

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: March 3, 2023

Items of Note:

- No one anticipated that the community would face a potentially significant crisis this week at El Dorado High School. An active shooter incident was called into City Hall on Wednesday. Shortly afterward, law enforcement officers and first responders responded to the high school. By providence, the situation was determined to be a hoax and did not result in any injuries or fatalities. The Police Chief estimates about thirty-five officers were on the scene in less than fifteen minutes. The community is proud of law enforcement officers and first responders who bravely responded to the incident.
- Various City departments debriefed the active shooting incident this week. The debriefing provided an opportunity to review the City's response and determine what could have been done differently to improve the response for future crisis scenarios. For example, the Police Department will purchase about \$9,000 worth of equipment to allow every officer to carry rifles in patrol vehicles in a more accessible location than the trunk. The School District, Sheriff's Office, and Police Department also debriefed the incident later in the week.
- Senate Bill 248, as amended by the Kansas Senate, would move the path to zero on food sales tax to January 1, 2024, instead of 2025, as is current law. However, it removes the local sales tax levy on food sales. This directly conflicts with current law and violates the agreement made between the Legislature and cities last year when the food sales tax removal was passed. At some point, the House Taxation Committee will consider the bill. The City estimates the *minimum impact* of this legislation at \$350,000 per year, although the actual impact will likely be higher as this number is based on large food retailers and does not include businesses with lower sales receipts from food sales, such as gas stations.
- Numana, Inc., a local non-profit focused on addressing hunger, requested the City consider a waiver and release of its "right of first refusal" concerning the land in the business park the City sold to the company in 2010. The conditions of the transaction include: a) the Property will be used exclusively for the operations of Numana; b) if the Property is not used by Numana, the City shall have the right to repurchase the Property; and c) if Numana seeks to sell the Property, the City shall have the right of first refusal.
- Monday's agenda includes appointments to the One-Cent Sales Tax Committee. The City Commission has already discussed appointing Bill Rinkenbaugh, Matt Jacobs, Jordan Buxton, John Steinbacher, David Sundgren, and Brett Remsberg. The City also received applications from Lori Gioso, Ross Stumpf, and Edward Wilson. The committee should

be appointed soon to allow for enough time to draft a recommended ballot question for the November general election. The deadline to approve a ballot question for the election is July 17.

- The REAP Executive Committee discussed an opportunity the U.S. Department of Energy is developing to facilitate the development of a national hydrogen ecosystem. The federal government plans to outlay \$7 billion to catalyze the development of several hydrogen hubs nationwide. An effort is underway at the state level to organize a conceptual framework for a hydrogen hub in Kansas. El Dorado Inc. and the City will stay attuned to the conversation to determine the opportunity for investment in El Dorado.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** REAP and the City of Wichita will host the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation and local elected officials for a Wichita Wind Surge game. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. A dinner buffet will begin at 6:00 pm and the first pitch is 7:05 pm.

Commission Follow-up:

- The Planning Commission will begin to review temporary and off-site signage regulations soon.

Upcoming Milestones/Deadlines:

- **March 9** - McDonald Stadium Improvements Plan
- **March 15** - East Park and Central Park Concessions/Restroom Proposals Deadline
- **March 25** - 9th Avenue Improvement Project Supplement Services
- **April 17** - WSU Housing Needs Assessment

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (4), Police Officer (7), Management Fellow, and Planning and Zoning Coordinator.
- The Parks and Recreation Department saw an influx of lifeguard applications over the past week. The department now has twenty-two prospective lifeguards, pending post-offer screening and lifeguard training and testing. The department is still short on summer part-time applications. The department needs sixteen people and has brought in four applications for cemeteries, park maintenance, and ballfield maintenance.

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

- **March 6 Regular Meeting** – Civic Center Appraisal; Refer Downtown Master Plan to Planning Commission; Refer Temporary and Off-Site Signage Regulations to Planning Commission; One-Cent Sales Tax Committee Appointments
- **March 15 Work Session** – No items scheduled at this time.
- **March 20 Regular Meeting** – Waiver and Release for Numana, Inc.; Housing Committee Appointments; BREC Franchise Agreement; Clearwave Franchise Agreement