



**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE
DECEMBER 15, 2025**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, December 15, at 6:00 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, Inga Selders, Ron Nelson, Shelby Bartelt, Nathan Vallette, Tyler Agniel (via Zoom), Betsy Lawrence (via Zoom), Ian Graves and Jim Sellers. Staff present: Eric McCullough, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Director of Public Works; City Attorney Alex Aggen, Hunter Law Group; Wes Jordan, City Administrator; Nickie Lee, Deputy City Administrator; Tim Schwartzkopf, Assistant City Administrator; Jason Hannaman, Finance Director; Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed 10-0.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS AND SCOUTS

One Rockhurst High School student was present as a requirement of his U.S. Government class.

PRESENTATIONS

- Gregg Zike and Michelle Pitsenberger with First Washington Realty provided an update on the Prairie Village, Corinth Square, and Corinth Quarter shopping centers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Pam Justus, Ward 6, shared her thoughts on things that new councilmembers should consider while serving on the council.
- The following individuals spoke in favor of the proposed ballot language access resolution :
 - Joseph Welch, speaking on behalf of Brandi Fisher, Ward 4
 - Beth Witten, Ward 2



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- Anne Melia, Ward 6
- Melinda Lewis, Ward 1
- Ed Stevenson, Ward 5
- Jesse Kielman, 4136 Wyoming Street, Kansas City, MO
- Elizabeth Harding, Ward 5
- Kelli Wright, Ward 1
- Ted Fritz, Ward 2, noted his appreciation of the closed captioning on the meeting live-stream.

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 - December 1, 2025
2. Consider approval of expenditure ordinance #3057
3. Consider approval of 2026 fee schedule
4. Consider Ordinance #2515 amending Section 16-401 (Board of Zoning Appeals; Fees; Deposit; Refund)
5. Consider Resolution 2025-11 approving the Prairie Village Arts Council artist receptions in 2026 as special events promoting the arts to allow the serving of free alcohol
6. Consider approval of 2026 exterior grant program changes
7. Consider approval of 2026 residential sustainability grant program changes

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: Robinson, O’Toole, Selders, Nelson, Bartelt, Vallette, Agniel, Lawrence, Graves, Sellers. The motion passed 10-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Diversity Committee: Consider approval of a proposed resolution which would provide improved language access for voters**

Mr. Nelson said that at its September meeting, the diversity committee unanimously approved a motion for the city council to consider a resolution providing improved language access for voters whose primary language was not English. The American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas (ACLU) gave a presentation to the committee about language access challenges, and shared its goal of obtaining support from local cities and Johnson County. This support could help persuade the Secretary of State and the Johnson County Election Commissioner to consider implementing this improvement for voters.

After the September meeting, staff was contacted by the Johnson County Election Commissioner and provided additional information. As a result, this item was tabled



until the November diversity committee meeting, at which the election commissioner provided his perspective on the issue. The diversity committee again approved a motion for the council to consider the proposed resolution. Mr. Nelson noted that while the resolution was non-binding, it would signal the city's support of providing language access to registered voters whose primary language was not English.

Logan DeMond, Director of Policy and Research with the ACLU of Kansas, stated the goal was to ensure that all documents related to voting, including registration forms, information about upcoming election dates, ballots and sample ballots were provided in languages other than English. He added that nearly 10% of Johnson County residents identified as Hispanic or Latino, many of whom speak Spanish as their primary language. Lastly, he noted that both Wyandotte County and the City of Roeland Park had already approved similar resolutions.

Johnson County Election Commission Fred Sherman stated that federal law provided the minimum standards for what election materials must be provided in languages other than English, and that Johnson County did not meet the minimum thresholds for language access. He noted that there were six counties in Kansas that did meet the threshold based on demographics. Additionally, several states had state-specific language access standards that differed from federal standards, but that they had been adopted through state statutes rather than a local resolution. Mr. Sherman suggested that including language access in the city's legislative agenda to advocate for changes at the state level would be more appropriate.

Ms. Lawrence stated that she agreed that the issue should be addressed by state legislation and that the city did not have the authority to change election laws, but that the proposed resolution was simply advocating that the Secretary of State work with the county to provide language access.

Mr. Graves made a motion to approve the non-binding resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vallette.

Mr. O'Toole said that he felt it would be more effective to add the proposal to the city's legislative platform and lobby for changes at the state level. He added that voters could already bring someone to help them vote if they were unable to do so alone.

Mayor Mikkelson noted that passing the resolution was not an attempt by the city to assert authority it didn't have, but rather to request that the Secretary of State and election commissioner consider adding language access.

After further discussion, A roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: "aye": Robinson, Selders, Nelson, Bartelt, Vallette, Lawrence, Graves, Sellers; "nay": O'Toole, Agniel. The motion passed 8-2.



- Ms. Selders stated that Stand Up for Black Lives Prairie Village would once again partner with the diversity committee to plan events for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Juneteenth in 2026, with the Martin Luther King, Jr. event taking place on January 17.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Mayor shared information about events that had taken place since the prior council meeting:
 - The Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting event on December 4
 - A FIFA watch party for the World Cup selection process on December 5
 - The annual volunteer appreciation party on December 6
 - The gingerbread house building event on December 7
 - A holiday lunch hosted by the City of Mission Hills
 - A celebration at Tomahawk Elementary School recognizing the LEED Silver certification awarded to the building
 - A staff appreciation lunch on December 12
 - A Johnson County / Wyandotte County Mayors Council holiday party
- The Mayor shared information about the following upcoming events:
 - D.A.R.E. graduations at three elementary schools in Prairie Village
 - A Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board meeting
 - A Total Transportation Policy Committee meeting
 - A Coffee with a Cop event on December 18
 - A Northeast Johnson County Mayors holiday lunch
- The Mayor also noted that MARC Executive Director David Warm had announced his retirement, and that he had been appointed to a search committee to find a replacement.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief McCullough provided a summary of the annual Shop with a Cop event, at which presents were purchased for 10 deserving children in Prairie Village.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the council.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the council.

Mr. Nelson 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. Robinson and passed 10-0.



COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COU2025-56 Discuss 2026 legislative platform

Mallory Lutz from Little Government Relations provided an overview of items that would likely be considered by the state legislature in 2026.

Ms. Lee noted that there were three proposed changes to the platform:

- A. Revise the “Federal Funding” section to more accurately reflect the current federal funding environment and include language about the World Cup. Suggested language: “The City of Prairie Village encourages the Legislature and state agencies to provide support, coordination, and guidance to local governments in order to maximize opportunities through state and federal investments. In 2026, the City requests federal funding to support the region during the World Cup event...” *(Suggested by LGR and staff)*
- B. Update the “Statewide Funding for the Arts” section to remove the dated 2020 reference to the economic impact of the arts. Suggested language: “The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis creates an annual report of the significant economic impact of the arts to the Kansas economy.” *(Suggested by staff)*
- C. Add a new section titled “Housing” to address the possibility of state officials drafting laws to restrict local officials from being able to exercise home rule regarding the topic of accessory dwelling units. Suggested narrative: “We support the ability of local officials to make housing decisions within their community, including issues related to accessory dwelling units.” *(Suggested by Councilmembers Terry O’Toole and Tyler Agniel)*

Mr. Nelson made a motion to adopt items A and B. Mr. Vallette seconded the motion, which passed 10-0.

Mr. O’Toole stated that he and Mr. Agniel had recommended item C to prevent the state from superseding local control on housing and zoning issues. He noted that the last time zoning changes were proposed for single-family areas by the council had resulted in significant pushback from residents.

Ms. Lawrence asked if item C should be placed under the “Local Control” section of the legislative platform rather than a new section. Mr. O’Toole said that he felt the topic was important enough that it should stand on its own.

Mr. Graves noted that housing shortages were an issue across the state and not specific to Prairie Village, and that he supported the state addressing the issue.



Mr. Nelson made a motion to adopt item C, adding a new section titled “Housing” to address the possibility of state officials drafting laws to restrict local officials from being able to exercise home rule regarding the topic of accessory dwelling units. Ms. Selders seconded the motion.

Mr. Vallette suggested removing the specific reference to accessory dwelling units, and that simply stating, “we support the ability of local officials to make housing decisions within their community” was a stronger position.

Mr. Vallette made a motion to amend the motion by striking “including issues related to accessory dwelling units” from item C. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sellers. The motion tied 5-5, with Ms. Bartelt, Mr. Vallette, Ms. Lawrence, Mr. Graves and Mr. Sellers in support, and Mr. Robinson, Mr. O’Toole, Ms. Selders, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Agniel in opposition. Mayor Mikkelson provided the tie-breaking vote, and the motion to amend the motion passed 6-5.

The original motion as amended passed 9-1, with Mr. Graves in opposition.

Ms. Lawrence asked how the legalization of cannabis came to be on the city’s platform. Ms. Selders noted that initially, the platform included the legalization of medical marijuana, which mirrored the platform of the League of Kansas Municipalities. She and Mr. Graves had requested that the legalization of all cannabis be added, partially because the city bordered the state of Missouri, where marijuana had been legalized.

Ms. Lawrence asked if there was data available that showed how much time or resources were spent by the police department to enforce marijuana laws. Chief McCollough stated that the police department did not focus on marijuana possession enforcement, but rather impaired drivers in the city. He added that drug arrests had declined somewhat since Missouri had legalized recreational marijuana.

Ms. Lawrence stated that she felt she needed more data before she could support the legalization of cannabis as part of the platform. Mayor Mikkelson suggested that Ms. Lawrence acquire the data from the police department and then make a determination when the platform was brought back for final approval in January.

Mr. Graves 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 10-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:27 p.m., Mr. Robinson made the following motion:

“I move the City Council recess into an executive session for a period of 20 minutes on the subject of consultations with the City Attorney which would be deemed privileged in the



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attorney-client relationship, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2). The Governing Body, City Administrator, Deputy City Administrator, Assistant City Administrators, Finance Director, and City Attorney will be present. The open meeting will resume at 8:50 p.m.

Mr. Vallette seconded the motion, which passed 10-0.

The open meeting resumed at 8:50 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were included in the council meeting packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Adam Geffert
City Clerk