



**PRAIRIE VILLAGE**  
KANSAS

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE  
JANUARY 20, 2026**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 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, Betsy Lawrence, 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; Meghan Boom, Assistant City Administrator; Jason Hannaman, Finance Director; Adam Geffert, City Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Mikkelson noted that the day camp agreement with the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District (JCPRD) had been removed from the consent agenda and would be presented for approval at a future meeting. The agreement with JCPRD for tennis lessons would remain on the consent agenda for approval.

**Mr. Graves made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and passed 9-0.**

**INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS AND SCOUTS**

There were no students or scouts present at the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jim Rossberg, Ward 1, stated that he believed a new building should be constructed for the police department rather than a new city hall.

\*Councilmember Reddell arrived during public participation



### **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 - January 5, 2026
2. Consider purchase request for police vehicle
3. Consider approval of 2026 agreement with Johnson County Parks and Recreation District
4. Consider 2026 recreation fee schedule
5. Consider approval of 2026 SuperPass interlocal agreement and swim meet letter of understanding

**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, Reddell, Lawrence, Graves, Sellers. The motion passed 10-0.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Nelson and Ms. Selders provided a recap of the city's fifth annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration that was held on January 17 at Village Presbyterian Church. Mr. Nelson added that the diversity committee's MLK Day of Service event had been postponed.
- Ms. Selders stated that parade planning for the city's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary continued, and that float registrations would be made available in the next few weeks.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- The Mayor shared information about events that had taken place since the prior council meeting:
  - A meeting with St. Ann's church leadership about partnership opportunities
  - The Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce's "State of the Cities" event on January 6
  - Meetings with Northeast Johnson County legislators to discuss the city's legislative platform
  - A Johnson County / Wyandotte County Mayors meeting hosted by the city at the Meadowbrook Park clubhouse
  - A Martin Luther King, Jr. Day award ceremony sponsored by the Johnson County NAACP on January 19
- The Mayor shared information about the following upcoming events:
  - The Northeast Johnson County Chamber's bus tour
  - D.A.R.E. graduations at St. Ann's and Tomahawk Elementary Schools
  - A sports tourism meeting at the Meadowbrook Park clubhouse on January 26



- A Prairie Village Foundation board meeting on January 27
- The Mayor also noted the following:
  - A search committee had been assembled to recruit a new executive director for the Mid-America Regional Council
  - The city's annual police pension report had been published, which showed that the pension investment fund was performing well
  - Interviews for the Ward 3 council vacancy would be held later in the week
  - The annual council retreat would be held on February 28
  - The Global Ties group would be hosting a Ukrainian delegation that would visit city hall on January 30

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Jordan said that committee applications would continue to be accepted through the end of the month. He added that Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast would be attending the February 2, 2026 council meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **COU2026-02      Consider reappointment of the city attorney**

Mayor Mikkelson stated that the city attorney had a two-year appointment as specified in the city's municipal code. Alex Aggen had served as the designated primary attorney since 2024 with staff from Hunter Law Group serving in assisting roles. The following rates were negotiated and agreed to as part of the Mayor's recommendation of appointment:

- All attorneys will bill their services at a rate of \$315.00 per hour. In addition, paralegal work will be \$150.00 per hour and their legal assistant will bill time at \$105.00 per hour.
- A billing time cap of three hours for any council meeting

**Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Alex Aggen, Hunter Law Group, as the city attorney. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bartelt.**

Mr. O'Toole said that the proposed hourly rate was approximately 15% greater than the previous rate, which he felt was too large of an increase. He suggested that a 6% increase (3% year-over-year) would be more appropriate.

Mayor Mikkelson noted that when Hunter Law Group was initially selected in 2024, they were among the least expensive of the firms that applied. He added that the proposed



agreement included a three-hour billing cap for council meetings, and that the city had already negotiated a lower rate than what was originally proposed by Hunter Law.

**Mr. O’Toole made a motion to amend the motion to limit the increase to the hourly rate to 6%, or \$291.50 per hour. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reddell.**

**After further discussion, a roll call vote was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: O’Toole, Selders, Reddell; “nay”: Robinson, Nelson, Bartelt, Vallette, Lawrence, Graves, Sellers. The motion failed 7-3.**

Mr. Aggen noted that the proposed rate of \$315 per hour was a 30% discount from his normal hourly rate.

**A roll call vote on the original motion was taken with the following votes cast: “aye”: Robinson, Selders, Nelson, Bartelt, Vallette, Lawrence, Graves, Sellers; “nay”: O’Toole, Reddell. The motion passed 8-2.**

**COU2026-03            Consider reappointment of the assistant city attorney**

Jeffrey Deane with Lauber Municipal Law had served as the assistant city attorney since his initial appointment in February 2024. The assistant city attorney is an appointed position as outlined in Prairie Village Municipal Code sections 1-301 and 1-310, and serves a two-year term. Mr. Deane indicated that he would like to continue serving in the role, and noted that there would be no changes to the existing contract or hourly rates that were approved in 2024:

- General municipal work: \$260.00 per hour
- Law clerk or paralegal work: \$100.00 per hour

**Mr. O’Toole made a motion to approve the Mayor’s reappointment of Jeffrey Deane, Lauber Municipal Law, as the assistant city attorney. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reddell and passed 10-0.**

**COU2026-04            Consider design agreement with Trekk Design Group, LLC for the conceptual design phase of 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, east city limit to Nall Avenue (2027 CARS)**

Mr. Bredehoeft said that public works requested proposals from firms to provide engineering services for 2024-2026 in December 2023. The selection committee consisted of councilmembers Dave Robinson and Terry O’Toole, along with staff. Trekk Design Group, LLC was selected as the city’s design consultant for the CARS program from the three firms interviewed. Trekk provided construction observation services in the past on



the paving and CARS programs to supplement city inspection staff. In each case, they performed well and provided good customer service to both staff and residents.

Mr. Bredehoeft said that the proposed agreement was for the first phase of design for 83<sup>rd</sup> Street from the east city limit to Nall Avenue. Staff would also be coordinating with the City of Leawood on the portion of the corridor from the city limit to Mission Road in front of Corinth Elementary School. Additionally, the portion of the corridor from Mission Road to Somerset Drive within the Corinth Shops area would be included as part of the larger Village Vision 2.0 plan, and concepts would be presented to the governing body with options to increase pedestrian circulation and create a cohesive connection between the two shopping areas.

Mr. Bredehoeft stated that the project scope would be increased at the request of Overland Park Traffic Engineering to include the replacement of the signal at 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and Nall Avenue. An agreement for the design of the signal would be brought forward along with an interlocal agreement with Overland Park in the near future, with funding included in the 2027 budget development.

Mr. Reddell said that Corinth Elementary leadership, the PTA and parents were interested in safety improvements around the school, particularly at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and Mission Road intersection.

Mr. Bredehoeft said that the pavement on 83<sup>rd</sup> Street from Mission Road to the eastern city limit had already been narrowed to create a larger buffer for sidewalks, and that the school zone area would be increased to help reduce traffic speed. Additionally, a secondary flashing school zone sign would be installed on the east side of Mission Road. He added that further safety measures were being discussed with the school and the City of Leawood.

Mr. Reddell made a motion to approve the design agreement with Trekk Design Group, LLC, for the concept design phase (2027 CARS project), 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, east city limit to Nall Avenue in the amount of \$78,475. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lawrence and passed 10-0.

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. Vallette and passed 10-0.

#### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

##### **Discuss offer from Verizon to purchase lease interest for cell tower**

Ms. Lee stated that the city owned the cell tower located immediately north of the current city hall building. The tower was built in 1992 by Verizon and deeded to the city, and hosted a combination of city equipment and private equipment.



The city currently had lease agreements for the tower with three mobile service providers: T-Mobile, AT&T, and Verizon. All of the contracts with the service providers were negotiated in 2018 and anticipated three additional five-year renewal terms ending in 2033. The city received \$137,830 (approximately \$46,000 per carrier) in 2025, and the contracts were scheduled to increase 15% per renewal term.

Ms. Lee said that numerous inquiries had been received over time to renegotiate rates, most recently from Verizon, which sent the city an offer to provide a lump sum payment of \$571,223.52 to buy out its lease interest. This amount was equivalent to 12 years of lease payments at the current rate. She noted that if the city accepted the offer, it would also no longer receive monthly payments from the other two carriers.

Further, Verizon had previously requested a new rate amount of \$2,400 per month with a 3% escalator each year. Ms. Lee noted that the city currently received \$3,820.48 monthly, so staff declined the offer, but sought confirmation of the decision from council.

**Mr. Reddell made a motion to deny the lump sum payment offer and to deny a renegotiation of rates until the renewal term ending date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sellers and passed 10-0.**

**COU2026-05      Consider amendments to Chapter XI, Article 16 - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**

Mr. Aggen said that a resident had reached out with concerns that the city was regulating unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, or drones) differently than the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which had greater authority over them. The FAA recommended best practices and limits to what local governments could regulate concerning the operation of UAVs. These best practices included avoiding preemption of federal regulations and statutes, and restrictions on what height of airspace a local government could regulate.

After consultation with counsel for the FAA, staff recommended that the regulation of UAVs be limited to the first 200 feet of airspace above the city. Additionally, amendments were inserted into certain sections to clarify the reasoning for some regulations, and a provision was added enabling law enforcement to have extra flexibility during special events, such as the World Cup.

**Mr. O'Toole made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance amending Chapter XI governing the regulation of unmanned aerial vehicles. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson.**

Ms. Selders asked if drones would still be banned over recreational areas, such as city parks. Mr. Aggen said that the existing municipal code allowed drones to fly over city parks, and that the proposed amendments did not change that.



Mr. Sellers asked how the amendments would affect commercial drone operators, such as Amazon delivery services. Mr. Aggen said that commercial operators were regulated directly by the FAA, and that changes to city code would generally not change what they could do.

**After further discussion, the motion passed 9-1, with Ms. Selders in opposition.**

### **Discuss questions for the 2026 citizen satisfaction survey**

Ms. Buum stated that at its January 5, 2026 meeting, the council approved moving forward with ETC group to develop a citizen satisfaction survey, which would be based on the previous survey completed in 2018. She reviewed questions from the previous survey and shared the following information:

- **Questions 1-17** related to basic city services would remain as close to the same as possible for benchmarking against the city's previous survey as well as regional and national peers, with only minor changes to the section.
- **Questions 18-25** are "point in time" questions. The 2018 items would be removed and replaced with relevant questions for current topics and community needs.
- **Questions 26-30** are demographic questions which would largely remain the same.
- **Question 31** would remain to allow for open-ended feedback.

Ms. Buum shared proposed new sections to replace existing sections in questions 18-25:

- Trash service and trash issues
- Transportation connectivity and safety
- Consideration of property tax rates and potential effects on services that would result from a reduced tax rate
- Critical items for the city to focus on over the next five years

She noted that after discussion, staff would review council feedback with ETC group, and that a final survey would be approved by council at the February 2, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Sellers suggested that the income ranges in the demographic section be made narrower to provide more accurate data.

Mayor Mikkelson said that he would like to add a question to the transportation section asking residents whether they were interested in additional transportation options in the city.



Mr. O'Toole suggested that questions specific to e-bike and e-scooter safety should be included, rather than lumping them in with traditional bicycles. Mayor Mikkelson said the e-bike and e-scooter questions should include input on enforcement.

Ms. Lawrence stated the language in the question stating "the city should maintain current tax levels to preserve existing city services" in the property tax section was awkward, and could be misinterpreted. Mr. Graves suggested changing the language to "the city should seek to preserve existing city services".

Mr. Reddell said that he did not support the inclusion of "reexamining opportunities for a community center" in the question regarding items that the city should focus on over the next five years, noting that the council had already thoroughly debated the community center topic and that the issue did not need further consideration. Additionally, he stated that he believed "explore opportunities for attainable housing" should be removed.

Mr. Graves said that he still received questions from residents about the community center and attainable housing, and said he felt the questions should remain.

Mr. Vallette suggested adding an option for "other" in the question regarding items that the city should focus on over the next five years.

Ms. Selders suggested adding a question about exploring public/private partnership opportunities for a land trust.

After further discussion, Ms. Buum stated that she would update the survey questions based on feedback and present a final version at the next meeting.

Mr. Reddell moved that the city council end the council committee of the whole portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vallette and passed 10-0.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Robinson made the following motion:

*"I move the City Council recess into an executive session for a period of 15 minutes on the subject of consultations with the City Attorney 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, and City Attorney will be present. The open meeting will resume at 8:20 p.m."*

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Announcements were included in the council meeting packet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Mikkelson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Adam Geffert  
City Clerk