

# EL DORADO

## K A N S A S

TO: City Commission  
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager  
SUBJ: Weekly Report  
DATE: December 10, 2021

### **Items of Note:**

- The League of Kansas Municipalities will once again co-host Local Government Day in Topeka on January 26, 2022. Local Government Day provides an opportunity to make appointments to visit state legislators about issues that are important to the community. The League also organizes a forum late in the afternoon for legislative programming, followed by a reception where all legislators are invited to attend to network with city and county government officials. The City has not attended this event in the past, although it is an excellent opportunity to engage with state officials after the legislative session commences.
- I am coordinating with State Senator Fagg and State Representative Will Carpenter to attend the December 29 work session ahead of the start of the 2022 Legislative Session. It is an opportunity for state elected officials to provide an overview of what they expect during the session, and it provides an opportunity for local officials to advocate for issues of local importance. Thus far, Representative Carpenter has committed to attending the meeting.
- The K-254 Corridor Development Association received an update from KDOT regarding the North Junction Project in Wichita. The multi-phase improvement project addresses critical issues at an important regional transportation junction. K-254 connects into the junction, which provides connectivity for freight, commuters, and general travelers entering and exiting the Wichita region. El Dorado benefits from these improvements because goods and services moving into and out of El Dorado frequently use it to move through the region.
- The City received notice from the FAA that the Captain Jack Thomas Memorial Airport will receive another \$32,000 grant from the FAA's Airport Rescue Grant Program. The entitlement program provides airports throughout the nation with federal funds for expenses related to operations, personnel, cleaning and sanitizing, janitorial services, and debt service payments in response to the COVID pandemic. The City Commission will need to authorize the City's receipt of these funds at the next meeting.
- Staff plans to recommend increasing residential refuse rates by \$0.50 (3%) per month and commercial refuse rates by 7% per month to offset proposed increases to sanitation wages. The proposed rate increases will also continue to set aside funds for the future replacement of refuse trucks. Staff projected revenue increases over the next few years as a means of responding to inflationary pressures and as a means to provide sufficient funding to replace refuse trucks. Staff will present the plan to the City Commission in the near future.

- El Dorado Main Street plans to apply to the Kansas Department of Commerce's Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL) grant program for 142 N. Main Street. The City provided a letter of support for the project. The pilot program addressed structures where collapse may be imminent as well as structures that are deteriorating, but that could be revitalized. The state has limited funds for the program, and are seeking projects for the initial round of funding. It is likely the program will have more applicants than available funding. KDOC hopes to demonstrate the need to fund a program with this purpose based on the anticipated demand.
- Several businesses in town have received multiple notifications from the City for non-compliance with the City's backflow prevention regulations. Water customers with a backflow prevention device have until July 1 to demonstrate compliance. In lieu of terminating service, the City tried to work with businesses over the last few months to prevent a service disruption. Fourteen businesses remain non-compliant. The City will terminate services on December 16 until they demonstrate compliance with a valid inspection.
- In November, the Fire Department responded to 174 calls, of which 86 (49%) were medical/rescue calls and 28 (16%) were fire calls. Year-to-date, the department has responded to 1,727 calls for service with 949 (55%) medical/rescue calls and 179 (10%) fire calls. Total fire calls in November amounted to \$38,750 in fire losses adding to year-to-date total losses of \$170,379. Average in-town response time during November was 5 minutes, 45 seconds.
- Beginning January 1, the Finance Department will implement the following changes to business schedules. The drive-through window will open at 7:30 am and close at 5:00 pm, the lobby window will open at 8:00 am and close at 4:30 pm. Phone payments will be accepted from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

### **Personnel Update:**

- *Vacant and currently advertised positions:* Police Officer, Public Works Maintenance Worker (4), Firefighter, Police Chief, Water Treatment Operator, Pool Manager
- Advertisements for the Police Chief position went live on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The position is open until filled, although the first review of applications/resumes will begin on December 21.
- The Police Department hired Jacob McCoy as a Police Officer. He will begin working on December 27. The department now has one vacancy.
- The Refuse Division hired Anthony Lewis as a Sanitation Collector. The Public Utilities Department hired Cody Rogers to work for the Distribution/Collection Division. Both of them start on December 13.
- The Public Utilities Department promoted Neil Boyce to Water Treatment Superintendent and Derek Kling to Water Treatment Chief Operator.
- The Public Works Department promoted Joshua Int'Veld to Sanitation Lead in the Refuse Division. The division is now fully staffed. (Please keep your fingers crossed.)
- The Parks and Recreation Department needs a Pool Manager for the upcoming summer season.

### **Commission Calendar:**

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
  - **December 15 Work Session** – Commission Orientation; El Dorado Hotel Incentive Discussion; 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvement Project; Lake Recreation Master Plan
  - **December 20 Regular Meeting** – FAA Airport Rescue Grant
  - **December 20 Work Session** (*following regular meeting*) - Commission Orientation; Tall Weeds and Grass Ordinance Revisions
  - **December 29 Work Session** – Commission Orientation; Augusta Wholesale Water Agreement; CIC Annexation Agreement; Refuse Rate Plan
  - **January 3 Regular Meeting** – Advisory Appointments
  
- *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):*
  - **December 23** – Rezoning application for 300 SE 40<sup>th</sup> Street. Applicant is requesting to rezone from “A-R, Agricultural-Residential” to “R-S, Residential-Suburban,” so they can split off a lot for a family member to construct a house.