



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL
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Date: August 17, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: This meeting was held over Zoom, virtual platform.

Committee members present: Councilmembers Karen Hiller (Chair), Sylvia Ortiz, Neil Dobler

City staff present: Mike Haugen (Property Maintenance Division)

Call to Order

Chairwoman Hiller called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. Committee members and Staff introduced themselves.

Approve July 13, 2020 meeting minutes

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee member Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion approved 3:0.

Review & Discuss: Setting Public Hearings Regarding Property Maintenance

Committee member Dobler noted that with school beginning in early September, it may be best to hold off on scheduling face-to-face public meetings until the September meeting. Committee member Ortiz agreed.

Chairwoman Hiller drafted a short survey that could be sent out in electronic or paper form at the same time, or possibly before the beginning of public meetings. Committee member Ortiz suggested waiting until September to make any decisions about moving forward, as it may be overlooked at this time. Committee member Dobler agreed.

Chairwoman Hiller inquired if the committee had reviewed the draft survey, and to provide any input. There were no additional comments.

Other items before the committee

Committee member Dobler would like the committee to look at high-speed internet, and the need of the community for reliable internet bandwidth during this time. He felt this issue may fall into the public health and safety category and asked if it would be something for the committee to look into within the near future.

Chairwoman Hiller stated money has been put out from the State of Kansas to assist with providing more funding toward internet. AT&T and Cox Communication has been working with the State on this.

Chairwoman Hiller and Committee member Ortiz agreed this was an important topic to discuss.

Committee member Dobler noted there could be some competition on the equity of service provided by the internet companies between rural and suburban communities, as it is more expensive to provide service to homes that are farther out.

The committee will meet next on September 14, 2020.

Staff Update:

Mike Haugen, Property Maintenance Division Director, noted the current 2020 budget for Property Maintenance will remain the same. The 2021 budget will be overseen by the Topeka Police Department beginning in January.

Chairwoman Hiller inquired about staffing. Mr. Haugen stated the division is down one inspector. That opening will remain that way until the new year. In January 2021, Mr. Haugen will request the position be filled.

Chairwoman Hiller inquired if there were any other questions from the committee or Mr. Haugen. Committee member Dobler inquired if paper surveys could be provided to community members by the Property Maintenance inspectors/supervisors.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Meeting video can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/G_fgD7HGTRU