

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: March 10, 2023

Items of Note:

- Real property valuations in Butler County will increase significantly for the second consecutive year.
 - 98% of the residential real estate market in the county will trend upward in market value. The median increase for residential properties is nearly 16%.
 - 82% of commercial properties in the county will trend upward in market value. The median increase for commercial properties is nearly 6%.
- The Butler County Appraiser's Office will mail approximately 34,000 notices of value to property owners in the county on or before March 1. The notices contain the current and prior year's appraised value and classification. An explanation of the appeal process is provided on the back of the notices for those who wish to appeal their appraised value. The appeal deadline is thirty days after the mailing date.
- The City received a \$10,000 grant from the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, which is a division of the Kansas Department of Commerce. The grant requires at least a one-to-one match from the City. The City will use the funds to facilitate a mural on the building located on the northwest corner of 1st Avenue and Main Street across from Willie's Bar and Grill. The Experience El Dorado Committee is in the process of selecting an artist to paint the mural.
- The Fire Department submitted its application for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. The program was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. SAFER aims to enhance fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the NFPA. If awarded a grant, the program will pay 100% of the cost for three firefighters (one additional firefighter per shift) for three years. The City will then have to provide a sustainable funding source to cover the positions.
- The House Committee on Taxation will hold a hearing on Senate Bill 248 on Monday. The bill would exempt food sales from sales tax, including any applicable local sales tax. The City conservatively estimates the annual impact of this bill at \$350,000. We provided testimony to the committee in opposition to the bill.
- Staff has been developing options and information for the upcoming Civic Center discussion scheduled for March 29. The appraisal provided a range of valuations from \$1.25 million to \$3.4 million.

- Staff put together a schedule and initial communication for the Sales Tax Committee this week. The website will also include a page that will allow the public to follow the discussion as the committee begins its work to draft a recommended ballot question for the November general election.
- Bids for public infrastructure for Adlesperger-Smith Addition, Phase 3, will be considered by the City Commission in April.
- The Engineering Department applied for KDOT’s City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) for Central Avenue from Haverhill Road to Jones Street. An announcement is anticipated in May.
- Final revisions are being made to the McDonald Stadium Turf Replacement Request for Proposals. The RFP will be distributed to vendors in the next week or so.
- The City has been getting much interest in the Transportation Master Plan Request for Qualifications. Staff anticipates interviews with selected firms by the end of the month.
- The Finance Department is gearing up for the audit of last year’s books. The auditors will be in the office in the coming weeks for “account testing.”
- The City is getting closer to releasing its budget simulator tool that will allow citizens to experiment with the City’s budget and then provide feedback on how revenues or expenditures should be modified. This tool will give the governing body input into how residents prioritize spending on municipal services and priorities.

Commission Follow-up:

- The Planning Commission will review temporary and off-site signage regulations soon.

Upcoming Milestones/Deadlines:

- **March 9** - McDonald Stadium Improvements Plan
- **March 15** - East Park and Central Park Concessions/Restroom Proposals Deadline
- **March 25** - 9th Avenue Improvement Project Supplement Services
- **April 17** - WSU Housing Needs Assessment

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (4), Police Officer (7), Management Fellow, Water Plant Operator, and Recreation Specialist.
- The Parks and Recreation Department conducted interviews for part-time summer help this week.

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

- **March 15 Work Session** – No items scheduled at this time.
- **March 20 Regular Meeting** – Waiver and Release for Numana, Inc.; Housing Committee Appointments; BREC Franchise Agreement; Clearwave Franchise Agreement