

# EL DORADO

## K A N S A S

TO: City Commission  
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager  
SUBJ: Weekly Report  
DATE: February 11, 2022

### **Items of Note:**

- The House passed its substitute for SB 347 concerning the APEX economic development incentive for a significant economic development prospect looking at Kansas. Both State Representative Will Carpenter and State Senator Mike Fagg voted in support of the legislation. It will now go to Governor Kelly's desk for signature into law. The legislation will provide an incentive to significant projects with a capital investment in excess of \$1 billion.
- City staff met to discuss ideas for a grant application to the Building a Stronger Economy (BASE) grant program administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC). The intent of the program is to generate economic growth throughout the state by making \$100 million available for projects to help Kansas remain competitive in business attraction and retention in critical sectors of the economy. Staff will review the City's proposals at the City Commission's February 7 work session to allow sufficient time to complete the grant application ahead of the deadline at the end of the month. The City will require a minimum of 25% matching funds if one of its projects receive funding. Project ideas to facilitate industrial development in El Dorado include:
  - 3 MGD Expansion of Water Treatment Plant (\$15.5 million)
  - 16-inch Water Transmission Main (\$3.4 million)
  - 30-inch Sanitary Sewer Interceptor along Constant Creek (\$3.5 million)
  - Topeka Avenue Improvement (\$2.5 million)
  - North Industrial Park Extension and Speculative Building (\$4.8 million)
- City managers from Butler County met to discuss projects for the aforementioned BASE grant program to determine if a county request could be made to the benefit of the other communities in the County. We did not come up with any ideas that would apply to all communities throughout the County. Augusta, Andover, and the County may submit an application to extend infrastructure to the Augusta airport.
- Joshua Shaw, City Manager of Augusta, and I met to discuss the Augusta Wholesale Water Contract. We are pretty close to a final agreement based on this most recent conversation. The City will draft up some new language to address Corps Operations and Maintenance expenses before sending the draft final agreement to Augusta for final review. I am hopeful that an agreement may be ready for review and consideration by both governing bodies by March 11.
- Mayor Young, Dr. Krull, and I met to discuss Butler's continued use of the North Field at East Park for softball. The College expressed interest in collaborating with the City to

construct a restroom/concession stand and an onsite locker room. The College mentioned several improvements they would like to see at the North Field provided the City grants the College an exclusive, multi-year lease for the field. The City presently does not use the North Field for recreation purposes, so it makes sense to grant this type of use. The City Commission would need to approve a lease agreement granting such exclusive use. The City Attorney is currently drafting an agreement for the City Commission's review in the near future.

- We also discussed running power to various locations at McDonald Stadium and the North Field to accommodate the college's desire to stream games. Every recently donated a production trailer to allow the college to broadcast baseball and softball games. Butler agreed to reimburse the City for expenses related to the extension of electric services for this purpose.
- Commissioner Wilkinson and I participated in a conference call with Senator Marshall's staff regarding several draft provisions to address the City's lake debt obligations. We sent a copy of the request to the Tulsa District for review at the direction of Senator Marshall's staff. They thought that the City would have a better chance of getting a change to its Water Supply Contract if the Corps of Engineers agreed to support the proposed language based on prior Water Resources Development Acts. The draft provisions were forwarded to the Corps to ascertain input as to the Corps' ability to support the City's request.

#### **Things to Think About:**

- Inflation surged more than expected this past year and the outlook for prices continues to show inflationary pressure. As a result, the Federal Reserve is likely to increase interest rates over the next year to try to curtail inflation. The consumer price index for January, which measures the cost of dozens of everyday consumer goods, rose 7.5% compared to a year ago according to the Labor Department.

#### **Personnel Update:**

- *Vacant and currently advertised positions:* Police Officer (2), Public Works Maintenance Worker (2), Public Works Equipment Operator (3), Firefighter (2), Water Treatment Operator, Sanitation Lead, Pool Manager
- Austin Hatch started with the Public Works Department on Monday as a Maintenance Worker. Kevin Kendall left the department and plans to pursue other opportunities in another state.
- The City made conditional offers to two firefighter candidates and a police officer candidate. This will fill all current vacancies in the Fire Department and all but one vacancy in the Police Department once these candidates complete the post-offer screening. The police officer candidate is a certified officer and will not need to attend the academy.

**Commission Calendar:**

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
  - **February 16 Work Session** – Economic Development Overview (El Dorado Inc., Main Street, and Chamber); Development Process and Incentives; BASE Grant Application Projects
  - **February 21 Regular Meeting** –800 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rezoning (R-3 to C-1); 4Q, 2021 Financial Report
  - **March 2 Work Session** – Advisory Board Appointments; Executive Limitations Policies; Outcomes Policies Development
  - **March 7 Regular Meeting** – Myers East Addition Replat
  
- *Pending Items (Items to be scheduled for upcoming meeting once completed):* Augusta Wholesale Water Agreement; Street Cut Ordinance; Food Vendor Ordinance; Transient Vendor Ordinance; Business Park Re-platting and Rezoning

**Other Events of Interest:**

- **February 17** – REAP Executive Committee (Zoom)
- **March 1** – Annual Chamber Dinner, 5:30 pm (Civic Center)
- **March 25** – Chief Zieman’s Retirement Party, 2:30 to 4:30 pm (City Hall)