted to stop exploring curbside composting as a city service for all residents due to the overall cost of the program.

Ms. Freburg said City staff had reached out to three composting vendors and determined that both KC Can Compost and Compost Collective could be potential partners for the pilot program. Both vendors offered a composting can secured with a padlock; the padlock's code would be published on the City's website to allow users to access the bins.

KC Can Compost also offered a turnkey "smart bin model" with the following benefits:

- Smart phone access
- Realtime monitoring of fullness status and access issues
- Data and analytics collections
- Full enclosure reduces odors and pests
- Secured to the site without the need for ropes or chains

Ms. Freburg said that the Environmental Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, and staff recommended proceeding with a pilot program with KC Can Compost utilizing the "smart bin" model. The program would operate as follows:

- City staff would work with KC Can Compost to install smart bins at Wassmer Park, Harmon Park, and Franklin Park. Parks were selected for visibility in the community on City-owned land.
- City staff would work with KC Can Compost on launch timelines, provision of materials, and a public education campaign.
- After launch, interested residents could sign up for a no-cost account through KC Can Compost, enabling them to order supplies and receive updates
- City hall would be stocked with the appropriate compostable liners, which residents could order through the app and pick up at city hall.
- Residents who signed up for an account would use their smart phones to access the smart bins and empty their food waste as often as needed.
- KC Can Compost would service the bins on a regular weekly schedule.

Ms. Freburg stated that smart cans were equipped with technology allowing fullness to be remotely monitored, alerting composting staff to know when to service the bins, and residents to see if the bin nearest them was approaching capacity.

The budget impact of the program was estimated to be approximately $6,066 in 2025, with a breakdown as follows:

- Delivery and installation of three smart bins: $450
- Weekly collection and monthly maintenance beginning in June: $936 per month ($5,616 in 2025)

The Environmental Committee committed $2,000 of its 2025 budget for composting efforts. The remaining $4,066 would be paid from the sustainability fund, which was created to enable execution of the City's municipal climate action plan. Upon approval, staff would begin implementing the program for an estimated June 2025 start.

Ms. Selders shared concern about odor, insects and potential food-born illnesses that could be present on the outside of the containers. Ms. Freburg noted that similar bins were in place in several surrounding cities, which had not reported any issues of that type.

Mr. Reddell said that he preferred to have the bins located at city hall rather than at the parks. Mr. O'Toole suggested that one could be placed at city hall and one at the public works facility for the pilot.

Mr. Graves stated that placing at least one bin at a park was important for visibility. He added that trash cans were already located at City parks and were often filled with food.

After further discussion, Mr. Reddell made a motion to place one compost bin at city hall and one at the public works facility for a six-month pilot period with KC Can Compost. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Toole.

Mr. Graves moved to amend the motion to include a third bin at Wassmer Park within the view of the City's security camera. Mr. Cole Robinson seconded the motion.

Mr. Shelton stated that he did not support placing a bin at public works due to its lack of visibility, and that it was not worth the cost of the bin.

After further discussion, a roll call vote on the motion to amend the motion was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": C. Robinson, Nelson, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Agniel, Shelton, Graves; "nay": O'Toole, Selders, Sharp, Reddell, Gallagher. The motion passed 7-5.

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Mr. Shelton made a motion to amend the motion to eliminate the plan to place a bin at public works but proceed with the installation of bins at city hall and Wassmer Park only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": C. Robinson, O'Toole, Nelson, Nguyen, Shelton, Graves; "nay": Selders, Sharp, D. Robinson, Agniel, Reddell, Gallagher. The motion passed 7-6, with Mayor Mikkelson serving as tiebreaker.

A roll call vote on the original motion as amended was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": C. Robinson, Nelson, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Agniel, Shelton, Graves, Gallagher; "nay": O'Toole, Selders, Sharp, Reddell. The motion passed 8-4.

- Mr. Dave Robinson provided an update on the actions of the 75th Anniversary Committee. He noted that group had met twice to develop ideas to recognize the City's anniversary in 2025.

- Mr. Graves said that the Police Pension Board had met the prior week and discussed the volatility of bond markets due to recent financial actions made at the federal level.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Mayor noted events that had taken place since the prior council meeting on April 7:
  - A MARC Board meeting
  - A Total Transportation Policy meeting
  - A Northeast Johnson County Mayors lunch
  - A Johnson County / Wyandotte County Mayors Dinner, at which discussion was held about property tax proposals from the State Legislature that could negatively impact cities
  - The State of the County Address
- The Mayor shared the following upcoming events:
  - The annual large-item trash pickup would begin on Saturday, April 26, and run over four weekends in different areas of the City.
- The Mayor also noted that the bid period had concluded for the YMCA property, and that Price Brothers was the buyer.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports to present to the council.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider traffic and pedestrian safety on 66th Street west of Mission Road

Mr. O'Toole said that he wished to rescind the decision that had been made at the April 7, 2025 council meeting to install a speed table on 66th Street west of Mission Road, along with a crosswalk beacon. This decision went against the staff recommendation of just installing a crosswalk beacon, but not a speed table. Once the speed table was approved, several residents on 66th Street shared their opposition to it with Mr. O'Toole and Mr. Cole Robinson. After speaking with the concerned individuals, the three residents that had initially requested the speed table sent a letter to the City indicating they no longer wanted it to be added. Mr. O'Toole noted that the crosswalk beacon would still be installed.

Mr. O'Toole made a motion to rescind the installation of the speed table on 66th Street west of Mission Road that had been approved at the April 7, 2025 meeting. Mr. Cole Robinson seconded the motion.

Several councilmembers shared their concern that the speed table had been presented as necessary for the safety of children crossing the street to and from Prairie Elementary School. Mr. O'Toole said that residents felt the crossing beacon would adequately address safety issues.

After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

COU2025-19 Consider financial contribution to Dolyna, Ukraine (sister-city)

Mr. Jordan stated that the council committee of the whole had voted 6-5 for staff to start the process of coordinating a direct financial contribution of $22,900 to the City of Dolyna at its April 7, 2025 meeting. The City of Dolyna was contacted and advised of the committee discussion and the intention to contribute the funds. Dolyna officials expressed appreciation and agreed to use the funds to buy medicine and other humanitarian goods.

After playing a short video that had been sent from Dolyna officials, Mr. Jordan noted that they had indicated the funds would be used for humanitarian needs and medicine rather than drones.

Mr. Cole Robison made a motion to direct staff to coordinate a direct financial contribution of $22,900 for the purchase of medicine and other humanitarian goods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Graves.

Ms. Selders made a motion to amend the motion to add language stating specifically that the donation would not be used to purchase drones. Ms. Sharp seconded the motion.

Mr. Jordan said that intent could be shared, but ultimately the City had no way to ensure how the money was used.

Several councilmembers stated that adding conditions to the motion demonstrated distrust of the sister-city, and were unnecessary.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the City could instead purchase humanitarian goods and send them directly to Dolyna, or work with an international organization to deliver the items. Mr. Jordan stated that logistically, it was difficult to send materials to Ukraine and that utilizing an agency would not guarantee items went to Dolyna specifically.

Ms. Sharp stated that she was sympathetic of the situation in Ukraine, but that city funds should be used for local city services. She offered to host a fundraiser to obtain funding for Dolyna.

Mr. O’Toole noted that he had received a significant amount of opposition to the proposal from residents.

After further discussion, a roll call vote on the motion to amend the motion was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: Selders; “nay”: C. Robinson, O’Toole, Nelson, Sharp, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Shelton, Agniel, Reddell, Graves, Gallagher. The motion failed 11-1.

A roll call vote on the original motion was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: C. Robinson, Selders, Nelson, Nguyen, D. Robinson, Shelton, Graves, Gallagher; “nay”: O’Toole, Sharp, Agniel, Reddell. The motion passed 8-4.

Mr. Reddell made a motion for the city council to move to the council committee of the whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Agniel and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2026 Budget

- **2026 Decision packages**

  Mr. Hannaman noted that the only decision package that had been received was put forward by Mayor Mikkelson, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Graves. The proposal would amend the property tax rebate program to increase both income limits and total funding to $100,000. He said that it would next be vetted by the Finance Committee at its May 13 meeting, then returned back to the full council for a vote.

- **2025 Estimated revenue and 2026 preliminary general fund revenue assumptions**

  Mr. Hannaman shared the following information about the 2025 City budget:

- Many revenue sources had stabilized, though inflationary pressures on durable goods and contract services remained.
- Property tax bills were likely to be considered again by the State Legislature in 2026.
- Property taxes comprised approximately 41% of general fund revenue.
- Franchise fees were expected to be flat based on on-going trends.
- Sales and use tax collections had leveled off.
- Valuation detail for properties in the Meadowbrook TIF area were not yet available, but appeared to be flat. The TIF bonds would be paid off in 2027.

Mr. Hannaman also shared the following preliminary general fund revenue assumptions for the 2026 budget:

- A projected 4.3% increase in overall general fund revenue (roughly $1.3 million) over the 2025 budget, and a 2.8% growth over 2024 actuals, assuming the mill levy did not change.
- The Johnson County Appraiser's Office had projected a total assessed value increase of 6.2% for 2026. If the mill levy were held flat at 18.326, this would result in a projected 6.5% increase in 2026 property tax revenue over the 2025 budget.

- **Consider 2026 budget requests**

Mr. Hannaman said that most committee budgets were funded by the transient guest tax (TGT), which was applied to room reservations made at the Inn at Meadowbrook. TGT funds had restricted uses, such as efforts to bring residents to the community and other tourism-related activities.

- **COU2025-20: Consider funding for VillageFest in the 2026 budget**

Mr. Kinney presented the proposed VillageFest budget, noting that a larger than normal crowd was expected due to the World Cup games that would be played in Kansas City in 2026, along with the City's 75th Anniversary celebration. He added that the committee was requesting $46,000 for 2026, an 18% increase over 2025, primarily due to the anticipated crowd size.

Mr. Graves made a motion to approve the 2026 VillageFest budget as presented. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **COU2025-21: Consider funding for JazzFest in the 2026 budget**

Mr. Kinney presented the proposed JazzFest budget, stating that the committee was requesting $35,000 to supplement a consistent base on which the festival could operate and grow. The amount requested was equal to the prior year.

Ms. Sharp made a motion to approve the 2026 JazzFest budget as presented. Mr. Agniel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **COU2025-22: Consider funding for Arts Council in the 2026 budget**

  Mr. Graves presented the proposed Arts Council budget, noting that the committee was requesting a budget of $15,000 plus a $10,000 contribution to the public arts fund for 2026. The budget increase of $5,000 was primarily driven by the increasing cost of food and supplies at events.

  Ms. Sharp stated that she was opposed to using public funds for alcohol at events.

  Mr. Graves made a motion to approve the 2026 Arts Council budget as presented. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which passed 9-3, with Ms. Sharp, Mr. Reddell, and Mr. Gallagher in opposition.

- **COU2025-23: Consider funding for Diversity Committee in the 2026 budget**

  Ms. Nguyen and Mr. Nelson presented the proposed Diversity Committee budget, stating that the committee was requesting $26,500 for 2026. The amount would include $11,500 for the committee budget and $15,000 for the Juneteenth celebration. Ms. Nguyen noted the total budget was $300 less than 2025.

  Ms. Sharp asked how many attendees were present at the Juneteenth celebration in 2024. Ms. Selders stated that there were approximately 400 - 500 people, and that attendance had grown each year and was expected to continue.

  Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the 2026 Diversity Committee budget as presented. Mr. Graves seconded the motion, which passed 10-2, with Ms. Sharp and Mr. Reddell in opposition.

- **COU2025-24: Consider funding for the Environmental Committee in the 2026 budget**

  Mr. Shelton presented the proposed Environmental Committee budget, stating that the committee requested a budget of $10,900 for 2026, an increase of $2,900. The increase would include an additional $500 for marketing and promotions, $500 for community garden supplies and maintenance, and $2,000 for a new grant program. The budget request also included a $100 decrease in the management reserve.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the 2026 Environmental Committee budget as presented. Mr. Reddell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Reddell moved that the city council end the council committee of the whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were included in the Council meeting packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Adam Geffert
City Clerk