

EL DORADO

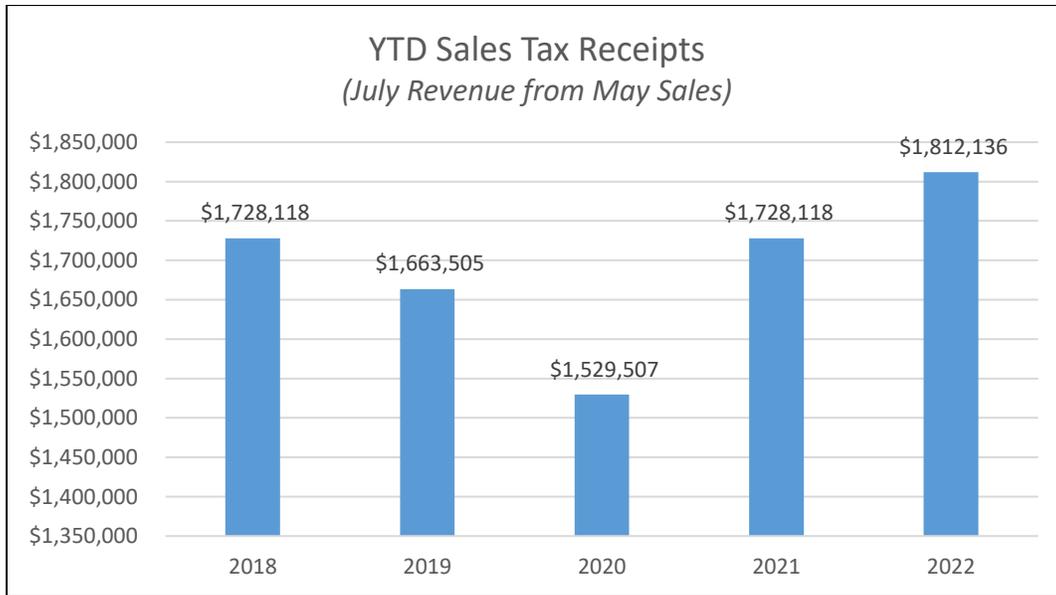
K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: July 29, 2022

Items of Note:

- About 650 people participated in-person and virtually at the Kansas Infrastructure Summit held in Wichita on July 13-14. The purpose of the Summit was to raise awareness about the funding opportunities provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), identify ways to collaborate and to generate and prioritize actions to maximize the impact of these dollars. More than \$3.8 billion will be invested in Kansas infrastructure over the next five years, and additional funds are available through competitive grants. Overarching themes from the summit included:
 - **State funding is needed to help with local match requirements on BIL discretionary grants.** Many of these programs require a local match, often in the 20% range, which many communities currently lack the resources to provide. Participants noted that it would be a big loss for the state to miss out on having 80% of projects funded through federal funds because of an inability at the local level to provide the match. The suggestion was for the Governor and Kansas Legislature to consider setting aside some dollars to serve as state and local match requirements as other states have done.
 - **Workforce development is needed to address staff shortages, capacity issues and needed skill sets.** There are concerns about being able to access federal dollars due to both staffing shortages and the lack of expertise required to administer federal funds or write grants to seek additional dollars. There are also concerns about a lack of contractors, engineers and other high-demand positions to make the infrastructure improvements once the funding is secured for them.
 - **Need to identify infrastructure champions at the regional level.** Given the need for regional collaboration, participants indicated having clearly identified leaders or champions would be beneficial to optimize the opportunities BIL will provide over the next five years.
- The Police Department opened 155 cases for the month of July. The department resolved/closed 116 cases (74%) of these cases. Year-to-date, the department opened 1,032 cases compared to 1,110 during the same period a year ago (-7%). The department issued 243 citations through July compared to 310 citations a year ago (-22%). The Police Department responded to 1,265 calls for service through July compared to 1,377 through July 2021 (-8%).

- Year-to-date, the Criminal Investigations Division investigated 220 cases. Sixty-four (29%) of these cases have an “active” or “on-hold” status, while 156 cases (71%) have been resolved/closed.
- The City received \$254,066 in sales tax collected on retail sales occurring in May. Of this amount, \$32,501 came from compensating use tax. Year-to-date, the City received \$1,812,136 from sales tax, which is 4.9% higher than last year’s receipts. The City has also received \$278,888 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 Public Utilities Department began its annual “free” chlorine burnout through the water distribution system this month.
- Residents and business owners that still require backflow prevention devices will receive certified compliance letters next week. Many property owners completed their inspections, although a few still remain non-complaint with this regulation. The City requires property owners to complete an annual inspection of backflow prevention devices to ensure that they work correctly. Faulty backflow prevention devices can contribute to contamination of the public water supply. Non-compliant property owners will need to come into compliance soon or face penalties and possible water service disconnection.
- Public Works made street repairs to the SW Trafficway necessitated by a water leak along this route. The department also worked on a problematic stormwater pipe near Blackmore Elementary School’s driveway entrance. The department discovered concrete in the pipe, likely from construction activity. The department, in collaboration with the Utilities Department will camera the pipe to determine the full extent of the problem.
- As I mentioned in a previous report, the cost estimate for the 9th Avenue Improvement Project has increased significantly since the governing body authorized it. The original estimate came to \$1.24 million and the revised estimate, based on 50% plans, suggests a

project cost of \$1.67 million. Several other contributing factors will likely increase this amount upwards of \$2 million. The City Commission may want to reconsider moving forward with this project at this time. I scheduled a discussion for the project for next week's work session.

- The Parks and Recreation Department identified nearly \$2.2 million in maintenance/replacement projects at McDonald Stadium (\$926,000), East Park (633,500), and Central Park (\$630,000) ballfields. Staff prioritized the projects and scheduled them into the preliminary five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The City Commission will review the plan at the August 24 work session. As part of this effort, the governing body will need to determine if it desires to dedicate several years of excess sales tax proceeds to address some of these priorities. Staff recommends planning to spend \$300,000 per year in excess sales taxes as a conservative approach that would also provide some flexibility to allocate funds to projects beyond ballfields. The City Commission will also need to consider whether to use a pay-as-you-go approach or a short-term debt approach. The City plans to ask community partners, such as Butler Community College and USD 490, to participate in the cost of these projects.
- Registration opened for the Kansas League of Municipalities annual conference scheduled for October 8 through 10 in Overland Park, Kansas. The early bird rate of \$250 expires August 26, so please let me know if you plan to attend prior to that date so we can get you registered at the lowest price.

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (5); Firefighter; Police Officer; Wastewater Superintendent; and Building Maintenance Worker.
- The Public Works Department made three offers of employment for Sanitation Operators. Gary Sellers and Braden Carpenter both begin on August 8 and Howard Wilson will start on August 16. The Refuse Division will operate at full staff once these employees start.
- The Fire Department promoted AJ Hinnen to Master Firefighter, and Lieutenant Zach Floyd completed the first half of state-certified fire investigator training. He will complete the training in October.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **August 10 Work Session** – 2023 Proposed Budget; Tall Weeds & Grass Amendment; 9th Avenue Improvement Project
 - **August 15 Regular Meeting** – No items at this time
 - **August 24 Work Session** – 2022 Capital Improvement Plan