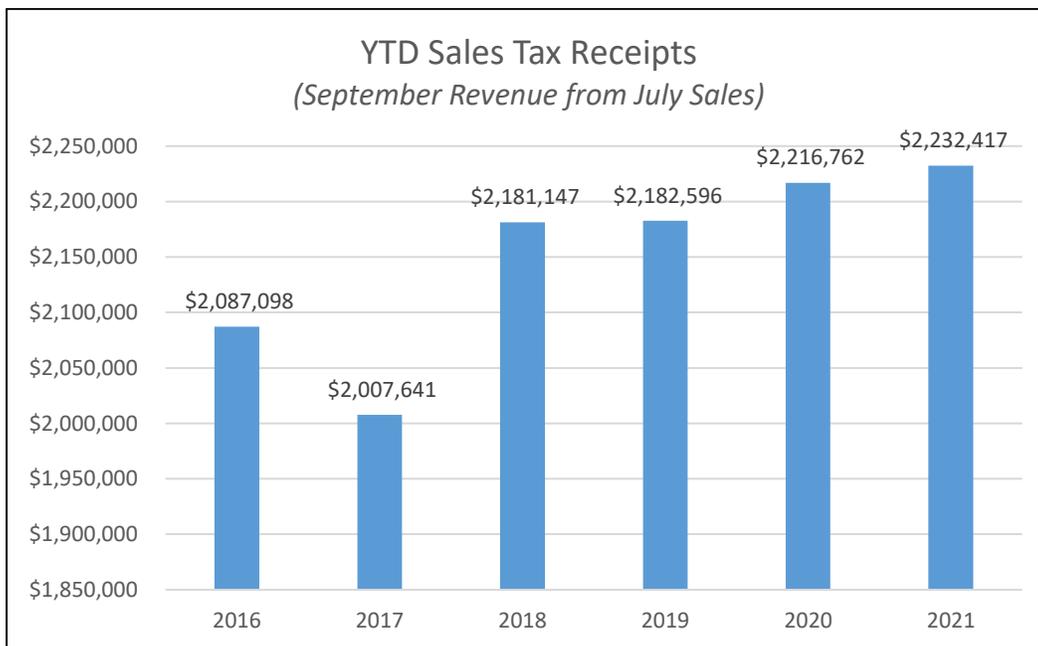


TO: City Commission
 CC: Department Directors
 FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
 SUBJ: Weekly Report
 DATE: October 1, 2021



Items of Note:

- Sales tax receipts for September continue the impressive trend that looks to set another sales tax record. Sales tax receipts came in at \$257,190 based on \$25.7 million in retail sales occurring in July. Year-to-date, the City has brought in \$2.23 million, which is 0.7% higher than the same period a year ago. Sales tax projections anticipate collections of \$2.94 million for the year based on the last twelve trailing months of activity. The projected sales tax figure would break last year’s record by 9.8%! Last year, the City collected \$2.68 million in sales tax.



- The City collected \$40,280 in compensating use tax from online retail sales also occurring in July. Year-to-date, the City has brought in \$367,787 from compensating use tax proceeds. This amount is 43% higher than the prior year. The compensating use tax “compensates” the state and cities for otherwise lost sales tax that occurs in several scenarios. The Kansas Legislature enacted destination sourcing, meaning merchandise, materials, services, etc. are taxed at the location such items are received instead of where the business is located. Cities with a local sales tax, like El Dorado, often receive a significant amount of money from goods and services delivered locally, though purchased in another part of the state or from a retailer located in another state. Internet sales and large furniture or appliances, purchased somewhere else and delivered locally, are two examples of receivables that pay compensating use tax to municipalities.

- Staff recently discussed a plan to fund an accessible playground in the Village neighborhood. The City owns a tract of land in the Village area intended for a park. You may recall that the City Commission originally approved \$90,000 in excess sales tax funds for the paving of the roads in Sunset Cemetery. This project received funds from the street sales tax funds instead, so these funds are available for another project. Staff plans to propose a playground project for the Village neighborhood in the near future.
- Scott and I met with representatives from KwiKom Communications, a communications company from Iola, to discuss the company's interest in constructing a fiber-to-home network throughout El Dorado. The company wants to expand its footprint to serve El Dorado. They plan to conduct additional due diligence before making a proposal to the City. We will require a franchise agreement with the company prior to the construction of the network.
- The City Commission will recall that Paul and Judy Storandt requested an appeal hearing concerning a code violation at their residence at 105 Race Street regarding tall weeds and grass. The hearing was scheduled for September 28, although was postponed until Ashlyn could meet with the Storandts' legal counsel. Following the discussion with legal counsel, Ashlyn recommended the postponement of the enforcement proceedings to provide them with an opportunity to request an amendment to the existing ordinance to address their situation. Presently, the ordinance does not allow any grass or weeds with a height greater than six inches in residential areas. Staff anticipates the request for an amendment during public comments at an upcoming City Commission meeting.
- The Government Finance Officers Association presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City for this year's budget. In order to receive the award, the City must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device. The award is a testament to the hard work put into the budget book to assist the public in understanding the City's financial plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Department continued its work on the new Riverview Park playground this week. The project, funded with Excess Sale Tax proceeds, provides a much-needed upgrade to the Riverview Park. The playground stands an impressive twenty-four feet tall. Staff will complete the construction soon, although the mulch for the grounds surrounding the playground will remain until the project is completed. I encourage you to check out this new playground if you have not already done so.
- Experience El Dorado started collecting survey information from residents to help plan a festival for next year. The goal of the festival is to create an annual event for the community to enjoy. The data will help the City determine what to include in next year's event as we begin the planning process. So far, the City has received an impressive amount of feedback from residents. The next step is to survey the business community to determine what businesses would like to see in a community event. Javan will also be meeting with different groups of businesses (retail, restaurants, etc.) to ascertain their ideas for an event.

Things to Think About:

- **Evergy wants approval to promote electric vehicles in Kansas: "Transportation Electrification is happening now."** Government utility regulators are considering whether to approve an Evergy plan to promote electric vehicles in Kansas. Concerns remain, however, over the potential for a lack of competition and customer subsidies for clean energy. Under the settlement agreement, Evergy would get a \$10 million budget for its commercial charger rebates, with \$1.6 million targeted to underserved areas. Evergy could seek a budget increase of up to \$15.4 million. Evergy needs approval from the Kansas

Corporation Commission, which held about 11 hours of evidentiary hearings with the utility company and interested groups. – *Topeka Capital-Journal*

Personnel Update:

- The following positions are vacant and currently advertised: Police Officer, Public Works Maintenance Worker (2), Distribution/Collection Maintenance Worker, and Sanitation Lead.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **October 4 Regular Meeting** – UV Disinfection System; Condemnation Hearings (320 W. Towanda, 513 W 5th, 624 N. Atchison, 626 W. Carr, and 814 Railroad), Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Bonds
 - **October 13 Work Session** – Pit Bull Ordinance Discussion; Hazardous Materials Agreement with Butler County; City Manager Evaluation Process
 - **October 18 – Regular Meeting** – 1425 E. 6th Avenue SUP (accessory apartment); 323 S. Main Street SUP (public assembly venue); BCC Fire Training Facility Lease; 2022 Pay Plan
 - **October 27 Work Session** – Village Park Proposal; Park Curfew Ordinance; Pets-in-Park Ordinance
- *Pending Items (Items to be scheduled for upcoming meeting once completed):* Augusta Wholesale Water Agreement; Professional Services Agreement with PEC (Lake Recreation Master Plan); Street Cut Ordinance; Food Vendor Ordinance; Transient Vendor Ordinance; Business Park Re-platting and Rezoning
- *Upcoming Planning Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **October 28** – No items scheduled at this time.