

Minutes of the Independence City Commission's July 15, 2020 Special Meeting

The Independence City Commission met for a special meeting on July 15, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. at the Memorial Hall. Mayor Leonhard Caflisch, Commissioner Louis Ysusi and Commissioner Dean Hayse were present. Others present included:

City Staff

Kelly Passauer, Assistant City Manager/Zoning Administrator
David Schwenker, City Clerk/City Treasurer by phone
David Cowan, Director of Safety/ADA Coordinator
Shawn Wallis, Fire/EMS Chief
Jerry Harrison, Police Chief
Mike Passauer, Public Works Director
Barb Beurskens, Park and Zoo Director
Lacey Lies, Director of Finance
Barry Beurskens, Memorial Hall Maintenance
April Nutt, Director of Housing Authority

Visitors

Larry McHugh

I. SPECIAL SESSION

A. Call to Order

Mayor Caflisch called the meeting to order.

II. ITEMS FOR CITY COMMISSION ACTION

A. Consider ballot language for renewing special use sales tax.

On June 3, 2020 and June 23, 2020 the City Commission, along with the City Leadership Team, participated in special meetings to discuss the Special Use Sales Tax ballot question. The meetings were facilitated by Chuck Goad. During those meetings, several potential projects were discussed and ultimately refined.

Briefly discussed was the percentage for each bucket of projects: such as Mill Levy/Debt Repayment; Economic Development; Streets, Sidewalks and ADA; and Buildings and Facilities. Options discussed included:

1. Assign a specific percentage for Mill Levy/Debt Repayment (35-40%) and combine the remaining three categories into a second larger percentage (60-65%) to provide flexibility.
2. Assign a specific percentage to each specific bucket, such as 35% to Mill Levy/Debt Reduction; 25% to Economic Development; 25% Buildings and Facilities; and 15% to Streets, Sidewalks and ADA.

At the July 9, 2020 meeting the Commission tabled action on this item and requested that staff draft proposed ballot language that included blanks for the percentage of each

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area, and listed specific projects discussed at the worksessions regarding this topic. Staff sent the Commission the following by email on July 10, 2020:

April 3, 2012 Ballot Language:

Shall the City of Independence, Kansas, be authorized, pursuant to the authority of K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., to impose a special purpose one percent (1%) Citywide retailers' sales tax, the revenues to be derived therefrom to be used for the purpose of financing the costs of the following: (a) 0.25% for debt repayment and mill levy support; (b) 0.25% for building and facility improvements, including Riverside Park and Ralph Mitchell Zoo; (c) 0.25% for improvements to streets and sidewalks; and (d) 0.25% for improvements required for compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (including repayment of general obligation bonds of the City issued to pay the costs of such improvements); the collection of the special sales tax to commence on the expiration date of an existing 0.75% special Citywide retailers' sales tax approved at an election held on November 7, 2000, in the City for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the costs of certain quality of life improvements in the City (which is expected to be October 1, 2012); with the special sales tax to expire ten (10) years after its commencement?

DRAFT Proposed November 3, 2020 Language:

Shall the City of Independence, Kansas, be authorized, pursuant to the authority of K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., to impose a special purpose one percent (1%) Citywide retailers' sales tax, the revenues to be derived therefrom to be used for the purpose of financing the costs of the following:

- a) *0.__% for mill levy support and debt repayment*, including repayment of general obligation bonds of the City issued or to be issued to pay the costs of previous or future improvements;
- b) *0.__% for equipment, building and facility improvements*, including but not limited to Riverside Park and Ralph Mitchell Zoo; Riverside Beach Family Aquatic Center; neighborhood parks; ballfields, and other recreational facilities; Mt. Hope Cemetery wall; Public Safety including Police and Fire/EMS; City Hall; Library; Public Works; and City technology and communications infrastructure;
- c) *0.__% for improvements to streets and sidewalks*, including but not limited to drainage and stormwater management; alley improvements; required ADA improvements; public parking; traffic control; safe and accessible multimodal routes to schools, industry, healthcare, retail and recreation; and
- d) *0.__% for economic development initiatives*, including but not limited to Memorial Hall improvements; incentives for business retention and recruitment; initiatives for new recreational facilities such as a bowling alley, skating rink and Senior Citizens Center; wayfinding signage; downtown streetscape and aesthetics; housing initiatives; airport improvements; healthcare facility expansions; industrial park improvements; construction of new streets to schools, industries and healthcare; tourism initiatives; beautification initiatives, and expanded community broadband access;

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the collection of the special sales tax to commence on the expiration date of an existing 1% special Citywide retailers' sales tax approved at an election held on April 3, 2012, in the City for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the costs associated with debt repayment and mill levy support; building and facility improvements, including Riverside Park and Ralph Mitchell Zoo; improvements to streets and sidewalks; and improvements required for compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (which is expected to be October 1, 2022); with the special sales tax to expire ten (10) years after its commencement?

Staff is needing a final direction regarding the ballot language to provide to the bond attorneys so a resolution may be drafted for Commission consideration before the August deadline.

No action was taken until further clarification of the ballot language is made and new information that was asked for could be presented to the Commission.

Motion:

On the motion of Commissioner Hayse, seconded by Commissioner Ysusi the Commission moved to recess for a five-minute break. The open meeting will resume at 9:55 A.M.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hayse

Nay: None

The meeting resumed at 9:55 A.M.

III. WORKSESSION

A. Proposed 2021 Budget.

Director Lies reviewed the budget information.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mayor Caflisch moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ysusi seconded.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hayse

Nay: None

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Leonhard Caflich, Mayor

Louis Ysusi, Commissioner

Dean Hayse, Commissioner

Attest:

City Clerk/Treasurer