



# City of Lawrence

DAVID L. CORLISS  
CITY MANAGER

City Offices  
PO Box 708 66044-0708  
www.lawrenceks.org

6 East 6<sup>th</sup> St  
785-832-3000  
FAX 785-832-3405

CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR  
MIKE AMYX

COMMISSIONERS  
JEREMY FARMER  
DR. TERRY RIORDAN  
ROBERT J. SCHUMM  
MICHAEL DEVER

April 14, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Lawrence met in regular session at 5:45 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall with Mayor Amyx presiding and members Farmer, and Schumm present. Absent: Dever and Riordan.

## A. STATE OF CITY ADDRESS:

1. Mayor Amyx will deliver the State of the City Address.

Good evening. Tonight, I conclude my fifth term as Mayor in 30 years. I served my first term as Mayor, of the most incredible city in Kansas, in 1985. It's not only humbling, to sit here today and finish out this last Mayoral term, but to also take time to reflect back on where our community has been, and more importantly, where we are going.

I am fortunate to spend each day of my life talking to people in our community about what makes Lawrence such a great place. That doesn't mean that these conversations are without complaint or concern over city programs, services and policies. What makes these conversations so important to me is that Lawrencians genuinely care about their community, the people residing here, and our priorities as a City Commission. 2014 was a challenging year. Nonetheless, I think our community would expect nothing less from this body than to respond positively to the challenges and resolve to move forward and genuinely strive to make improvements resulting in positive changes and enhanced quality of life for our 90,000 residents.

When I look back on the past year, I point to projects that represent the culmination of years of work by elected officials, our citizens, community partners and city staff. These projects include:

### Investing in Jobs, Training and Economic Development:

Lawrence VenturePark is a prime example of the public sector responding to the development needs of our community. The private sector was not able to step up and redevelop a former Brownfields site. *The city did.* The city has transformed 200-acres of industrial-zoned property into developable, buildable lots dedicated to creating primary jobs for Lawrence.

Lawrence has made a concerted effort in previous years to invest in people and projects. Our partners, including the Economic Development Corporation, the Lawrence Chamber, the Lawrence School District, Douglas County and private businesses and industry, have all come together to invest in the Dwayne Peaslee Center which will focus on job creation, job training and skill development programs. We are taking steps to invest in the people who live and work in Lawrence. We're investing in creating better employees who are valuable to current and future employers located in Lawrence and Douglas County. In the city's most recent Economic



Development Compliance Report, it is estimated for each dollar spent in public sector investment approximately \$5.40 in private sector capital investment is realized. As a Commission, we've renewed our focus on supporting existing businesses and fostering entrepreneurship in the community.

### **Investing in Infrastructure:**

Infrastructure has been a top priority in Lawrence for several years. We've dedicated funding to street maintenance, including the reconstruction of major intersections in our community, including 15<sup>th</sup> and Iowa, 23<sup>rd</sup> and Iowa and 6<sup>th</sup> and Iowa. We are relocating 31<sup>st</sup> Street in conjunction with KDOT's construction of the South Lawrence Trafficway. A majority of 31<sup>st</sup> Street will open later this year and the SLT will be completed in November of 2016. Last week, we approved \$90 million dollars in general obligation bonds to pay for water and wastewater service improvements, including the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant to provide capacity upgrades which will allow our community to grow and provide this core city service.

### **Improving City Services:**

As elected officials, we must pay close attention to the core city services that our residents have come to expect and appreciate. In 2014, we made structural changes to our solid waste program and added curbside recycling for residents. Our residents have responded favorably to the changes and we will continue the recycling conversation this year including recycling for our commercial customers.

### **Improving the Quality of Life for our Community:**

The City Commission is passionate about making Lawrence a better place all of our residents. For families, we want to ensure neighborhoods are safe. In the near future, the City Commission needs to talk about police resources and how we can make sure that facilities and staffing levels are appropriate for our community.

We want to ensure that our residents – people of all ages - have abundant access to facilities which allow them to live a healthy and active lifestyle. Sports Pavilion Lawrence opened in 2014 with over 1,200 people at the grand opening. Nearly 20,000 Lawrence and Douglas County residents have signed up for keycard access to the facility and we're averaging 67,000 people per month using the facility for various reasons – personal health, tournament activity or recreation programs.

The Lawrence Public Library re-opened in its expanded location in 2014. The voters approved the library project and it has truly been an impactful and well-liked addition to downtown Lawrence and our entire community.

The City Commission has committed to moving forward with projects that enhance the livability of our community in our neighborhoods. This includes the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Project and the Rental Registration Program. As a City Commission, we have also invested in programs which will preserve and sustain our core city services including public safety, code enforcement, planning and development and public transportation.

### **What's Ahead?**

Even with all of the work that has been done, we are nowhere near completion. It is now up to the next City Commission to jump in where we've paused and begin to have meaningful conversations about our community's public safety needs, decide on a community-wide fiber policy and shape the city's Cultural Plan to preserve and promote our significant social, artistic and historic amenities.

We're going to engage our community more in the conversations about where we are going and what needs to be done. We're going to talk about priorities and how we accomplish these projects within the resources we have and within the context of where we want to be as a city. The citizens should know the city is financially secure, is maintaining a strong bond rating, and has healthy reserves and a strong financial plan for the future.

To our outgoing City Manager, David Corliss, it has been an honor to serve on this commission with your leadership, guidance and support. You'll be missed and we wish you the best.

I want to take a moment to thank my fellow Commissioners who have served with me this past year. To Commissioners Mike Dever, Bob Schumm, and Dr. Terry Riordan, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve with you. You have each brought your perspective and professional knowledge to this team and I have enjoyed working with you and discussing the needs of our community through the many conversations we have had in this room and throughout Lawrence. To Vice Mayor Jeremy Farmer, I look forward to supporting you as Mayor. You've proven you have a passion and commitment for this community and it is now time for you to lead this Commission.

To my wife Marilyn, a sincere thank you to you for being a consummate supporter of me and my hectic public life, which inevitably bleeds into our personal life. You've been my biggest supporter and my sounding board. Thank you for always being my girlfriend and my best friend.

To the community, I look forward to serving you for another two years as a City Commissioner. I am anxious to work with our newly elected Commissioners, Leslie Soden, Stuart Boley and Matthew Herbert. There is much to be accomplished in the next two years I stand ready to serve the Lawrence community I have loved all of my life.

**B. RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION:**

1. Proclaimed the week of April 12 – 18, 2015 as Week of the Young Child.

**C. CONSENT AGENDA**

**It was moved by Schumm, seconded by Farmer, to approve the consent agenda as below. Motion carried unanimously.**

1. Approved the City Commission meeting minutes from 02/10/15.
2. Received minutes from various boards and commissions:

Aviation Advisory Board meeting of 02/05/15  
Horizon 2020 Steering Committee meeting of 03/23/15  
Mechanical Code Board of Appeals meeting of 02/26/15  
Plumbing Code Board of Appeals meeting of 02/18/15

3. **PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE VOTE.** Approved claims to 203 vendors in the amount of \$1,708,152.59.
4. Approved licenses as recommended by the City Clerk's Office.

**Caterer**

Arterra Event Gallery  
Arterra LLC  
2161 Quail Crest Dr.

**Expiration**

April 22, 2015

**Class A Club**

Columbus Club Association  
Columbus Club Association Inc.  
2206 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.

April 4, 2015

**Drinking Establishment**

Sandbar Subs  
Zarco USA Inc.  
914 Iowa St.

New License

5. Approved appointment as recommended by the Mayor.

**Sales Tax Audit Committee:**

Reappointed Ted Boyle to an additional term that would expire 04/30/18.

**DMI:**

Appointed Jeremy Farmer as the City Commission representative.

6. Bid and purchase items:
  - a) Approved the sole source purchase of digital Panasonic cameras from Midwest Digital Technologies, in the amount of \$27,716.39, for Project No. PW1439 - Riverfront Garage and Project No. PW1440 - Vermont Street Garage.
  - b) Approved the sole source purchase of one (1) tandem axle dump truck with front plow, spreader, and wing plow for the Streets Division, from Truck Center Companies of Wichita, for \$146,651, utilizing the State of Kansas Contract.
  - c) Approved the sole source purchase of one (1) John Deere 6110M Cab Tractor for the Parks and Recreation Department, from Deere & Company, for \$59,993.76, utilizing the State of Kansas contract.
  - d) Approved change order to MTS Contracting for \$111,500 for the Carnegie Roof Project.

7. Adopted on second and final reading, Ordinance No. 9098, establishing RESIDENT PARKING ONLY along the west side of Ohio Street, from 100 feet south of 11<sup>th</sup> Street, south 44 feet.
8. Adopted Resolution No. 7115, authorizing the Mayor to sign the application and related grant documents for the 2015 Emergency Solutions Grant from the State of Kansas.
9. Authorized the publication of the proposed transfer of a portion of Clinton Park property to USD 497 to accommodate existing and proposed improvements at Pinckney Elementary School.
10. Approved a Special Event Permit, SE-15-00148, for Pop Up Fest, a concert event that will be held on April 18, 2015, located at 1235 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Submitted by Attic Traffic Productions, for Don and Wanda Westheffer Trustee, property owner of record.
11. Approved a request from Lawrence Arts Center for in-kind donation of City services and \$60,000 from the transient guest tax fund, in support of the Free State Festival.
12. Authorized the Mayor to sign a Release of Mortgage for Jonathan Willems, 2517 Cimarron Drive.
13. Received incentives application for public assistance from Integrated Animal Health and refer request to the Public Incentives Review Committee.

Amyx pulled consent agenda item no. 3 regarding claims for a separate vote. Amyx stated, "Explain to be me again, under the claims, what are these items for, under the vendors to Rock Chalk Park?"

Casey Toomay stated, "For easements."

Amyx stated, "Next week, as far as I'm concerned, we can add these into the claims because we've got to buy the necessary supplies to make sure it's up and operating."

**Moved by Farmer, seconded Schumm**, to approve non-Rock Chalk Park related claims to 200 vendors in the amount of \$1,708,050.42. Aye: Amyx, Farmer, and Schumm. Nay: None. Absent: Dever and Riordan. Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved by Schumm, seconded by Farmer**, to approve Rock Chalk Park related claims to 3 vendors in the amount of \$102.17. Aye: Farmer, and Schumm. Nay: Amyx. Motion carried.

#### **D. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

David Corliss, City Manager, presented the report regarding the February 2015 Monthly Building Permit Report; March 2015 Monthly Building Permit; Sidewalk Dining & Hospitality

License Courtesy Notification; Compost/Woodchip Sale and Electronic Recycling Events upcoming; Spring Break Camp gets kids involved; Sports Pavilion Lawrence Holds Wheelchair Basketball Tournament; and, Parks & Recreation Underwater Eggstravaganza.

#### **E. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. **Received comments from Mayor Amyx and City Commission.**

Amyx stated, "We do have two members who are out of town this evening and they have passed along letters that they would like to have read."

Mayor Amyx read Commissioner Riordan's comments:

I am unable to attend my last meeting as a City Commissioner because I am at a continuing medical education seminar. I want to thank the citizens of Lawrence for allowing me the unique opportunity of improving the lives of all Lawrence citizens for the last two years as an elected official. I am proud of the accomplishments of the outgoing commission with the Rental Protection program being the most important and the second being the continued emphasis on improvements for infrastructure. I hope and pray that the next commission is able to meet the significant challenges before the, first picking a new City Manager, second, providing community safety needs involving the Police and third, the significant challenges we face as a community in providing mental health support not just for the citizens in the Justice system but all citizens of Lawrence and fourth, modifying the Wastewater Treatment Plant designed to meet the increased rate level.

Lawrence is a great city on the verge of a new horizon which is both a challenge and an opportunity that we can and must meet. I will enjoy Lawrence and my free time and once again take this last opportunity to thank everyone for the privilege of serving our fine community.

Respectfully Terrance P. Riordan MD

Mayor Amyx read Commissioner Dever's comments:

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the citizens of Lawrence for the chance to serve our community over the past eight years. Without the support of the many neighborhoods and residents of the best city in Kansas, I would never have had the opportunity to serve the city I love and help accomplish many things over the time I have served on the Lawrence City Commission.

I also wanted to thank the sitting city commissioners, and those that I have had the great privilege of serving with over the past eight years. I have learned so much from all of you and consider it an honor to have worked with you.

We have so much to be proud of as a community, and I worked hard to learn as much as I could and invest as much as possible in the community as a whole all while envisioning a future for Lawrence that all citizens could enjoy.

A reinvented library, East Lawrence redevelopment in the form of the Poehler lofts and numerous city sponsored streetscapes, Bioscience and technology partnerships, miles of walking and biking trails, reinvestment in our core streets and infrastructure, a stable and growing public transportation system, the re-development of an environmentally and visually blighted area that is now a robust, inviting business park, city-wide single stream recycling and a state of the art private recycling facility and hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the city of Lawrence by local and outside investors. Lawrence was open for business and the citizens supported all of this, and reaped the benefits.

Despite the challenges with the development of Sports Pavilion Lawrence, local residents and surrounding cities have chosen to embrace the facility that was envisioned by leaders in our parks and recreation department and advisory board. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of additional sales taxes will be collected by the community every year because we invested our tax dollars in this facility. Thousands of citizens in our community will embrace the opportunities for indoor and outdoor wellness and fitness as a result of the completion of this project. Thank you for allowing our city to lead the Midwest in wellness, indoor sports and tournament activities. I believe we will not be disappointed by the internal and external impact of the complex.

Finally, I want to thank my family and close friends for the support they have given me over the past eight years. There are some sacrifices that are required when one serves on the city commission, but the greatest is the time away from, and the privacy that is afforded the average citizen. Thank you for always allowing me to invest the necessary time and energy to do the best job possible.

Schumm stated, "I look out into the audience tonight and I see lots of people that I know. In fact, of the people in the audience almost, I would say, eighty percent of them I've worked with over the last four years to help achieve their need and their cause and it's been a great opportunity for me to work with a great cross section of the citizens of Lawrence. There wonderful people and they all have wonderful ideas, plans and programs. As the two letter writers said, we did accomplish a lot. We had two excellent City Commissions that I served on. The first City Commission, including Aron Cromwell and Hugh Carter were the two Commissioners that retired two years ago and then the five of us, those two Commissions were excellent. We found a way to work together and even though we had varying differences of opinion, we turned out a lot of positive, programs, and projects for the community. The key was, as I said once before, is that we learned how to work together and move things along. We didn't disagree with people on personalities. We had good debates on principles and we were able to compromise and move the projects forward. It's been a great four years. It's been very

productive. I wouldn't have wanted to serve if we weren't productive because that's kind of in my DNA is that I like to see things happen. Already, we've seen some of the net results for the community in terms of we've added a number of net new jobs for the last 14 or 15 months. That's pretty good. We have increased our sales tax revenue by a real healthy amount. Last year we increased our sales tax by five percent and we budgeted 2 percent. We put in place a number of opportunities and a number of draws to the City where we're enhancing tourism at a great rate. I think you're going to see that continuing. I made a prediction a couple of times which is that we have enough assets set in place and trying to get a few more like don't forget the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We will see the greatest economic decade in twenties that Lawrence has ever seen. There's enough there that's going to start working on our behalf. When that happens your taxes should wonder in a downward path. You'll have enough economic activity growing the economy. We'll give you more opportunities to do more with less tax dollars per person so it's a great opportunity if we keep moving forward in a positive direction. I certainly want to thank the citizens for the opportunity to serve. It's been great and I've really enjoyed it and I hope you enjoy and profit from the assets we've put in place for the community. I certainly want to thank my Co-Commissioners. I've really enjoyed working with you guys as well as Aron Cromwell and Hugh Carter. It's just been great Commissions to work with. Last, but certainly no least the staff. We have one phenomenal staff. I've worked with a number of staff members. Each and every department is staffed with highly skilled professional that their main interest in their job is to create an environment that satisfies the citizens. They go way beyond where the norm is. That's been a great opportunity to experience that as well. You're in really good hands. To Dave Corliss, unbelievable leader and it's going to be our loss and Castle Rock's gain, but I'm happy to see you move forward in your career and all the other staff members that helped him look good. I want to thank everybody and it's been a pleasure working with all of you. For me, good night and best wishes to the newly elected City



Commission and I look forward to working with you. Thanks for the opportunity to serve once again. Thank you.”

Amyx stated, “As many of you know, Bob’s start on the City Commission was in 1979. We kind of known one another through most of those years and we had the great opportunity to serve several times together and always felt a real honor to serve side by side with you. There’s been a lot of times we’ve had a little squabbles and stuff, but that’s okay we kind of always got through. One of the things that were important is at the end of the meeting we were friends because we would always count on one another and look out for one another. I think that’s one of the biggest things that this is about. There’s sometimes in this job that the only friends that you may have is like the five that’s sitting up here so you kind of look after one another in a special way. Bob, the City of Lawrence appreciates anything and everything that you’ve always done on our behalf. Great vision, great hard work, we appreciate that. You’re going to be very hard to replace. All the experience that you’ve brought to this body really shows in our community today. We can’t thank you enough for the opportunity of having you here and being able to serve with you. Thank you.”

Farmer stated, “It’s been a real honor to serve alongside each of you. We kind of hit the ground running two years ago. One of the things that I was talking to Dave about a few weeks ago was that we didn’t have the benefit of having study sessions when Terry and I got elected because we had Bob, Mike, and Mike. I just remembered being up here thinking what in the world did I get myself into, but it’s extremely humbling to be part of a team and that’s the nature of democracy in our community is that there’s a potential each two years for a new team. I’m excited about having worked with this one. I’ve only been a part of this for two years. I don’t want to make light of this, you started four years before I was born and you got elected the year that I was born. I can’t imagine how much of an honor it is for you guys to drive around our community and just see projects that you had the opportunity to be a part of. I remember two years ago one of our forums, you had talked about 15<sup>th</sup> and Monterey Way and I don’t know

anything but Monterey Way. It's just neat to be able to have learned from each of you and it's been an incredible two years and I've learned a lot about our community, about myself and I'm extremely grateful to each of you. To Dave and the City staff, you guys make us look a whole lot better than we deserve. Thank you for providing us with information and for giving us the tools that we need in order to do our jobs successfully. Dave I said it a few weeks ago, but we're going to miss you a lot. You've been here for 24 ½ years and this community is a better place because of you and I think we have some great other city staff members that are going to be able to step up in your stead and do a great job and that attributed to your leadership so thanks. To the community at large, I want to say thanks for the opportunity to be able to do this for the last two years and also for the next two. I hope that we can continue to work together and partner together to make Lawrence, Kansas the best place to live, work and play."

Amyx stated, "Thanks Jeremy. I want to thank the public for giving me the opportunity to be able to serve in this job. This is the greatest opportunity one can have to be able to serve his or her community as a member of the governing body in Lawrence Kansas. The staff that we have and the citizens that we get to work with, this is like the coolest place in the work. There are times where I may stay up late thinking gosh almighty how could I have made these decisions, but I stand behind all of them. As part of being the Mayor, I didn't realize how much I really got to do. I just couldn't believe it and I kind of hinted about this yesterday as we were announcing a new business coming to Lawrence Kansas and what a special day that you have to be able to do that on your last day as Mayor. I remember one time turning the gavel over to Bob and in my last day as Mayor in 1988, we won a national championship in basketball. He said what a special way to end an exciting year. Back in June of last year we got the opportunity to go to our Sister City in Eutin, what a special deal to be able to stand in Eutin City Hall and to be able to see the City of Lawrence flag right out the window when I was talking. You talk about some that kind of took your breath away, but such a privilege to be able to represent everyone in our community in something that was so special on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the partnership that we have with Eutin. I appreciate the opportunity to have Bob there and just to be able to experience that time with you. Marilyn and my son got married last year and I was thinking, wow, I've been gone a lot this year. It's such a great time and you make those things happen and one of the things to the new Commissioners with all the responsibilities that you have you make sure that there is family time because that is very important. Those are the people that are always there for you. A couple of weeks ago, I kind of turned the reigns over to Vice Mayor Farmer because I got an invitation to go to something that truly ended up being incredible. I was really surprised when the Army, specifically the Big Red One out of Ft. Riley invited me as a community leader to go out and watch training exercises in Ft. Irwin California. Now if any of you ever heard of this place, it's called the National Training Center. The National Training Center is right in the heart of the Mojave Desert. It was amazing. I mean 12,000 acres of sand and tumble weeds, but to be able to experience the opportunity to see our men and women in the military do their job that was something very special. Being able to represent all of you and meeting President Obama. That was truly the real big deal for the last year and being able to have a sitting President in our community and being able to be a part of that. Thank you all very much for the opportunity to be able to serve. It's one that I'll never forget."

Farmer stated, "We appreciate your service to the community and again, your fingerprints are all over Lawrence in so many ways and we're a better community because you've been at the helm and we're incredibly grateful for your leadership and for your charisma and passion. I can't think of a better person to have invited a sitting President to Lawrence Kansas than Mayor Mike Amyx so congratulations and thank you."

2. **The Acting City Clerk conducted swearing in of newly elected City Commissioners. The new City Commission will be seated.**

Corliss stated, "The County Commission's canvass is Thursday. It will not change the results of what Diane is about ready to do. When you look at the map it's possible that it might

change the two year term with a four year term but it will not change what we're doing this evening."

Diane Trybom, Acting City Clerk, swore in the newly elected City Commissioners, Stuart Boley, Matthew Herbert, and Leslie Soden.

3. **Conduct election of Mayor.**

Mayor Amyx called for nominations for the office of the Mayor.

**Moved by Soden, seconded by Boley**, to nominate Jeremy Farmer as Mayor.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved by Soden, seconded by Boley**, to close the nominations for Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved by Soden, seconded by Boley**, to elect Jeremy Farmer as Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Conduct election of Vice-Mayor.**

Mayor Farmer called for nominations for the office of Vice Mayor.

**Moved by Boley, seconded by Herbert**, to nominate Leslie Soden as Vice Mayor.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved by Boley, seconded by Herbert**, to close the nominations for Vice Mayor.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved by Boley, seconded by Herbert**, to elect Leslie Soden as Vice Mayor. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Comments of Mayor and City Commissioners.**

Soden stated, "I'm both thrilled and grateful to be sitting here today. Thank you so much to the voters that have put their trust and faith in me. I will do my best to make you proud. I want to thank the previous City Commissioners for their hard work. Thank you so much for your service. During my four year term I'm very much looking forward to working with City staff to get our budget priorities back in order. My first priority is public safety. We need to create a blue

ribbon commission to look at the entirety of our public safety system which includes the police, fire department, the County jail and hospital. This blue ribbon Commission will figure out where the wholes and gaps in our public safety system are. As we've already seen our first responder's facilities need to be repaired and upgraded and we need to be sure their paid as comparable to surrounding communities. I'm very much looking forward to working on mental health issues with the County, especially in creating a crisis stabilization center and a mental health court. Both of those programs will work to divert people from jail and the criminal justice system which can become a life-long financial trap door in terms of fees and fines. Treatment not punishment needs to be our focus. We as a City Commission need to review and update our formal City Commission goals. Two new goals I suggest are 1) strengthening public safety and 2) addressing mental health issues. Our budget and capital improvement planning can then be fixed around that after we have updated these goals and priorities. These are just some of the things that I plan on working on in the next four years. Thank you again to the voters for placing your faith with me when you casted your vote last Tuesday and I'll do my very best to represent the people of Lawrence."

Boley stated, "It's an honor and a privilege to be seated here this evening. I want to thank the previous Commissioners for their service to the City. I'd also like to congratulate Mayor Farmer on your elevation to that role. I already need to say thank you to City staff. You've been very welcoming to me and I appreciate that. Thank you to my friends and my family, my children, my sisters, my parents and my wife for your constant support. Thank you to the citizens of Lawrence for providing me the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner. I will do my best to learn and work for our wonderful community. It is my hope that we will come together as a Commission and come together as a community to meet the issues, challenges and opportunities that we face."

Herbert stated, "I want to echo a lot of those things and this is truly and honor to be up here this evening. It's the first time I've had the opportunity to speak in this room and not be on

the three minutes shot clock. I promise to keep it under three minutes just out of tradition. There had been three times in my life when I've been absolutely overwhelmed by the support I've received. The very first time was when I was offered my first job. I had absolutely no experience. There was absolutely no reason to entrust children's lives in my hands and yet I was extended an opportunity to do that, people trusted their kids with me and that was the first time I was ever truly overwhelmed by a response. The second time came about three years later when my girlfriend at the time told me that she would be willing to spend the rest of her life with me. I live with me every day so I understand that challenge. That was truly overwhelming and tonight would be that third time. Last Tuesday I went to the courthouse pretty sure that I wasn't going to pull this off. Bob Schumm did an amazing job for the City for a very long time. Dr. Riordan has had an amazing reputation in this City for a very long time and I was quite sure that there was no way I was going to surpass those two gentlemen, but about 5,743 people showed up that Tuesday and I can never repay you for that. My big goal is that in the next two years that I can do something to truly earn what you have done for me. I thank you very much."

Amyx stated, "To our new Commissioners I want to welcome all of you again. I look forward to working with you over the next couple of years. It's going to be a great time and a lot of work ahead of us. Vice Mayor congratulations on your new role anytime you have questions, if I can be of help, please feel free. Mayor anything you need me to help with and you need me to step up, don't hesitate. I look forward to serving you in any capacity that you need me to do. Congratulations to all of you."

Farmer stated, "I want to thank this Commission for placing their trust in me and giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity for the next year. I'm truly honored thank you. I came back to Lawrence in July 2011 to work with a wonderful organization called Just Food and then I ran for City Commission in 2013 because I wanted to serve my community in another capacity. The past two years I tried to be thoughtful and diligent with dealing with City related issues and tried to make the best possible decisions for our community. The Mayor I Lawrence

is not a big deal it's more of a ceremonial position than anything else. It's one vote out of five and I will continue to do whatever I can to research my opinions, listen to everyone on our community through various avenues and make the best decision that I possibly can. I will do my best to lead our Commission through what would be a very important year. Everyone up here is elected and everyone up here is equal. We have a lot on our plate starting with the hiring of a new City Manager that we need to discuss as a Commission and with our community as to the qualities that we want in the next person to sit in very big shoes that we have to fill. I remember what my great grandpa use to tell me frequently, and I said this two years ago, and I want to say it again tonight, that we don't have to see eye to eye to walk hand and hand. We must all commit to working together in building trust with our community and also with each other. This year will be a year that will be dedicated to transparency, openness and authenticity. Recently, we began listening sessions for capital improvements and I started writing weekly blog and hosting conversation with your Commissioner meeting three times each month. I will continue hosting these sessions and encourage my fellow Commissioners to devise ways they can ensure their accessible and open to the public. We'll be rolling out open source software to get it put on various projects happening around our community called Open Town hall. I recently proposed on my blog, a different structure for how we do Commission meetings. So much of what we do each week is very transactional and we need to be committed to garnering support and rebuilding trust and bridges with our community. If we're unable to decide on changing some of the way we do commission meetings, I will propose that we have more study sessions and allow public comment at those study sessions. Starting tonight, the shot clock will be no more. We want to hear from you. I said during the campaign two years ago and I mean it now more than ever, your voice matters. I want to thank my mom whose here, who I love with every ounce of my soul and who has been my biggest cheerleader and my biggest supporter. We talk every day and multiple times a day usually. Mom, I love you and I'm so glad that you're here tonight, thank you. Also, I want to thank a couple of other

family members that are watching tonight. I got a video from my niece who's going to turn two in June. My sister-in-law said, tell Uncle Jeremy that you love him and she said love you Meme and so I want to say thanks to all the rest of my family and to my friends that are here for your incredible support, those that have been on the Board of Just Food and currently on the Board of Just Food, those who have served in capacities to really be sounding boards for my. I'm internally grateful for you and I cannot thank you each enough. To City staff, we're going to have a great year and I'm looking forward to working with each of you so very much and again Dave, we're very much going to miss you. Thank you all so much for the opportunity and trust that you placed in me to serve in this position and I believe just as I said many times before that the best is yet to come."

***RECESS FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES***

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Herbert,** to recess for 20 minutes at 6:45.

The City Commission reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

6. ***Orientation session (Open Meetings Act and other items) with City Commission for approximately one (1) hour.***

Toni Wheeler, City Attorney, presented information regarding the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and local conflict of interest laws. Wheeler stated, "Tonight we're going to talk about two very important laws, the Kansas Open Meetings Act and the Local Conflict of Interest Laws. The purpose of the open meetings act is to ensure that the business of governing is done in full view of the public. The legislature adopted this law in 1972 when a number of states across the country were reacting to the Watergate scandal and wanted to make transparency and open government, the practice. The law is intended to promote and inform the electorate to increase trust in government and to curtail corruption. Lawrence very own Deanell Tacha wrote an article in a 1977 Law Journal on the Open Meetings Act that I think is still very relevant and I would like to read a quote from it. She said: The open meetings principle is based on a basic belief that people have the right to know the public business and that public knowledge and



information is essential to the effective functioning of the democratic process. The right of the public to participate in the democratic process includes the right to be informed. It is not sufficient that final decisions and policy determinations of public bodies are reported. If the public is to judge the strengths, weakness and policy positions of its elected representatives, it must be able to look behind the final decision and scrutinize the process of decision making. The open meetings act applies when the body involved is covered entity and there is a meeting. The open meeting act law applies to all political and taxing subdivisions of the City that are supported by public funds and that clearly applies to the Lawrence City Commission. The open meeting act applies when there is a meeting and all three of these conditions must be present for there to be a meeting. One, there has to be a gathering of a majority of the members of the body, there has to be interactive communication, and there has to be a discussion of the business or affairs of the body. Please note that there is no requirement that the meeting be pre-arranged or scheduled or even intended. If these three elements are present there is a meeting and the act may apply to that situation.”

Amyx asked, “If all of us, as a body, are invited to an event and all of a sudden we end up in a corner together, and those three things are met, it’s a violation?”

Wheeler stated, “Right. You can go to public functions and I’ll address that in a later slide. It’s totally appropriate for you and you all be invited to a number of public events. You can be there and you can be in the presents of one another, but you should refrain from discussing the specific business of the City Commission at those meetings and just enjoy it as a public function. Really, your decision making in your deliberation should occur in public meetings where notice has been given to those who’ve requested it.”

Wheeler stated, “So, getting back a majority of the membership for the City Commission is three. So, whenever three of you are together, that is one of the elements of a meeting. The next element is interactive communication. This clearly applies when you’re in the presents of one another and communicating directly with one another, but also can apply in telephone

conversations, including conference calls. It can apply in work session, staff briefings, and on-line communications when there is an opportunity for contemporaneous interaction between you. The third element of a meeting is a discussion of the public's business and that's what triggers the application of the open meetings act. It's not required that a vote or binding action be taken for the law to apply, it is merely the discussion. So again this goes to your point Commissioner Amyx, you can be present at social gatherings if there's no discussion of the business of the body. You can attend conferences together and you can receive information or discuss items of general interest as long as you don't discuss the specific business of the Lawrence City Commission by a majority, by three of you. I want to take a moment to address electronic communications since they are such a big part of our lives these days and such a source of convenience and efficiency. The Attorney General has indicated that the mere fact that a communication is electronic doesn't raise an open meetings issue, but if a majority of the body uses an electronic communication to engage in interactive discussions but it could raise a common issue. Its fine if you send a single email to other Commission members and that would not be considered a violation, but if you're sending multiple emails and there is sort of an on-line discussion than that very well could be something that would cause an open meetings issue to arise. Our advice is to just use caution when you are emailing one another. Avoid initiating an on-line discussion with your fellow Commissioners through email. You are certainly going to receive emails as a City Commissioner about a city matter and all your Co-Commissioners will also be on that. It could be from a member of the public who is upset about a road project or it could be from an advisory board member that wants to invite you to an event. They will send an email to all five of you. We would just suggest and recommend that you avoid hitting that 'reply all' function on the computer and starting an instantaneous chat among you. It's certainly fine to receive those emails, just be cautious in how you respond to them. I also want to take a moment to address serial meeting which is also something in the open meeting act. There could be a violation of the open meeting act if collectively those meetings involve a majority of the

membership of the body, three of you. If they share common topic of discussion concerning the business or affairs of the body, and they are intended by any or all of the participants to reach an agreement on a matter that would require binding action to be taken by the body or the agency. I want to give you a scenario that would demonstrate this to help you understand this concept. Commissioners one and two meet and decide that the City Streets Maintenance Program has just been top notch and to express their gratitude to the Public Works Director, Chuck Soules, for his execution of the program, they want to rename Massachusetts Street, Chuck Soules Way, knowing that that might be a little controversial and may generate a lot of public comment, especially because the shot clock is going away, they decide to bypass the public meeting and just pitch the idea to their fellow Commissioners. Commissioners one and two reach out to the other Commissioners individual and get their vote or decision that the street name change is appropriate and a majority then supports that decision and new streets signs are then made and installed. That would be a situation or an example of how a serial meeting could occur. Of course, that situation would never arise because staff would not help in that manner, but we just want to give an example of how you could inadvertently try to talk to your Co-Commissioners about something and make a decision away from a public meeting and have some action follow that. That would not be appropriate and you really should save those deliberations for a public meeting so that the public can participate or listen to your discussions on that topic.”

Amyx asked, “If three of us are invited to be part of a panel and we don’t know that the other two are going to be there and the questions involve a City issue, because it’s not advertised, are we in violation at that point?”

Wheeler stated, “The City Manager’s Office works really hard to be aware of those events and potential situation where three Commissioners could be present at a public meeting and I think we do a very good job at putting that on our agenda and giving notice to those people that have requested notice.”

David Corliss, City Manager, stated, "Commissioner, you bring up a good point. There will be some times when you all will be invited to a neighborhood gathering on a particular issue and staff doesn't know about it. It's certainly not inappropriate that we don't know about it, but we'd like to. It's usually helpful for us to just get copied in on that. You all have to help us on that regard as well. Let's say that somebody on Bob Billings Parkway says I want to talk to the Commissioners about the necessary improvements along Bob Billings Parkway at the K-10 interchange that's set up and we're having those discussions, but maybe staff's not invited. We may not know about it and we say who all is going to a meeting next Wednesday night at 7:00 along Bob Billings Parkway. If we don't know about we then can't follow through on our duty to let everybody know about a public meeting. They may not want it to be a public meeting. It might be in someone's dining room. Then what they need to understand is that they can't have more than two City Commissioners there. Sometimes we have to educate members of the public. You all need to help us know about those types of things. It may be appropriate not to have staff there, but if you have more than two Commissioner's there, you're going to have a problem because it's very likely you're going to be discussion the business of the City and it's not an open meeting so you all need to help us on that, but when we find out about those things, we're adding items. You might notice that we added to the agenda today, the fact that with the news conference at the BTBC in regards to the County development announcement. We put that on, even though the media was obviously already invited, but it was an opportunity where there might be more than two City Commissioners at that event. There needs to be that dialogue. You need to help us out as well because it could end up being a problem."

Wheeler stated, "The Open Meetings Act applies when the body is covered by the law and there is a meeting. A meeting again, requires all three elements. A majority of the member ship of the body, an interactive communication and members discussing the business of the body. If the law does apply then the act specifies certain requirements that have to be met. The open meetings act requires that meetings be open to the public and proper notice be given.

Meetings must be held in places that are accessible to the general public and they must be conducted so that members of the public can observe or listen to the proceedings. As I was preparing for tonight's presentation I just did a search on-line of open meetings act and I came across a number of newspaper articles. There are cities across the United States that are grappling with the open meetings act and there is a township in Illinois that is currently being investigated by the Illinois Attorney General's Office because they received several complaints because they held a meeting but locked out a number of members of the public as they were discussing rate increases for their sewer charges. The room had met its capacity. They didn't want to over occupy the meeting rooms so they locked the doors. Now they're currently being investigated for not having a meeting that was open and accessible to the general public. It still is a real issue and things we have to be mindful of. The next thing that the law requires is notice, the date, time and place of any regular or special meeting must be given to any person requesting such notice. The act doesn't require that notice be given within any particular time, it just has to be a reasonable amount of time and the circumstances will dictate what is reasonable. A notice must first be requested before a body is required to provide it. A couple of notes on agendas, the Open Meetings Act doesn't require that an agenda be prepared, but if the body does create one, it should include the topics that are planned for discussion and if agendas exist, they should be available to those who request them and agendas can be amended. Now, I want to turn the discussion to executive sessions or close meetings, meeting that are not open to the public. The legislature has provided an opportunity for governing bodies to have closed sessions. They can be useful for discussing very important topics while protecting other privacy interests. The law does allow sixteen topics that can be discussed in executive session. Of those sixteen permitted topics, our City Commission most commonly meets in executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elective personnel, consultation with the bodies attorney which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship employer/employee negotiation matters can also be discussed behind closed doors and

preliminary discussions related to the acquisition, not the sale, but acquisition of real estate. The law does require that certain procedures must be followed before an executive session is convened. The body must first meet in an open meeting. There must be a formal motion, seconded and carried that contains a statement that includes the justification for the closure, the subject to be discussed and the time and place where the meeting will resume. This process must be recorded in the minutes and part of the permanent record of the body and then binding decisions are not and cannot be made in executive session. It is permissible for general consensus to be arrived at, but any formal and binding action needs to take place in a public meeting. There are ramifications for violation of the acts requirements. The District Attorney or the Attorney General investigates alleged KOMA violations and the Attorney General has stated that his office seeks compliance with the act and his office wants to assure that future violations do not occur. They may require the body to receive additional KOMA training if they find it appropriate. If however, there is a pattern of willful disregard for the law requirements, the District or Attorney General may take individuals to court and seek civil penalties, court costs, and attorney's fees. There can be invalidation of actions and even removal from office. I just remind you that the Open Meetings Act is a civil statute, not a criminal statute. That concludes our discussion of the Open Meetings Act and I'm now going to turn to the local conflict of interest laws. Another set of statutes that you as Commissioners now need to be mindful of. The Kansas Conflict of Interest Laws attempts to achieve a fair balance to ensure that public office is not used for private gain. The act doesn't define conflict of interest rather it refers to substantial interest and it requires Statement of Substantial Interest to be filed by elected officials and other officials at various times as set forth in the law. What is a substantial interest? It is ownership by an individual or spouse of any business interest valued at more than \$5,000 or five percent of any business whichever is less, receipt by an individual or his or her spouse of \$2,000 or more from any business or combination of businesses in the preceding calendar year. Holding the position of officer/director/partner or proprietor of any business

regardless of compensation received. However, there are special exceptions for positions held with certain tax exempt organizations. Substantial interest also includes receipt by an individual or spouse of a fee or Commission of \$2,000 or more in the preceding calendar year or the acceptance of certain gifts that have a value greater than \$500. These Statements of Substantial Interest are filed with the City Clerk's Office and the City Clerk then forwards them to the Douglas County Clerk's Office. The law also requires that public officials abstain from making or participating in the making of any contract with any business in which the officials employed or has a substantial interest. Abstaining from action on a contract is not required for contracts let after competitive bidding has been advertised for by published notice or in a situation where contracts for property or services is set and fixed by law. For other matters, before an official can act upon any other matter that will effect a business in which the officer and employed holds a substantial interest, an elected official must have filed a Statement of Substantial Interest reporting the nature of the interest or they may abstain from any direct or incidental actions on that matter. If you do those things then you'll be fine. There are also penalties for violation of the local conflict of interest laws. Failure to file those Statements of Financial Interest whether the general one or specific can be a misdemeanor and if you're convicted for participating in making of contracts in violation of the act, that will result in forfeiture of the office and that is also a misdemeanor. The Kansas Ethics Commission in Topeka does issue advisory opinions on the interpretation or application of this law and if there is ever a question about whether this law applies in your situation, you are welcomed to seek an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission. The law provides that if you seek an opinion and you follow that opinion, you would not be found in violation of the law. Here we provide the contact information for the Ethics Commission in Topeka and telephone number and we'd encourage you to keep that in your records and use that as appropriate. With that, I would stand for any questions and I do appreciate your attention to these matters."

Amyx stated, "As we should, take the Kansas Open Meetings Act very serious. It is something that the public places so much trust, in how we conduct their business. We want to make sure that is always open to them and it's an extremely serious matter if you have to go through open meetings classes, but you learn a lot."

Wheeler stated, "Thank you very much. I appreciate those comments. It is very important law and it is one that we'll need to take very seriously."

Farmer asked, "Commissioners, would you have any objections to directing staff to place this up on the agenda for tonight's website so the public can have access to it for those that didn't have the benefit of being here."

Amyx stated, "Absolutely."

Corliss stated, "Mayor, we can talk a little bit about agenda structure. I think that might just be valuable to make sure everybody's on the same page as we talk about the pages of the agenda. I had the benefit of talking with the new Commissioners today. I want to make sure that we understand the structure of the agenda and then when we get to the calendar portion, we'd like to talk about possible study session opportunities. Just so the full Commission understands the process by which we put the agenda together, we work with the Mayor on Wednesday and Thursday to create the agenda. The Mayor is the presiding officer of the meeting and has the opportunity to help set that agenda. On Wednesday we're in the process of assembling agenda items. Sometimes we'll see those early and we'll go ahead and forward those on to you. You're not doing anything other than just getting them ahead of time so you have an opportunity to read them. We got usually a draft of an agenda by late Wednesday. Our goal is to try and sent that out to everybody, just to let you know what's on it and what our thinking is. It's not the final version. It doesn't have any of the attachments, but it's some ideal of where we're at in regards to assembling the agenda. Then through the day on Thursday, we're making contact with the Mayor and the different staff is assembling the agenda. Bobbie is working to proof the items, other staff is proofing the items and then we try and get the agenda



out obviously before the close of business on Thursday. We then meet with the Mayor and the Vice Mayor, traditionally we've met on Monday mornings to go over the agenda to see what whole there are, what questions may have been raised, those types of things. The structure of the agenda hasn't changed too much over the years with proclamations. Really, the only filter that we have on proclamations is that it has local sponsors and it is something appropriate for the City Commission to consider. If you get those types solicitations you can certainly send them our way. They seem like their seasonal, there's a bunch of them in the Spring, bunch of the in the Fall and they kind of filter out throughout the rest of the year. You're approving our own minutes. Diane, Brandon and others work to go through. Those are summary minutes, there not verbatim minutes we obviously have the benefit of the tape so if citizens want to know actually what happen, they can see the meeting that way. You then receive the minutes of different City boards and commissions. Approve claims and we call them claims but you're basically authorizing the cutting of checks. It's on-line what we spend. We have a \$188,000,000 budget and so we end up probably spending that amount of money through either payroll which is sometimes a claim. We have payroll every other week and is roughly \$2,000,000. I like to say we try and meet payroll every other week \$2,000,000 and we have claims and they very throughout through our accounts payable process. We try and get the claims paid on time. There approved in our office, ultimately, but primarily most of the work is done in finance and you'll see that listing. I think we try to get that out to you ahead of time, but it's always posted the day after as far as what's been listed. These are always preapproved types of payment or something that's already budgeted. The City Manager has the authority to spend up to \$15,000 on items, anything over that and there are a few exceptions that require City Commission approval getting quotes and bids, those types of things pursuant to our purchasing policy. Licenses go through Diane and Brandon. We don't license as many things quite frankly as most communities do, but we do have some licenses that are approved. Appointments, the Mayor drafts the appointment memo, actually Bobbie does, but pursuant to the Mayor's direction she

drafts an appointment memo where the Mayor recommends appointments to the various City boards and commissions. The last time I counted them, I think there were forty-one and I think we're pretty much at forty-one or forty-two different city boards and commissions. We've got, I think, a really good website where we list the responsibilities of those boards and commissions, their current roster and some of their agenda. Some of the boards are a lot more active than others because some of them have statutory responsibilities, some of them don't. Again, on all of these consent agenda's items I think you all know from watching our meetings, the consent agenda is all approved in one motion unless the Commissioners or a member of the public, or heaven forbid staff finds out there's an error and we have to pull it because it's not as ready as we thought, but that's all part of the consent agenda. Then we have bid and purchase items, those are items again that largely have been budgeted, but they raise to the dollar amount or some case the prominence that you all need to approve them. We have a purchasing policy whereby we get quotes or bids on items. We also then go through a selection process for design services for architects and professional services those types of things. There are readings of ordinances, resolutions, and other items that deserve to be on the consent agenda. As a matter of practice, we have said that if it's a unanimous recommendation from the Traffic Safety Commission, a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Commission and we know of no other reason why it needs to be on the regular agenda, it's on the consent agenda. If we know that a citizen is going to want to come and talk about, we'll try to put it on the regular agenda. That's the general theme. The one thing that Commissioners have tried to follow is if they have a question about a consent agenda item, a lot of times go ahead and let me know about it. I'll try to respond to it, but if they want to still pull it then we'll try to let the whole Commission know that this is likely to get pulled. Sometimes if you're trying to pick what you're going to study, you may not study what's on the consent agenda as much. You're obviously going to read it, but you're going to spend more time looking at the regular agenda items. The City Manager's Report is something we've tried to develop where it's just items of interest, news

and hopefully it's not just always good news, although I don't want to necessarily want to put bad news on the City Manager's report because we do that on occasion. There's some monthly reports and other reports that we think are worthy of your view and consideration, but it's helpful for us to communicate and more importantly, communicate to the public about what's out there. The regular agenda is where we put the major items of decisions and direction from the Commission. If it doesn't need specific direction or choice sometimes we'll put it on the consent agenda, but generally if it requires a choice or if it's a non-unanimous recommendation or if it's a large major item, we'll put it on the regular agenda. It's a little bit of an art, a little bit of a science, some of us have been successful at it, and sometimes we haven't been. I've been putting this together for 24 years. It's been my responsibility since I've been a management analyst, to put the agenda together. I understand that there are other communities that don't require the manager to do that. That may be something that will change going forward. One thing that we've tried to do in setting up the agenda, overtime, is if there are things where we know we're going to have public participation, for example next week we're going to have a public hearing to vacate, which means to remove, an easement. It's an existing subdivision. State law requires us to have a public hearing so we can't put it on the consent agenda, it has to be on the regular agenda. I don't have any reason to think it's controversial, but the applicant will probably want to be here to make sure that it happens. We don't necessarily want them to have to sit through two hours of something that doesn't have anything to do with that, so we'll put it towards the front. We try and put those kinds of things towards the front, the meat of the agenda in the middle and the things where it's just staff asking for something. We need direction. We'll put it towards the end, staff meets last. We're here anyway. The public is gone. There's a little bit of how we thought about organizing it. Again, it's really the mayor's choice as the presiding officer and ultimately it's the City Commission's choice about how you want to organize your meeting. A lot of this is because of how we thought about it in the past, but it doesn't mean you can't change any of this. We have public comment. Some communities have

public comment elsewhere on the agenda and we have it towards the end. I started up the future agenda items. This actually needs a little bit of tending to now. Our goal with that is to give you some idea of what's going to be on a future agenda so if you're wondering where is that issue or what's going to work well for the applicant. We had the 12<sup>th</sup> and Kasold reasoning issue that was going to be on the agenda last week. We had some comments from the neighborhood so we're kind of in this period. What's going to work obviously didn't work tonight so I think we scooted it off to the 28<sup>th</sup>. I think that works for the applicant so you've already got that there. We know that we're going to have the recommendation on the Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Plant on the 28<sup>th</sup>, that's what we're aiming for. We'll hopefully be able to give you that memo a little bit ahead of time so you can start reading it. That's a huge decision. I think I have said that's going to be one of the most important decisions that will be made in this room this decade as far as being able for the community to grow and those types of things. Then the Commission Items and is something I want to be clear about is that this is an opportunity for a Commissioner to bring up a particular item. Commissioners that are new might say how do we bring up an idea an issue that I want to talk about or considered. This is an opportunity on the agenda where you can do that and if you can find two other Commissioners that agree with you, we'll put it on a future agenda and that's just how it works with parliamentary procedures. We've talked a little bit about how we organize our meetings and one of the key things I want to make clear is that we always had a little bit of an informal process. I'm going to a community that has a very formal process. I've got to get use to that or I won't be there very long. I think we've had parliamentary questions maybe once or twice in my quarter of a century coming into this room. Robert Rules of Order, a couple of times we've had a question about how do we do a motion to reconsider. We've been very informal because we've ruled by consensus about processes. You all might want to change that, but we traditionally haven't had that. That's a good observation on your point about how you want to organize things, but Commission Items is an opportunity for you to say any item for a Commissioner. One of the things you'll learn, and

I've tried to say this as I briefed you all, we don't like surprises. You definitely don't like surprises from staff and you're other Commissioners may not like a surprise either so you might want to communicate a head of time and say I'm going to bring up the issue of such and such under Commission Items just to give you a heads up and we'll talk about it because otherwise, you might be asked to respond very quickly or whatever and it will give a little bit of cogitation time to think about it. Again, we're not requiring you to do any of that, but it's just an opportunity to think about that. So that's how you can get items introduced and finally Calendar. This is one of the ways we communicate to the public about where you're going to be for KOMA purposes and other things. Bobbie will work with you as much as she can to help you with calendar items. As you're going to learn, there are a lot of people that demand your time. I always thing the difference between running for office and being in office is when you're running from office everybody wants to know your views, now they want to know what you can do for them. They're going to invite you to things, not because they're interested in what you view is because they want to tell you something. You're going to get a lot of invitations. We'll try and work with you on that and you'll see a lot of different things here. You shouldn't feel obligated to attend any or all of them some of them are just more a notice to what's going on in the community. You also see a meeting list that she tends to. The Chamber of Commerce sponsor ribbon cuttings. They like to share that responsibility with Commissioners. It's a great opportunity to welcome new business to the community and get to know a lot of other community members so you'll get invited in that. Mayor, what I wanted to do is just kind of walk people through the general theme of the agenda. The only other thing is then we've got vacancies for boards and commissions so you get an idea that when you've got 40 or more boards and commissions sometimes we go through recruitment phases and things like that. We might want to step up a little bit on that. The Mayor makes that recommendation. As I pointed out earlier under the appointment memo and then you all get a chance to vote on it. That's basically your agenda and what I wanted to cover until we want to get to the calendar portion where we talked about

maybe some opportunities for study sessions. I'll be happy to respond to any questions that you might have about the agenda."

Herbert stated, "With regards to the Kansas Open Meeting Act, do you need us to inform you of our calendar regularly, even when you've made the events public here on the agenda?"

Corliss stated, "Commissioner, I think the best way to say is that if you're going to attend like the Bob Billings Corridor Project meeting tomorrow night, we don't need to know that necessarily. It might be good to know so that staff that's there can introduce you, but we don't need to know that for open meetings purposes because we've noticed it. It has happened where a neighborhood has invited Commissioners, we didn't know about it, they didn't know about the open meetings act and there are three Commissioners in somebody's living room and their all kind of wondering if they had an open meeting here or not. The best solution to that is maybe to let us know about some of those things. Not that we have to attend, but so that we can make sure that that responsibly it attended to."

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rob Sands stated, "Since I didn't get a chance at the County, on election night, to say congratulations; congratulations Commissioner Boley, Commissioner Herbert, Commissioner Soden and thank you Commissioner Amyx for your service as Mayor and thank you Mayor Farmer. Good luck to everybody and god bless. I know I'm excited to watch what this Commission does."

**G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

David Corliss, City Manager, outlined potential future agenda items regarding the February 2015 Monthly Building Permit Report; March 2015 Monthly Building Permit Report; Sidewalk Dining and Hospitality License Courtesy Notification; Compost/Woodchip Sale and Electronic Recycling Events upcoming; Spring Break Camp gets kids involved; Sports Pavilion Lawrence holds Wheelchair Basketball Tournament; and, Parks & Recreation Underwater Eggstravaganza.

**H: COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Amyx stated, "I've got a comment about the meeting schedule and where we're going to hold meetings. You talked about a couple of weeks ago about taking that into the public arena somewhere. One suggestion I would have is I would think that any of our formal meetings probably should stay in this room. I like the idea of us being available more to the public in any way that we can. If we wanted to take study sessions to another part of the community that was being effected by something that we were doing, I think that would be good, but as far as formal meetings, because of the investment that we've had in television and everything else, I think it's important and my own opinion is to have those in this room."

Farmer stated, "That will be a call that we can all make and maybe we can put that on the agenda to have a conversation about as a Commission in relationship to how we want to do meetings, structure meetings and that sort of thing, but certainly not tonight. Do we need to do the 9<sup>th</sup> Street? you've talked about that."

Amyx stated, "We've started the 9<sup>th</sup> Street project and I did not appoint a Commissioner because I didn't know that we were going to add the last couple of weeks so I've been kind of feeling in on that role. I didn't know if somebody else wanted to take over that position as kind of an acting chair for the 9<sup>th</sup> Street corridor or not. If not, I guess I could go."

Corliss stated, "I might point out there are a number of appointments to different City boards that Commissioners have. The Mayor and Vice Mayor serve on the Public Incentive Review Committee. We have a designee then, ex officio, to serve on the Economic Development Corporation. We have someone that also serves on the Joint Economic Development Council. Mayor, you've been appointed to the Destination Management Inc. Board. We need to City Commissioners to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation issues. I think maybe what we might want to do is work up a memo that explains all of those. We've got a draft of it that would also then include the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor and then

you all can decide. I guess my concern is if you go for one and you don't know about all of them, you might have picked one that you didn't know about. That's a fair comment."

Amyx stated, "I don't mind serving at all. I'm on Horizon 2020 and on the Peaslee Board. Whatever you need me to do, I'm happy to do. I was just thinking if somebody else wanted to do it."

Herbert stated, "It would be something I'd be interested in. Maybe you and I can have a conversation about that."

Amyx stated, "Sure."

Soden stated, "I know that the firefighters are looking for a liaison for contract negotiations. I'd certainly be interested in doing that."

Corliss stated, "Also, similarly for the police negotiations as well. We think we've benefited by having an elected official be part of the management discussion with both the Firefighters Local and the also, the Lawrence Police Officers Association. Again, that might be something to add to that list and you all can have that maybe next week to decide how you want to discuss among yourselves how to work those out."

Farmer asked, "Would it be okay with you guys if staff prepared a memo to bring back to us and maybe we can put it on the agenda next week to have a conversation about it?"

Soden stated, "That would be great."

Amyx stated, "It's a pretty good time commitment. If there was somebody else that was going to do the police officers, because of the time commitment with that, it's going to be a very busy time. I can stay with 9<sup>th</sup> Street if need be."

Soden stated, "I wanted to bring up these study sessions, definitely I think the goals are something that we need to look at updating. I don't think they have for eight or ten years. Also, we talked a little bit about a study session dedicated to economic development incentives and potentially if there are any changes that we want to make to those or add those or distribute them somehow. Bare minimum, just have an overlook of all of them and what they are."



Farmer asked, "Are there other topics that you Commissioners like us to look at in relationship to study sessions over the course of the next few weeks? Do we want to talk about City budget issues or capital improvements? What are your thoughts?"

Amyx asked, "When is the initial meeting for discussions about the budget? It's got to be coming up fairly quickly."

Corliss stated, "Mayor and Commissioners one of staff's thoughts were to have study sessions. I think we suggest the next two Tuesday's starting you're Tuesday's off with a study session that would work from a calendaring standpoint on the 21<sup>st</sup> or the 28<sup>th</sup>. We'd like to talk a little bit about just information about where we are in regards to City services and goals and have some of the Department Directors come in and speak about some of their concerns. Are thinking is that once you've got some of this information about where we are in regards to budget and finance and some of the other issues the Department Directors want to bring up, then as the Vice Mayor indicated, then a good discussion about setting goals, maybe working on a goal statement or an articulation of goals would be good. Again, with the chronology being getting information and then setting the goals. We think that that chronology may make more sense than setting the goals and then getting information after words. That's how we've envisioned having study session where you're getting budget information, asking questions, making good inquires on those things and then May and June working on goal statements in articulations. That's one way to work it."

Farmer asked, "Would it be okay with the Commission if the Vice Mayor and I worked together on coming up with some possible topics for the study session maybe to go out? Would that work out for everybody's calendar the next two Tuesday? What we've typically done is had study session from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm when we started the meetings at 6:35 pm and it seemed like two hours. Although it was long time, it really wasn't long enough. I don't know Matt, with your schedule."

Boley stated, "I can be there by 4:00 p.m. so that give us an hour and a half. Could you guys do it earlier than 4:00 p.m.?"

Herbert stated, "No."

Farmer asked, "What time?"

Herbert stated, "Tuesday's I could make it by 3:00 p.m."

Farmer stated, "So the next two Tuesday's at 3:00 p.m. work for the group?"

Amyx stated, "Yes."

Farmer asked, "So 3:00 p.m. to maybe 5:15 p.m. and then a half hour break for dinner? The next questions is do we want to do them here or do we want to do them somewhere in the community?"

Soden stated, "I want to make sure because I've attended some study sessions here as just as a public viewer. The microphones sometimes were either not turned on so you can hear people and even though you're sitting right over there, the way the sound in this room is structured, it was really difficult to hear. I just want to make sure they're amplified."

Boley stated, "I could be here."

Farmer stated, "We'll work on an agenda for those two meetings and send it out to the group by Thursday. Is that okay?"

Corliss stated, "So, 3:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>."

Soden stated, "Feel free to send me your ideas."

**I: CALENDAR:**

David Corliss, City Manager, reviewed calendar items

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Herbert,** to adjourn at 7:57 pm Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON** .

  
Diane M. Trybom (City Clerk)