

EL DORADO

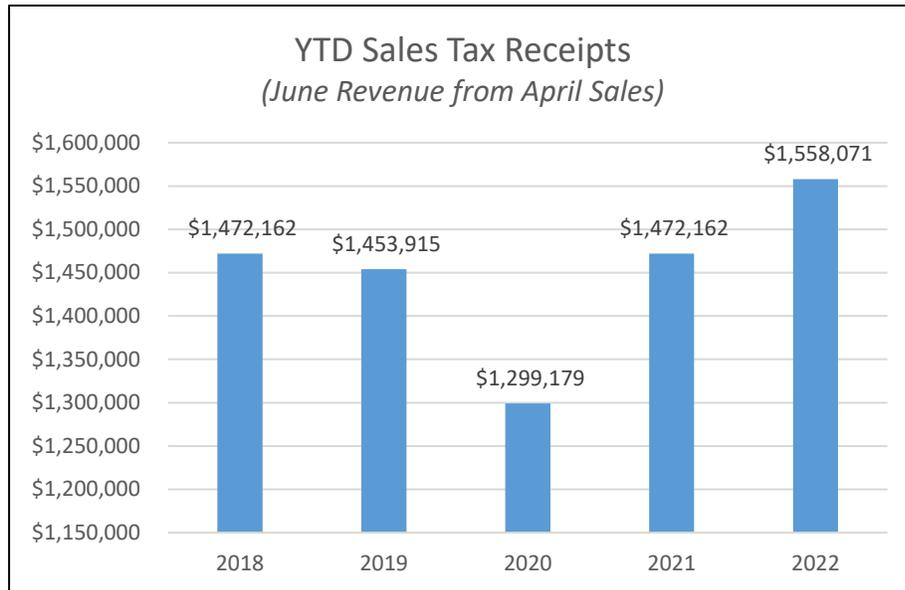
K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: July 22, 2022

Items of Note:

- The cost estimate for the 9th Avenue Improvement Project has increased significantly since staff presented the project to the governing body for authorization. The original estimate came to \$1.24 million. The revised estimate, based on 50% plans, suggests a project cost of \$1.67 million. The primary reasons for the increased cost estimate include:
 - BNSF requires additional storm sewer pipe and area inlets to stay clear of crossing material and future signals;
 - Project includes boring of storm sewer under BNSF tracks and a change of the type of pipe to a stronger product;
 - Boring and installation of a 16-inch water main through BNSF right-of-way to accommodate future industrial growth; and
 - Recent effect of inflation on construction unit prices.
- In addition to the aforementioned factors, the 9th Avenue Improvement Project will also include a number of other cost increases not presently factored into the project cost. BNSF requires construction of the railroad crossings to their standards and specifications. The railroad has agreed to participate in 50% of the cost of the railroad crossings, although the cost of this part of the project is unknown as BNSF has yet to provide the City with a contract for this construction. BNSF will also require a flagger during any construction activity near the railroad crossings. Finally, BNSF will not participate in the cost of extending a sidewalk crossing through the railroad crossings or in the storm sewer needed under the tracks.
- Increasing construction prices have affected the District 142 project. The owner received bids for Phase 2 improvements last week, and the estimated cost came in significantly higher than budgeted. Further complicating matters, the project is running up against construction deadlines required by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The City will likely need to request an extension on behalf of the property owner so the owner may revise plans amid these challenges.
- After an initial troubleshooting, Public Utilities staff determined that a variable frequency drive at the Water Treatment Plant needs repaired. The drive runs the 250-horsepower distribution pump at the plant. The repair may cost upwards of \$14,000, although the cost of a new drive is \$36,000 if the repair does not adequately address the problem.

- The City received \$273,761 in sales tax collected on retail sales occurring in April. Of this amount, \$38,662 came from compensating use tax. Year-to-date, the City received \$1,558,071 from sales tax, which is 5.8% higher than last year's receipts. The City has also received \$246,387 from compensating use tax year-to-date. The City projects annual sales tax collections of about \$3.0 million for the year at this current pace.



- The Municipal Pool implemented safety protocols this past week given recent challenges in getting lifeguards to work. The pool will close if the number of lifeguards on duty drops below six at any time. Pool staff will attempt to contact off-duty lifeguards to see if they are available to report if the number of lifeguards falls below this threshold during the day.
- Staff met with representatives from Heartstrings Animal Rescue to discuss changes to animal shelter practices as a means to improve communications between the City and animal rescues.
- The Public Works Department met with representatives from Main Street to discuss implementation of a downtown sound system to broadcast music. Main Street is developing a plan to raise funds to install a sound system.
- Many departments have adjusted work routines to accommodate the hot temperatures of late July. These changes mean outside work starts and ends earlier so employees are not subject to the hottest temperatures in the late afternoon. Employees are also encouraged to take frequent water breaks to stay hydrated and avoid overexertion.
- The Fire Department conducted volunteer training this past week. The department currently has sixteen volunteers (the most in many years and many of these new members have little training or experience. The department is planning a “Firefighter Essentials” course to train and prepare these members to assist with fire calls.
- The Utilities Department sprayed algae at the East Park Pond and will continue treatment every two weeks to help stall and reduce further growth. Waiting two weeks is necessary

so all the algae is not killed at once causing oxygen depletion. This could likely kill the fish in the pond.

- Staff reviewed Requests for Qualifications from engineering firms for the BASE Grant projects. The City will need consulting services to design water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer improvements. We will recommend contracts for these services soon so preliminary engineering may begin shortly.
- Staff attended the Kansas Infrastructure Summit to understand potential opportunities that local governments have under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The State of Kansas created a website (<https://kshub.org>) to help guide municipalities toward appropriate opportunities. Staff will begin to review this list of federal grant opportunities to determine the best programs to apply for funds.

In the News:

- Kansas triumphed over Oklahoma in efforts to land a Panasonic Corp. electric vehicle battery plant that for about six months had been deliberating between the two states. Panasonic intends to invest "several billion dollars" in a Kansas battery factory to supply a new high-capacity battery for Tesla, which itself opened a second U.S. electric vehicle factory in Texas to meet surging demand, *Nikkei Asia* first reported Wednesday. Since late January, Kansas officials have said that a manufacturer, which they did not name on account of nondisclosure agreements, was considering the state as a finalist for a \$4 billion, 4,000-job megaproject. Recent De Soto (Kansas) documents outline plans for a 2.5 million-square-foot facility on 309 acres within the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant — with a second, similarly-sized phase potentially to follow just south. *Source: Wichita Business Journal*

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (5); Sanitation Operators (3); Firefighter; Police Officer; Wastewater Superintendent; and Building Maintenance Worker.
- FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant has closed for the year. The federal government created the program to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to allow them to increase or maintain the number of trained firefighters available in their communities. The Fire Department will begin preparing an application for next year's application process, anticipated to open in January 2023.
- The Public Works Department made four offers of employment after conducting interviews this past week.
- The City's Building Maintenance Worker resigned this week. The City will begin to advertise to fill this position.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **July 27 Work Session** – No Meeting

- **August 1 Regular Meeting –**
- **August 10 Work Session – 2023 Proposed Budget; Tall Weeds & Grass Ordinance**