

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: September 29, 2023

Items of Note:

- I have heard that the Kansas Legislature is contemplating a bill to cap assessed valuation growth (not including new growth) at 4% as a means of limiting the amount of increase cities can accept as part of the budget process. The legislation may limit the increase in valuations, but I have not heard if it will limit cities' ability to increase the mill levy. We will keep a close watch on this as the legislative session approaches.
- The Kansas Association of Counties is strongly advocating for a reinstatement of Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR) Funding. Under LAVTR, a portion of sales tax dollars collected by the State are statutorily obligated to be shared with city and county governments. Those funds are then intended to lower municipal property tax levies. The program started in 1937, although it was unfunded by the Legislature in 2003. Since 2001, local governments have not received more than \$3.5 billion in revenues withheld by the Kansas Legislature. The League of Kansas Municipalities has also advocated for reinstatement of this funding over the years.
- LAVTR funds are not the only state funds statutorily obligated to municipalities. The Special City County Revenue Sharing Fund was established in 1978 as part of an agreement between local governments and the State. Local governments gave up collecting local cigarette and liquor taxes in exchange for receiving a percentage of the money returned by the state. The Kansas Legislature has not fulfilled its obligations under this program since 2001, costing local governments more than \$1.3 billion in owed revenue.
- The Special City-County Highway Fund is another statutorily obligated funding stream not paid to local governments since 2001. This money comes from the property taxes levied against motor vehicles and collected by counties. Local governments in Kansas have “lost” more than \$412 million in legally obligated funding due to legislatures not sharing these funds over the years.
- There is also talk about continuing an effort to impose property tax benefits (i.e., rebates) for businesses that receive direct competition from local government providers. The so-called “Genesis” bill went into effect last year to exempt private, for-profit health clubs because they receive competition from non-profit health clubs (i.e., YMCAs and municipal recreation departments).
- The Engineering Department anticipates receiving field check plans for the Central Avenue Stormwater and Water Main Project by the third week of October. Field check plans for the Gordy Street Stormwater Project are anticipated in November.

- Staff is coordinating with utilities on infrastructure near the Constant Creek Sanitary Sewer Project. The team is also working on the environmental assessment required for federal and state grant funds. We do not anticipate any findings that will impact the project.
- The City and El Dorado Inc. continue to work toward site certification with the owners of the Grizzly sites. The tracts owned by the City and Inc. have been submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for certification.
- Plans for the mill and overlay project on Main Street (6th Avenue to McCollum Road) have been submitted to KDOT for approval.
- This week, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider amendments to the City's temporary sign regulations. The Planning Commission continued the public hearing to October 26. Brad Meyer was the only person who provided comments during the hearing. Chamber Director Phil Benedict, who was in attendance, was asked to speak by the Planning Commission. He emphasized the importance of making regulations business-friendly and mentioned that he had no formal feedback from members despite proactive attempts to solicit feedback. The Planning Commission expressed some uncertainty about the need for revising the regulations. Staff anticipates a recommendation at the October 26 meeting.
- Data for the Pavement Condition Assessment has been collected. As part of this undertaking, the City will add street signs to its GIS system to make it easier to inventory and track signs.
- Fence installation at McDonald Stadium started this week. Staff anticipates completion in mid-October. Conco expects the shipping containers for the concession/restroom/locker room facilities to be delivered next week.
- Splash pads are closed for the season. Youth recreation games have started and will continue through October.
- The Utilities Department completed interviews with the firms submitting proposals for the Automated Metering System Project. A recommendation will be forthcoming once a firm is selected.
- The Housing Committee met to review the final version of the Housing Needs Assessment prepared by Wichita State University in collaboration with the committee. The report suggests that El Dorado has a demand for housing and that the community should take a proactive role in facilitating development. The committee will present the findings to the City Commission in October.
- Tabitha and I met with representatives from ClearGov, a budgeting software company, to discuss the implementation of the software. The software will enhance the City's budgeting and forecasting abilities, making it easier to provide information to the governing body and other stakeholders throughout the budgeting process.
- An amended Purchasing Policy will soon be reviewed by staff for recommendation to the City Commission. The proposed changes will incorporate several changes requested by the City Commission and clarify a few areas.
- Save the Date: The League's annual conference is October 7-9 in Wichita.

City Manager’s Priorities:

1. Capital Improvement Planning
2. Annual Evaluations
3. BCC Facilities/Project Agreements

Upcoming Milestones/Deadlines:

- **October** – Draft Housing Needs Assessment Report
- **October** – McDonald Stadium Turf and Fence Installation
- **October** – Preliminary Engineering Central Avenue Water Main Project
- **November 7** – General Election (City’s one-cent sales tax)
- **December** – Completion of East Park Concession/Restroom Facility
- **December** – Constant Creek Sewer Interceptor Project Bid Opening
- **January 2024** – Completion of Central Park Concession/Restroom Facility
- **February 2024** – McDonald Stadium Scoreboard Installation

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (4), Police Officer (2), Building Official, Management Analyst, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
- *Vacant and not advertised positions:* None
- *Conditional Offers (pending post-offer screening):* None
- Kamaris Dickson and Kody Marvin will start their careers as police officers on October 2.
- Interviews for the Building Inspector position are scheduled for October 16.
- The Police Department promoted Sean Skov to Patrol Sergeant effective September 30.

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

- **October 2 Regular Meeting** – No meeting due to lack of agenda items.
- **October 11 Work Session** – Social Media Policy; Proclamation Policy; Public Comment Policy; Publication Charter Ordinance; Annual Pay Plan Update
- **October 16 Regular Meeting** – Social Media Policy; Proclamation Policy; Public Comment Policy; Publication Charter Ordinance; Annual Pay Plan Update
- **November 1 Work Session** – Purchasing Policy