

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: December 23, 2022

Items of Note:

- REMINDER: The Commission's regular meeting scheduled for Monday, January 2 will take place on Tuesday, January 3 due to the New Year's holiday. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm.
- Clearwave Fiber, a company from Baldwin City, Kansas provided the City with a draft franchise agreement. The company wants to provide Fiber to the Premise construction for commercial and residential internet and phone service. They would like to start construction activities in the second quarter of 2023. Staff will review the proposed agreement before scheduling for the City Commission's review.
- The Kansas Legislature will convene its upcoming session on Monday, January 9. The Kansas League of Municipalities will actively engage and monitor issues and legislation that affects cities. The League will provide Legislative Updates each week and inform cities when legislation affecting municipalities moves forward. The City sometimes contacts legislators on important issues and movements that affect municipal policy.
- The League will once again co-host Local Government Day in Topeka, an event for our members with the Kansas Association of Counties on January 25, 2023. Registration is now open, and the League posted a tentative schedule of events and additional information on its website (www.lkm.org/page/LocalGovernmentDay). Please let me know if you are interested in attending so we can coordinate transportation and registration.
- Requests for Proposals for commercial appraisal services went out to several firms this past week. Interested firms have until 2:00 pm on January 6 to provide a response. The City anticipates awarding a contract for these services at the January 17 Commission meeting with a final report due to the City Commission on March 6.
- The City and Chamber are collaborating on the development of a proposal to provide a small business loan program. The program would provide financial assistance to El Dorado's small businesses beyond existing financial offerings. The City and Chamber anticipate presenting the proposal to the City Commission in the first quarter of 2023.
- Experience El Dorado received a \$10,000 matching grant from the Kansas Creative Arts Commission, a division of the Kansas Department of Commerce. The grant will fund two murals and a sculpture at the El Dorado Plaza (area located directly north of Willie's across the street). The City anticipates completion of the murals by December 2023.

- I have reached out to Katie Sawyer from Senator Marshall’s office concerning an update on the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This legislation included a provision concerning the City’s outstanding obligations with respect to future water storage space in El Dorado Lake. To be best of my knowledge, the legislation awaits President Biden’s signature, although am I trying to confirm this information.

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (3); Police Officer (6); Wastewater Superintendent; Sanitation Lead; and Executive Assistant.
- Police Officer Landon Cole tendered his resignation effective January 4.
- Mike Holton, Joe Haag, and Jason Patty were accepted to WSU’s MiniMPA program that begins in January.
- Wichita State University’s Center for Economic Development and Business Research provided the following assessment of the regional workforce challenges:
 - *The three driving forces behind employers experiencing a lack of qualified candidates are demographics, an overly heated economy, and friction within the labor market. First, U.S. population growth, along with immigration, has restricted the labor supply. Within the demographic shift, which has been well published, are Baby Boomer exits, leaving behind a labor gap.*
 - *The second thing to consider is the economic state of the economy. After four years and a pandemic, we faintly remember what the economy was like in 2018. It is important to note that the economy was nearing full capacity. The pandemic itself paused parts of the economy but was not a correction within the market. With the injection of federal funds, the economy bounced back quickly, returning us to a heated economy where firms have already soaked up all of the high, moderate, and low-quality labor. When we look at the percentage of the employed population (employment-population ratio), Kansas returned to its pre-pandemic typical levels in mid-2021. Thus, in 2022 we see increased competition among employers for remaining labor.*
 - *The third perspective, which doesn't seem to get much attention, is that there are lots of pressure on the labor market. Firms have changed products and processes, requiring a different combination of occupations, skills, and knowledge to produce goods and services. That sudden shift in demand, along with increased home prices, mortgage rates, cost of education, uncertainty, and the time needed to reskill, adds friction to the labor market's ability to adapt to demand. However, the reality is the labor market is responding quickly, and it will take years for households to move and gain the education and experience that firms are demanding today.*
 - *A tight labor market is likely here to stay, meaning that searching for and retaining labor will remain difficult for some time in the future; however, three things will help relieve struggling employers. First, a recession will take some pressure off of the labor market. Second, the labor market will continue to adapt by moving and gaining more education. Third, firms will be forced to invest in technology and utilize labor more efficiently than they did in the past.*

Commission Calendar: *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*

- **December 28 Work Session** – Governing Body Code of Procedure; Advisory Board Appointment Discussion; Chamber of Commerce Agreement; City Manager’s Office Reorganization Proposal
- **January 3 Regular Meeting** – Vice-Mayor Selection; Chamber of Commerce Agreement
- **January 11 Work Session** – BCC Facilities Use Agreements (McDonald Stadium and North Field at East Park); USD 490 Facilities Use Agreements (McDonald Stadium and North Field at East Park)
- **January 17 Regular Meeting** – Professional Services Agreement for Commercial Appraisal Services