

# EL DORADO

## K A N S A S

TO: City Commission  
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager  
SUBJ: Weekly Report  
DATE: November 30, 2021

### **Items of Note:**

- REMINDER: The lobby at City Hall will not open on December 2 to allow the Finance Department an opportunity to conduct internal training. My prior report communicated that this even would occur on December 4, which is a Saturday.
- Main Street's Old Fashioned Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 4 beginning at 5:30 pm. The route will go from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Ash Street.
- 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.
- I will be in Atchison attending the annual Kansas City/County Managers Association conference on Wednesday through Friday. I will be available by phone or email if you need to contact me during this time.
- The Parks and Recreation Department plans to install insulation at the Baseball Hall of Fame and the concession stand at McDonald Stadium in the near future.
- The Parks and Recreation Department also needs four to five coaches for youth basketball, specifically for first and second grade teams. You might encourage folks you know who may have coaching skills to serve the community in this manner.
- The City will accept bids for a fire engine until noon on December 29. It is my understanding that the City has received quite a bit of interest from fire apparatus companies, although the price of a fire engine will likely increase significantly on February 1. We will have the bids before the City Commission prior to this date to avoid incurring an unneeded increase in expenses for this purchase. The City plans to pay for the fire engine with proceeds from the recently issued G.O. Bonds, Series 2021.
- Construction on public infrastructure for the Meyers East Addition near Prairie Trails Golf Course will begin in the next week or so.
- The Engineering Department will participate in a discovery meeting regarding the US-54 bridge coming into El Dorado. KTA and KDOT have started the interchange study for the I-35/K-254/Boyer Road interchange. The study will take about a year or so to complete, and will provide options for an interchange alignment that better serves these connections if an industrial development occurs in El Dorado. The department also plans to meet with representatives from BNSF to discuss the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvement Project.

The project requires considerable work over and around BNSF's railroad, so the company wants to work with the City to develop the best way of proceeding.

- The Finance Department recently coordinated with the Kansas Department of Children and Families (KDCF) to participate in a water assistance program designed to provide financial assistance to low income families struggling to pay water and wastewater bills. KDCF will provide \$9 million in assistance from funds received for COVID assistance. Families must apply with KDCF in order to receive funds, which will be provided directly to the City to offset any outstanding utility obligations.
- The Police Department completed its Thanksgiving holiday participation in KDOT's Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). The program provides an incentive for local agencies to provide education and enforcement aimed at increasing travelers' compliance with occupant restraint and impaired driving laws. The Police Department received the full incentive for its efforts this past weekend, which includes \$4,500 in equipment purchases and reimbursement for all overtime used to facilitate the department's participation. The Police Department used the funds to acquire one patrol car radar unit and safety lights for officers.
- The Public Works Department razed the structure previously located at 814 N. Railroad Street. The department found a fully stocked jukebox that unfortunately did not work. There is no word on whether it may be repaired.
- The Public Works Department continues to cut joints into the runway at Captain Jack Thomas Memorial Airport. The runway had multiple failures this past year due to warm temperatures "popping" the concrete. Interestingly, joints were never cut into the runway so this preventative measure should reduce further damage to the surface and allow the runway to remain open especially during the summer.
- The Refuse Division continues to review its commercial routes to increase efficiencies. The division now allows employees to end their day whenever the route is complete, which incentivizes crews to work more efficiently during the day. This change, along with rerouting, has generated an annualized savings of about \$35,000 in an attempt to keep operating costs as low as possible amid rising wages. Much of the savings comes from a significant reduction in overtime expenses now that routes are completed in less than forty hours per workweek.
- In 2021, the Kansas Legislature passed the Kansas Fights Addiction Act (HB 2079) to govern how the state will distribute funds it receives from the national opioid settlements. Pursuant to the bill, local governments will receive 25% of the settlement funds. As required by the bill, the League of Kansas Municipalities is working with the Kansas Association of Counties and the Attorney General's office to finalize an agreement to govern the administration and split of the local portion. The City will have to adopt a resolution to receive a share of the settlement funds. Ashlyn and I are reviewing the information to get ready to discuss this issue with the City Commission at the December 6 regular meeting.

### **Things to Think About:**

- The chances for snow increases as it gets colder outside. The Public Works Department ordered several dump trucks to begin replacing its aging fleet of snow fighters. The City has a good supply of salt and sand to combat a white onslaught. Unfortunately, the City has yet to take possession of these trucks due to supply chain issues that continue to plague many industries. In addition, the City planned to outfit a dump truck with a brine applicator. This truck, however, continues to sit in reserve status as it waits for needed parts. Cross your fingers that this situation may be resolved before we get too much winter activity.
- Supply chain issues continue to affect every department in their own way. It is more difficult to find certain items and the delivery time has lengthened as a result. In many cases, prices for certain commodities and supplies have increased due to insufficient supply to meet demand. The forces of supply and demand create challenges for departments to continue to provide public services to the community. So far, operating units have been able to adapt in this uncertain environment and keep services running with little effect on citizens. We will continue to do the best with what we have, but pray that the economic situation resolves itself soon or we will creep further into the unknown and be unable to adapt fast enough without a service disruption.
- The Wichita Eagle recently reported on solutions Sedgwick County is considering to address its homeless challenge. The initiatives, modeled off efforts by San Antonio and Bexar County in Texas, seek to reduce the number of people living on the streets and try to help those with mental illness and addiction issues. Such efforts include such things as a one-stop shop campus where people experiencing homelessness can access resources, a hospital system prepared for mental health emergencies, a crisis center for mental health, addiction and medical issues, a behavioral health navigator who directs first responders to emergency rooms with available beds, homeless shelters, a police force with a mental health unit, and specialty courts that focus on diversion. In no way would I advocate for such an expansive program, although I think it is instructive on how complex solutions may need to be to take steps to resolve the underlying problem.

### **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, Sanitation Collector, Police Chief.
- Advertisements for the Police Chief position went live on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The position is open until filled, although the first review of applications/resumes will begin on December 21.
- The City filled the Animal Shelter Attendant position. Mary Brill will start on December 2 to allow time for her to receive some training from Donna Sharp, who is planning to retire at year's end.

### 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; 2021 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):*
  - **December 23** – Rezoning application for 300 SE 40<sup>th</sup> 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.