

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: November 13, 2021

Items of Note:

- The police chief survey received 235 responses from the public. A separate survey was sent to the Police Department, and 55% of the department responded. The information gleaned from the survey will allow management to prepare a position profile to use for advertising the position. The city manager anticipates advertisement starting by the end of next week. Staff identified a number of outlets to advertise the position in the hopes of attracting a talent pool from which to make a selection.
- In addition to surveys, I have had conversations with several stakeholder groups and the police lieutenants to determine the traits and characteristics needed for the next police chief to be successful. Overall, the responses collected during these engagements have been very similar. Community building, leadership, trust and integrity were common themes for traits and characteristics. Participants identified drugs, petty crime (such as theft), mental health, and homelessness as high priority challenges within the community. The information gleaned from the engagements have created a good picture for what the community needs in its next police chief. I still have a few more engagements within the community before completing the position profile for advertisement.
- Congress passed a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill meant to provide a significant boost to the nation's "hard" infrastructure. Approximately \$284 billion will go towards transportation system investments. The bill provides some certainty for the next five years with funding levels for the Highway Trust Fund, the main federal account for roads and transit. The legislation appropriates about \$150 billion to the U.S. Department of Transportation for grants to state and local governments, many of which will require competitive application. The legislation also makes billions in new investments in other public assets, such as waterworks, (\$55 billion) and broadband (\$65 billion).
- KDOT received the K-254 Corridor Development Association's request to conduct a corridor management study along K-254 between east Wichita and El Dorado. KDOT will review the request and likely make an announcement regarding the study in the next couple of months. All local governments located along the corridor committed to participating in the cost of the study. KDOT anticipates the study commencing in 2022. The K-254 Corridor Safety Study awaits finalization, although KDOT will begin implementing some of the suggested road improvements soon.
- The Kansas Department of Commerce announced a new grant program that will move quickly to help revitalize underutilized, vacant and dilapidated downtown buildings in rural Kansas communities. The Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL) grant program is designed to bring downtown buildings back into productive use as spaces for new or

expanding businesses; housing; arts and culture; civic engagement; childcare; or entrepreneurship. The matching grants will help address emergency needs for neglected buildings and assist building owners with eligible expenses for the revitalization of historic properties. Projects submitted must show potential as economic drivers in the community. Staff will review the program and identify potential projects for submittal.

- The City received the draft El Dorado Truck Route Transportation Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) report from WSP. The report recommends several low-cost recommendations for improving the truck route, as well as one recommendation that may cost upwards of \$35,000. Staff is in the process of reviewing the document, which should soon be ready for presentation to the City Commission.
- Staff participated in a ratings call with S&P for the impending G.O. Bond Issuance, Series 2021. The analyst on the call recommended to the ratings committee a continuation of the City's "AA-, stable" rating based on the City's strong financial position and economic condition. El Dorado will require a higher per capita income in order to receive a higher rating. The "AA-, stable" rating helps the City receive a lower interest rate for the bonds, which reduces the overall interest cost to taxpayers over the life of the bonds.
- In case you are interested, the cost of issuing the G.O. Bonds, Series 2021 is \$83,677, or 1.2%, of the \$7.13 million issuance. This cost includes the fees charged by the City's bond counsel, financial advisor, the rating fee, and other miscellaneous administrative fees.
- El Dorado Inc. and I met with Nick Engels, a developer interested in building a childcare center in El Dorado. Mr. Engels is currently constructing a center in Benton. Childcare continues to be a significant barrier to some people returning to the workforce, and this project may help address a need in the community to this end.
- Staff anticipates the Storandt's attending Monday's City Commission meeting to request an amendment to the Tall Weeds and Grass ordinance. You will recall that Code Enforcement Officer Sarah McKee cited the Storandt's property on Race Street for violating the tall weeds and grass section of municipal code. The Storandt's back yard contains native grasses that exceed the City's height restriction for grass. Enforcement of this violation is pending as the property owner requested an appeal before the city manager. The city manager may not grant the request contained in the appeal as it requires an amendment to the municipal code, which falls outside the scope of the legal authority of the city manager. Therefore, enforcement awaits the governing body's decision with respect to the Storandt's request.
- The City received additional legal documents concerning the opportunity to participate in the National Opioids Settlement. Staff will likely bring the matter to the attention of the City Commission at an upcoming meeting. The deadline to elect to participate in the national settlement case is January 2, 2022.

Things to Think About:

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Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and currently advertised positions:* Police Officer (2), Public Works Maintenance Worker (3), Distribution/Collection Maintenance Worker, Sanitation Lead, Firefighter, Water Treatment Superintendent, Animal Control Attendant, Recreation Leader; Sanitation Collector
- *Pending advertisement:* Police Chief

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **November 15 Regular Meeting** – Orscheln’s IRB Closing Documents; City Service Awards; Hazardous Materials Agreement with Butler County; Myers East Addition Public Infrastructure Authorization; Park Curfew Ordinance; Pets at Recreation Activities Ordinance; Kansas Collegiate Baseball League Agreement; Sale and Consideration of G.O. Bonds, Series 2021; SUP at 323 S. Main Street (Public Assembly); Executive Session for City Manager Evaluation
 - **December 6 Regular Meeting** – Commission Transition; Selection of Vice-Mayor; Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses; FEMA BRIC Grant Request; Legislative Policy Agenda; National Opioid Settlement Case; Budget Amendment
 - **December 15 Work Session** – Commission Orientation; El Dorado Hotel Incentive Discussion
- *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):*
 - **November 25** – No meeting (Thanksgiving)