

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: November 19, 2021

Items of Note:

- REMINDER: City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday next week so employees may celebrate Thanksgiving with their families. Trash service on Thursday will run on Wednesday and Friday's service will run as normal. The Finance Department will not be open on December 4 to allow the department an opportunity to conduct internal training.
- The City will require a budget amendment for the Economic Development Sales Tax Fund. The City originally budgeted to spend \$178,680 from the fund, although this amount will be exceeded primarily because part of the City's share of the downtown underground electric project approved by the City Commission will be paid from the fund balance. The fund annually receives \$100,000 from proceeds from the one-cent sales tax and had a fund balance of \$96,675 as of October 31, 2021.
- This week, I met with the principals and administrators from USD 490 to get input about the next police chief. I also had a session with students at El Dorado High School. I also conducted two other forums with representatives from various community groups. The input received has been very similar, which confirms the needs and expectations of the community as it relates to this key position.
- At the end of the year, Linda Jolly will step down as executive director for El Dorado Inc. and assume a consultant position with the organization. She will serve in that capacity for at least a year. Sarah Hoefgen will take the helm as executive director at the beginning of the year. She has been working alongside Linda for the past few months as assistant director.
- I met with representatives from HeadStart, USD 490, and the Chamber to continue the discussion concerning childcare. The School District may allow HeadStart to convert two outdoor storage buildings/concession stands at Blackmore Elementary and Grandview Schools to early childcare classrooms. Doing so would add some capacity to the community's childcare situation, although there seems to be plenty of demand based on a recent survey conducted by the Chamber.
- Staff started to prepare a plan to address sanitation wages as a means to attract more potential candidates to this work. We are going to approach the rate assessment more holistically and consider the Refuse Division's total expenses instead of just looking at salaries. Staff plans to prepare a multi-year approach that will provide an opportunity to phase-in rate increases to make wages more competitive while retaining the need to replace refuse vehicles and equipment.

- This week, I attended the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce’s annual meeting at the invitation of Andrew Wiens, who serves as the Chamber’s Vice President of Government Relations.

Things to Think About:

- The infrastructure bill signed by President Joe Biden earlier this week contains billions of dollars to cleanup a dangerous chemical in drinking water across this country. But, the federal government’s struggle with how to prevent forever chemical contamination in the first place isn’t over just yet. There has been a slow drip of regulation over the last twenty years, as the EPA tries to contain a class of deadly chemicals linked to cancer. Health studies find 95% of Americans have PFAs in their bloodstream, but there is no national, enforceable standard for what level of exposure can be considered safe. *Source: Wichita KWCH*

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and currently advertised positions:* Police Officer (2), Public Works Maintenance Worker (3), Distribution/Collection Maintenance Worker, Sanitation Lead, Firefighter, Water Treatment Superintendent, Animal Shelter Attendant, Sanitation Collector. *Pending advertisement:* Police Chief
- The Parks and Recreation Department held interviews for the Recreation Leader position and extended an offer of employment to Alexis Pollard. She will transition from her current role as administrative assistant to the Public Works Department to this new role beginning January 1.
- The Public Works Department extended an offer of employment to Mary Brill for the Animal Shelter Attendant position. She has not yet provided a start date, although she will start before Donna retires so she can learn how the shelter operates. We do not yet have a starting date for her. Donna Sharp, the current attendant, announced her retirement for the end of the year.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **December 6 Regular Meeting** – Commission Transition; Selection of Vice-Mayor; Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses; FEMA BRIC Grant Request; Legislative Policy Agenda; National Opioid Settlement Case; Budget Amendment
 - **December 15 Work Session** – Commission Orientation; El Dorado Hotel Incentive Discussion
 - **December 20 Regular Meeting** – No Items Scheduled Yet
 - **December 29 Work Session** – Commission Orientation; Augusta Wholesale Water Agreement; CIC Annexation Agreement

- *Pending Items (Items to be scheduled for upcoming meeting once completed):* Augusta Wholesale Water Agreement; Professional Services Agreement with PEC (Lake Recreation Master Plan); Street Cut Ordinance; Food Vendor Ordinance; Transient Vendor Ordinance; Business Park Re-platting and Rezoning

- *Upcoming Planning Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **November 25** – No meeting (Thanksgiving)
 - **December 23** – Rezoning application for 300 SE 40th Street. Applicant is requesting to rezone from “A-R, Agricultural-Residential” to “R-S, Residential-Suburban,” so they can split off a lot for a family member to construct a house.