



# City of Lawrence

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR  
JEREMY FARMER

COMMISSIONERS  
LESLIE SODEN  
STUART BOLEY  
MATTHEW J. HERBERT  
MIKE AMYX

May 5, 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 Farmer presiding and members Amyx, Boley, Herbert, and Soden present.

### A. RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION:

1. Recognized Southwest Middle School Future City team.
2. Signed the "BizFuel" Memorandum of Understanding during 2015 Small Business Week.
3. Proclaimed Saturday, May 9, 2015 as Sertoma Bar-B-Q Cook-Off Day.
4. Proclaimed the week of May 10 – 16, 2015 as Police Week and Friday, May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.
5. Proclaimed the month of May, 2015 as Older Americans Month.
6. Proclaimed Saturday, May 9, 2015 as Letter Carriers Food Drive Day.

### B. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approved City Commission meeting minutes from 02/17/15, 02/24/15, and 03/02/15.
2. Received minutes from various boards and commissions:

Board of Zoning Appeals meetings of 02/05/15 and 03/05/15  
Historic Resources Commission meetings of 02/19/15 and 03/26/15  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting of 04/14/15  
Public Incentives Review Committee meeting of 03/26/15

3. Approved claims to 191 vendors in the amount of \$1,934,580.64 and payroll from April 19, 2015 to May 2, 2015 in the amount of \$2,033,343.21.
4. Approved license as recommended by the City Clerk's Office.

#### Drinking Establishment

Taco Zone  
Taco Zone LLC  
13 E 8<sup>th</sup> St.

#### Expiration

New License



5. Bid and purchase items:
  - a) **REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION.** Setting a bid date of May 19, 2015 for City Bid No. B1526 - Project No. PW1412, 2014 CDBG Sidewalk Gap Program.
  - b) Setting a bid date of May 19, 2015 for City Bid No. B1530 - Project No. PW1521, 31st Street and O'Connell Road Lighting Project.
  - c) Awarded the bid for four (4) ½-ton pickup trucks with four-wheel drive for the Utilities Department, to Laird Noller Ford, for \$111,836.
6. Adopted on first reading, Ordinance No. 9111, authorizing up to \$1,600,000 in industrial revenue bond (IRB) financing for Phase I of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center project located at 2920 Haskell Avenue, for the purpose of accessing a sales tax exemption on construction materials.
7. Adopted on second and final reading, the following ordinances:
  - a) Ordinance No. 9100, for a Special Use Permit (SUP-15-00019) for 12<sup>th</sup> & Haskell Recycle Center, to permit expansion of a Scrap and Salvage Operation, in conjunction with a Recycling, Collection and Processing Center, located at 1010 E 11<sup>th</sup> Street. (PC Item 3; approved 8-0 on 3/23/15)
  - b) Ordinance No. 9103, for landmark designation (L-14-00556) of 1501 Pennsylvania Street to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.
  - c) Ordinance No. 9104, for landmark designation (L-14-00562) of 900 New York Street to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.
  - d) Ordinance No. 9105, for landmark designation (L-15-00046) of 1711 Massachusetts Street to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.
  - e) Ordinance No. 9106, for landmark designation (L-15-00047) of 947 Louisiana Street to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.
  - f) Ordinance No. 9107, for landmark designation (L-15-00048) of 809 Vermont Street to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.
8. Approved the vacation of existing easements and acceptance of new utility and access easements as shown on the Minor Subdivision of Hutton Farms West No. 2, MS-15-00089.
9. Received the request from the Historic Resources Commission to start the Landmark nomination process for City owned properties that meet the criteria in Chapter 22 for listing in the Lawrence Register of Historic Places.
10. Received communication from the Historic Resources Commission on the proposed land transfer of a portion of Clinton Park.

11. Approved a Special Event Permit, SE-15-00202, for Grad Grill at the Adams Alumni Center located at 1266 Oread Avenue, on May 8, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Submitted by the KU Alumni Association, property owner of record.
12. Approved a Substantial Amendment to the 2014 CDBG Annual Action Plan and Investment Summary of the 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan for reallocation of \$12,000 from the Community Development Division Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program to the City of Lawrence Comprehensive Street Maintenance Program/Bike Lane Project, and reallocation of \$24,543 from The Tenants to Homeowners Cedarwood Infrastructure Project to the City of Lawrence United Way parking lot improvement/repair project. Set bid date of May 19, 2015 for City Bid No. B1531 - Project No. PW1522, United Way Parking Lot Improvements.
13. Accepted petitions requesting a Benefit District be formed to complete repairs, and mill and overlay on Mesa Way, from Lawrence Avenue to Frontier Way, and adopted Resolution No. 7116 and Resolution No. 7117, setting out the findings of the Governing Body and ordering the repairs and set bid date of May 19, 2015 for City Bid No. B1532, Project No. PW1514 – 2015 Overlay and Concrete Rehabilitation Program (tied w/ PW159 & PW1520 – Mesa Way Street Improvements – Pioneer Ridge Center/ Subdivision Benefit Districts).

Commissioner Amyx removed item 5 (a), setting a bid date of May 19, 2015 for City Bid No. B1526 - Project No. PW1412, 2014 CDBG Sidewalk Gap Program. Amyx stated there was one sidewalk, in particular, that I wanted to make mention of and it is the Ridge Court, on the west side of the street from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Street and according to the staff report, it feels a gap in the sidewalk and the connection to the United Way building. I need to let everybody know that part of this sidewalk will go through my mother's property. When you look at this particular gap project, United Way building is on the east side of the street and we're building a sidewalk on the west side of the street. I visited with the Public Works Director about maybe looking at this project being moved to the east side of the street, just because it would just leave one more gap that would be south of the United Way building and tie this into 26<sup>th</sup> Street in the future. As this goes to bid, one of the things he had suggested to me is they could look at the opportunity to look at this on the east side of the street versus the west.

Chuck Soules, Public Works Director, stated as Commissioner Amyx mentioned, we will take a look at this before we put it out to bid. If you want to go ahead and set the bid date, then

we will do this tomorrow before we put it out to bid, we will make those changes. It makes sense, being on the east side.

Commissioner Amyx stated I did want to mention, I did visit with the City Attorney about any conflict that I may have. I don't have any connection other than it is my mother's property. I guess if it's built there then I have to show up, right? It seems to me if we're trying to connect the United Way building and we're spending money on the east side of the street in front of the United Way, it probably makes sense to have a continuation, sometime in the future, being on the east side of the street.

Vice Mayor Soden asked, is there a bus stop there?

Soules stated not that I'm aware of. We'll take a look at it tomorrow and if there's something different, we'll bring it back before we put it out, but at this point, it makes a lot of sense.

Mayor Farmer asked if we changed from the west side of the street to the east side of the street, does that trigger a new process.

Danelle Dressler, Community Development Manager, stated the process did not need to be restarted.

Mayor Farmer called for public comment. None.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Soden,** to set bid date of May 19, 2015 for City Bid No. B1526 - Project No. PW1412, 2014 CDBG Sidewalk Gap Program, with an addendum to move the sidewalk to the east side of the street. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager, presented the report regarding a Draft Airport Environmental Assessment Study available for review; and, a Cultural Plan Community Meeting Scheduled.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ted Boyle stated we wanted to speak about RS-5 zoning and we're against this RS-5 zoning. North Lawrence was the last neighborhood to sign-off on that way back when the City started that zoning project. Since then, we've had some lots that have been built on and this last one has come to the attention of the North Lawrence Improvement Association. This lot is less than 30 feet wide and there was a house that was built on it that is two stories tall and is taller than any house in the neighborhood in that block and it doesn't match up with anything in there. I talked to Matt Bond, Stormwater Engineer, and it was not in the floodplain because it's on the south side of the tracks, but how big a house and how small a lot can you go down to because this is ridiculous. The neighbors on both sides don't agree and don't like this project. We've had over 150 homes built in North Lawrence in the last 15 years and they all have been on RS-7 lots because of the stormwater problem that we have in North Lawrence and now the developers take advantage of this RS-5 zoning and if you all would like to see a micro house on a microchip, it's at 429 Elm. It doesn't fit into our neighborhood and when these new residents of these other homes that buy a home on a 7,000 square foot lot, RS-7, the first thing you ask them is why they chose North Lawrence and the first thing they say is rural atmosphere, number two is the school, and number three is walking the distance downtown. Those were the three reasons why new home owners and established homes are sold in North Lawrence. Now we've got this abuse of smaller lots. A 30 foot wide lot and you've got a two story house on it. I think that this is going to be future discussion of this Commission that maybe that RS-5 zoning doesn't work in certain parts of our community. We'll be talking about that.

Michael Almon, Sustainability Action Network, stated once again thank you for last evening round table discussion about the budget. A lot of good food for thought came out and I think everybody is thinking creatively now. I did have some ideas that we didn't get a chance to get around to last night that could flush out some of the things that we talked about so I just wanted to present that. I'm not going to, get into any particular projects or programs in detail. I just want to go over some general principals and prospective that you might consider in your

deliberations in the weeks coming forward in the budget. Non-motorized transportation which is something that Sustainability Action has been talking about in the budgets for three years now. It refers to people who walk and people who bicycle. Thought most of these people do own motor vehicles, there choice is to minimize fossil fuel use, maximize trips on foot and by bicycle and stay fit and healthy. Although our transit system is more efficient then single occupancy motor vehicles, our buses do still burn about a million dollars' worth of fuel every year. We're focused more on non-motorized/non-fossil fuel transportation. That's not to say we're opposed to transit because it is definitely efficient. However, that term non-personal vehicle which I think recently was an attempt to kind of broaden the scope of what we're talking about, it doesn't quite capture that essence because things like taxi's, limo's, and shuttles, they're non-personal but they likewise consume fossil fuel and quite a bit. People who walk or bicycle are very vulnerable in collisions with motor vehicles. We want to differentiate between motor vehicles and non-motor vehicles that's one of the main reasons right there. This is a public safety issue. Every parent in this room knows that the safety of our children on bicycles are crossing the streets is a core community value. The bicycle auto collisions statistics simply one's that I personally have gathered tell us of the six non-fatal collisions just in the past three years and the seven fatalities collisions in the past 18 years, make this a public safety issue. Simply getting from here to there shouldn't entail a un-do risk of death. These public safety concerns call for our highest priority. A dedicated non-motorized transportation line item gives the Commission the choice and the latitude to locate sidewalks and bicycle lanes where they will provide priority connectivity and the greatest safety. It's a local and predictable funding source. It's not subject to the whim of federal highway or KDOT funding nor to the community locations that merely conform to those major motorway projects. It's something that gives us much more options and much more opportunities if we have our own line item for non-motorized vehicles. At the 2016 Budget Study Session on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, this year, when City Manager Corliss presented the Capital Improvement Plan Update from 2015 to 2019, that line item that's named sidewalk

program as of last year still had not been updated to non-motorized transportation. So please correct that oversight in the coming weeks because back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, last year, when you approved the budget, Mayor Amyx had requested that change. Commissioner Schumm had said, I would phrase it as non-motorized transportation activity and then Vice Mayor Farmer also stated, bike lane work and sidewalks, both. At this point, I will get into some money figures. These last two points are what Sustainability Action brought up three years ago at the budget hearing and we still are focused on these two as key. Nearly all of our peer communities employ a full-time bicycle pedestrian engineer or a coordinator trained as an engineer. This became apparent at the Safe Routes for All Townhall and from my personal research at New Partners for Smart Growth conferences. Such a professional on the Lawrence staff would perform a uniquely important role by connecting the viewpoints of Public Works Street Division, Public Works Traffic Division, Parks and Recreation, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Traffic Safety Commission and whatever advisory boards we may have. For example, having that kind of coordination on from such a staff person currently, would have avoided the excess speed and volume problems that are now occurring on 27<sup>th</sup> Street. So please allow in the 2016 contingency funding, for this position at approximately \$150,000 in anticipation of a possible recommendation by the Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Taskforce. The Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Taskforce will be making project funding recommendation as well, by the end of December this year, assuming they complete their task by then and even if they do meet that deadline, those recommendations won't affect Lawrence budgeting until the 2017 fiscal cycle. On at least two occasions, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August last year and the 24<sup>th</sup> of February this year, former Commissioner Schumm called for the Commission to put money on that non-motorized transportation line item in anticipation of a taskforce recommendation. He stressed the wisdom of having that money ready for the 2016 and to start talking about that sooner, rather than later. So please begin now to allocate approximately \$500,000, a half a million dollars, to the non-motorized transportation line item, ready to begin construction in 2016 of the taskforce

recommendations that will come to you at the end of this year. That would be both for bicycle facilities, bicycle lanes and sidewalks. So that's some additional information just to put it more in a context of what sustainability action has been focused on and hopefully it will give you some more ideas of your own.

Mayor Farmer stated thank you very much, Mr. Almon, for your advocacy and for this plan. We appreciate it.

**D. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. ~~**DEFERRED FOR 2 WEEKS AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT. Considered approving rezoning, Z-15-00022, approximately 0.27 acres from CS-UC (Commercial Strip with Urban Conservation Overlay) District to CS-UC (Commercial Strip with Urban Conservation Overlay) District with modification to the zoning restriction to permit a bar use without a food sales requirement, located at 804 Pennsylvania St. Submitted by Flint Hills Holdings on behalf of Ohio Mortgage Investors LLC, property owner of record. Considered adopting on first reading, Ordinance No. 9101, to rezone (Z-15-00022) approximately 0.27 acres from CS-UC (Commercial Strip with Urban Conservation Overlay) District to CS-UC (Commercial Strip with Urban Conservation Overlay) District with modification to the zoning restriction to permit a bar use without a food sales requirement, located at 804 Pennsylvania St. (PC Item 4; approved 6-2 on 3/23/15)**~~
2. **Received a recommendation from the Public Incentive Advisory Committee and considered City participation in a City-County assistance package for Integrated Animal Health, including a three-year, \$100,000 forgivable loan and a three-year, \$115,000 lease subsidy for 700 square feet of space at the Lawrence Bioscience Technology Business Center main facility.**

Britt Crum-Cano, Economic Development Coordinator, introduced the item

G.R. Underwood, President of the BTBC, introduced his company and talked about their involvement with Integrated Animal Health.

Dr. Blake Holly, CEO of Integrated Animal Health, stated their company was very proud in putting their global headquarters in Lawrence. He presented their company's report to the PIRC Committee which was a matter of public record and thanked PIRC for their unanimous endorsement.

Crum-Cano presented the staff report regarding the analysis and recommendations.

Mayor Farmer called for public comment. None.

Vice Mayor Soden stated it was certainly something that I'm excited about. I'm a big fan of the BTBC (Bioscience & Technology Business Center). So permanent full-time jobs with benefits is exactly what I campaigned for and what people wanted. I'm very excited and thank-you for choosing Lawrence.

Commissioner Amyx stated Dr. Holly again, thank you. The day of the announcement I really appreciated the level of excitement in everybody's voices as they stood in the BTBC and talked about the commitment to our community and to the partnership. I do think it is important that we almost remain like pest after we get through our 3 year agreement. We do want to be a part of the company and understand that we are here to help and make sure that every success happens for you and your company and make sure we stay in touch throughout this entire project because animal health as mentioned early that we are becoming that hub and I think that that's important. Laverne thank you for all the work that I know that you were involved Laverne Epp and GR Underwood thank you and congratulations and we look forward to many years of partnership, Dr. Holly.

Mayor Farmer stated I said what I said at the PIRC meeting, we want to help you be here, grow here, and stay here over the long term.

**Moved by Soden, seconded by Amyx,** to approve city participation in an assistance package for Integrated Animal Health that includes a three year, \$100,000 forgivable loan and a three year \$115,000 lease subsidy for 700 square feet of space at the Lawrence Bioscience Technology Business Center main facility, and authorize staff to finalize and the Mayor to execute a performance agreement with the company. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Received the Public Incentives Review Committee recommendation for the 2014 Annual Report: Economic Development Support & Compliance.**

Britt Crum-Cano, Economic Development Coordinator, presented the staff report.

Mayor Farmer stated very thorough job. I got a lot of feedback from folks who said that they love all the information and transparency and for every dollar invested for a taxpayer to receive a private investment of \$5.40 in return are remarkable. Thanks for the good work.

Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager, said I completely would second all your comments and I appreciate those. Britt did an excellent job on this report. One of the things when we were looking at other comparative reports that other communities have, the level of detail in this report is really outstanding and so I just wanted to complement her on this job and let you all know about the thoroughness of that particularly compared to how other communities are collecting their performance data on these things.

Mayor Farmer stated we have high expectations as a community and you're exceeding those.

Mayor Farmer called for public comment. None

Commissioner Amyx stated just one fast comment that Britt brought up that had to do with the tax abatement portion. It talks about all the companies that receive a tax abatement in 2014, met their compliance measures as per the performance agreements signed with the City. I think that that is so important because we always get a lot of questions like, "Do we measure these performances", absolutely, and that we stay on top to make sure that companies that receive public incentive are meeting or exceeding the performance agreements that we have. I appreciate staying on top of that and thank the companies that are doing such a great job in meeting those expectations.

Mayor Farmer stated to create 330 jobs we have public investment in the amount of \$181,318 and while that doesn't take into consideration, I think Commissioner Gaughan pointed out in the PIRC meeting, all of what it costs to provide those jobs just on a basic job per public investment, it's \$549 annually per job, which is unprecedented. That's very cheap for job creation for our tax dollars, especially when the company's average wages is \$12,000 a year above the wage floor.

**Moved by Soden, seconded by Amyx,** to receive and approve the 2014 Annual Report: Economic Development Support & Compliance. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Considered adopting the 2015 Action Plan and Investment Summary of the 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan, and considered adopting Resolution No. 7119, authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreements for the 2015 CDBG and HOME programs.**

Danelle Dressler, Community Development Manager, presented the staff report.

Commissioner Amyx said going back to the HOME Grant, did you say that goes into transitional housing?

Dressler stated yes. The Tenant Base Rental Assistance Program that the Housing Authority runs, that's HOME funding. Its two years up to twenty-four months. They have a priority for homeless folks, individuals, families and case management.

Commissioner Amyx asked how many people roughly, are we taking care of in this program?

Dressler stated she didn't have that information. I want to say maybe around fifteen to seventeen families. They've suffered quite a bit when this grant was cut because their allocation almost got cut in half.

Commissioner Amyx asked was it \$650,000 a year ago?

Dressler stated it was four years ago. The Housing Authority got a \$175,000 roughly and they were getting \$300,000 so that was a very big cut and it was a really great program to help get folks off the street and into housing with stabilization services.

Commissioner Herbert stated I'm looking at the CDBG public service on your 2015 Investment Summary Draft. How were the allocations to the various neighborhood associations? How are those divided up? I guess what I'm really asking is why are some neighborhood associations receiving more than others?

Dressler stated not everybody asked for the same thing. When they go through all the applications it's broken down into several things; not all neighborhoods pay their coordinator the

same amount, not all of them have the same amount of folks and they have to send newsletters so printing costs are different. There are a lot of variables that goes into that.

Commissioner Herbert stated we also appeared to have some neighborhood associations not on the list receiving funding.

Dressler stated correct. There's more eligible for the funding than apply for the funding.

Commissioner Herbert stated interesting.

Commissioner Amyx asked Patrick, how many hours did you all put in this year?

Patrick Wilbur, Chair of the CDAC, stated that is tough to say. They had about 3 or 4 meetings.

Dressler stated they started meeting in January and actually we're wrapped up by the end of February. It was about a 350 page PDF when it goes out to the committee.

Wilbur stated they all read every word of it.

Mayor Farmer called for public comment.

Ted Boyle stated I would like to thank the CDBG Board and Dani for helping North Lawrence out. You know you ask about how much goes to neighborhoods. North Lawrence just asked for what we need for operating expenses which is pretty minimal and we always ask for some type of capital improvement. Before, it's been drainage tubes, neighborhood watch signs and program, curb and sidewalks and we've been able to do it all. This year we asked for a traffic calming device over on Elm Street, the same street Woodlawn is on. Without this CDBG money, we could not improve the health, safety and welfare of the North Lawrence residents so I just wanted to thank the Board and Dani.

Commissioner Amyx stated I think we're taking an amount of money and trying to stretch it as far as we possibly can, help as many people as they can, as many neighborhoods as we possibly can with improvements. Every year, I'm just shocked at how this goes down. This was one amount of money that the Federal Government brings in that truly helps people that are the hardest hit. I remember it used to be a million dollars and it still didn't go far enough, but the

truth of the matter is somebody is not actually seeing it. Thank you for all your work Patrick. I know so many hours go into this in trying to make just the best recommendations in trying to help the most.

**Moved by Boley, seconded by Soden,** to adopt the 2015 Action Plan and Investment Summary of the 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan, and adopt Resolution No. 7119, authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreements for the 2015 CDBG and HOME programs. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Considered authorizing staff to proceed with the 10 year design storm frequency of 100 cfs and consider approving the engineering scope of services fee for plans and specifications from Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc., for Project No. PW1133, Maple Street Pump Station, in the amount of \$75,944.**

Matt Bond, P.E., Stormwater Engineer, presented the staff report.

Commissioner Amyx stated with what we're being asked to approve tonight, it's not going to take care of the problem?

Bond stated it will. What we're going to do in the plans we're going to put the major piece of the pump station down the river, but then as an alternate, because of the pricing that we had last time, we've got that as an alternate piece. As long as it comes in under, we're going to build the whole thing that's what I'm hopeful that we can get the whole thing put together. That will actually be in the plan set, but to make sure that I get from the pump station to the river, that's the main part of the project and then the alternate would be north of the pump station over to Lyon's Park.

Commissioner Amyx stated again, how much is our estimate on that one piece?

Bond stated its 4.32 million. I'm hoping the bids come in lower this time so we get the whole thing built. There are a couple of contributing factors that we've taken into account for the rebid process. The major one was 6<sup>th</sup> Street which was going to be rebuilt, the west side of it because it's an existing concrete street. There's a sanitary sewer line that runs down the middle of 6<sup>th</sup> Street so I couldn't put the storm sewer right in the middle of 6<sup>th</sup>. What we did, the existing

storm sewer runs on the east side so we took the new proposed alignment and moved it over basically to the west curb line of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. When the contractors were looking at that, they were afraid that they were going to end up tearing up the whole street so they artificially inflated their bids to cover themselves in case they had to wipe out the entire street and rebuilt the whole thing. One of the things that we have in the new proposal is the entire street will be rebuilt but it will be in asphalt from the very start. That takes all their guess work and they don't have to worry about that. We're also adding a poly propylene pipe material as a bid alternate as well so we'll have the plastic pipe industry and the concrete guys hopefully sharpening their pencils up knowing that both of them are going to be bidding against one another. The design change has also made smaller diameter pipes which in turn makes shallower trenches and less shoring. The pump station with the design flow going down, and then we end up with submersible pumps which in turn affect the pump station design itself so we'll get some cost savings out of that as well.

Commissioner Amyx stated if we could go back again to the alternate. The 4 million dollars was for the whole deal, right?

Bond stated 4.32 is what we have for an estimate from the pump station to the levy. What I'm hopeful with this next bid that will get it close enough to that amount that we can build the whole thing.

Commissioner Amyx stated I just wanted to make sure I understood.

Bond stated I agree. I think there was misconception with the bidders. I think there was timing with the Waste Water Treatment Plant at the time and the economic situation for contractors at the time. We didn't get a lot of bidders. I already had one additional contractor contact me and I think there are a couple of others out there. I'm hopeful the original two bidders plus another one that actually bid on the Wastewater Treatment Plant is going to bid on this as well so that will hopefully drive costs down.

Commissioner Boley asked, can you explain the difference in pumps with the submersible pumps?

Bond stated what was in the original bid, when we bid this in March, we had 5 pumps: a sump pump that will take care of the majority of the flow the pump station will see at any given time, there were 2 intermediate pumps and then there were 2 bigger pumps to handle the really big flows. One of the things that we had tied into the original bid was that the intermediate and the big pumps had to be from the same manufacturer with the thinking that maintenance would be easier for getting pump parts and things of that nature for maintenance. The contractors told us that that was one of the things and that we were getting an inflated price. That we were artificially inflating the price because of that, but not that we've opened it up to any manufacturer and lower the size of the pumps, we'll get a cost savings out of that. Instead of having above ground pumps they'll essentially be underground, they'll be submersible so we won't have the structured cost that we had in the original bid.

Commissioner Boley stated it just seemed like that was a big difference.

Bond stated yes and part of that was because when the design flow went down that helped out a lot. One of the things that when this first came in, because the original design flow recommended by the North Lawrence drainage study was over 300 CFS. That's an extremely conservative number based off of that land use map that I showed you earlier. It constituted a lot more run-off when Bartlett and West and CDM Smith started looking at that, I said I don't know if that necessarily is going to happen, just because of RS-7 and RS-5 zoning, about the density increasing. Well, that means more run-offs. I think the more prudent thing in this situation would be to anticipate it's going to probably stay as is as far as all the in-fill development. Now obviously, some of the outer regions are going to change, but only what drains from system 6 is what we're talking about. So everything on this map, just because it's colored on this, it doesn't drain through that system, it's only the watershed that we really connect there. What's highlighted in white is the only thing that's going to drain to the pump

station itself. When we looked at that, I said well, we need to be a little more realistic so that's where we ended up with the original design flow of 195 cfs. We tweaked some other things with time and concentration and things of that nature, run-off co-efficiency and that's how we're able to get it down to 100. I still think that's pretty good because what we have at the second street pump station, which does drain about 1200 acres and is Maple Grove Drainage, the piece immediately west of the airport and then there's another leg of it that comes in here off of the west side of 24/59. There's about 1200 cfs when you look at the flood insurance study. The pump capacity at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station is about 90 cfs so even with that we've got more pumping capacity with the Maple Street Pump Station.

Commissioner Herbert asked do we lose any life expectancy if we go with that polypropylene pipe. What was the reason for originally doing concrete?

Bond stated basically one of the things that the criteria that we have currently is what we call for concrete pipe under the road, but polypropylene would be under it. After talking with some of the service industry reps, they changed my mind, so to speak for that. They convinced me it's a sanitite pipe that is probably not going to see, due to the depth, the vehicular load on top if it even though the curb and gutter section is right over the top of it. As you dig deeper and you put a load on top of it, it tends to spread out at a 45 degree angle so it's farther away. It's not like our normal crossroad pipes that would be 3 or 4 feet deep that would be seeing an impact of a vehicle load on top of it.

Mayor Farmer called for public comment.

Ted Boyle, North Lawrence Improvement Association, stated I want to tell you, we've been dealing with this since the 1993 flood of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. By 1995 the North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station was constructed. Matt had referenced to that pump station to the proposed pump station of today on Maple Street. The difference is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station has a tremendous amount of reservoir capacity to the Maple Grove Drainage District. To slow that water down and pond it up there and that 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station, I've seen it across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street,

across North Street and all the way out to TP Junction, that's where that goes. That creates that ditch to be full of water waiting to be pumped by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station. Here's the deal on Maple Street, you don't have that retention. Lyon's Park is our retention and that park wasn't there previously. If you get a 1 or 2 inch rain in a 24 hour period, you've got 3 to 4 feet of water in Lyons Park. The City brought the property from the Lathrom's at 7<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln. This is a result of the houses that were built in that area and lack of stormwater infrastructure that was not done when those houses were built. City staff kept telling us that it would be alright, but digging the ditch deeper and wider, didn't accomplish anything. Everything has to be pumped out of North Lawrence, we're flat and we've got a levy on this outside of the Kansas River. We got a levy on the north side, Mudcreek. So where does that water going to go. Check and see how many pumps we got. We just had the underpass pumps redone when we did 2<sup>nd</sup> and Locust intersection. Fortunately, that underpass doesn't flood anymore, but that doesn't take any water out of the residential section of North Lawrence. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Pump Station doesn't take any water out of the residential part of North Lawrence. We started out at 190 cfs. We went down to 131 cfs and now we're at 99 cfs. We had two 48 inch pipes going into a 60 inch pipe. Now we've got one 48 inch pipe going all the way so what's deal. Are we going to have to do another pump in the future? Are we going to have to wait another 20 years? I'm probably not going to be here in 20 years to harass you all, but I get somebody. The deal is we need to do this whole job right now. Residents in North Lawrence have been waiting for this for 20 years and now we're cutting down. We're all for this pump, but we want adequate stormwater services in North Lawrence. We pay taxes like everybody else and so we've been waiting on this for 20 years and then I don't know how many Commission's ago, it was when Sue Hack was Mayor and that's when RS-5 zoning came along. Well that ruined the whole damn thing right there. You get denser, you get more roof tops, you get more driveways, you get more storm water run-off and we don't have any pumps. Let's do what we've got to do and let's do the right thing and let's get it all done at one time.

Commissioner Amyx stated it's time to get this done. It's been going on for quite a while and the financing has been appropriated. Matt, thanks for all the work that you've done and Ted, thanks for bringing it to our attention. I kind of forget about it from time to time, but you're a great person for letting us know.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Herbert,** to authorize staff to proceed with the 10 year design storm frequency of 100 cfs and approve the engineering scope of services fee for plans and specifications from Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc., for Project No. PW1133, Maple Street Pump Station, in the amount of \$75,944. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Directed staff on the 2015 City of Lawrence Community Survey.**

Kevyn Gero, Management Intern, presented the staff report.

Commissioner Herbert said the \$29,950, we, as a City, are committed to pay that, correct?

Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager, stated we've signed the contract at this point.

Mayor Farmer called for public comment.

Michael Almon stated I see some improvements in my estimation to the survey. I appreciate that. I like to point out a few things that I still feel warrant some more clarification. Let's start with number 6, perceptions of safety. Not included were suggestions of mine for the safety of intersections navigated on foot; intersections navigated by bicycle and children walking and bicycling to school. Now the last one, children walking and bicycling to school, that does correlate with number 16, it is covered there so that's not too big of a concern, but the first two, those areas for people who walk and people who bicycle are some of the most unsafe places for people who walk and bicycle, intersections and crosswalk are too of course between intersection. This I'm referring to controlled intersection, not any intersection. I'm concern that that is not included. On number 3, the availability of bicycle parking, I appreciate you adding that. I guess staff and ETC actually who did this, but I feel it important that it also includes the wording that I suggested, nearer to your destination. One of the major advantages and could be

an incentive for people to bicycle instead of driving motor vehicles which causes more congestion, caused parking problems downtown, whatever, is that a bicycle is, in effect, a portal to portal form of transportation. It can be extremely convenient, but if you can't get to your destination very easily, if you have to park downtown in a parking garage and then walk two blocks, you're not going to have as much incentive as if you can park immediately in front of where you're going. So that's why I suggested that wording. On number 10, City Maintenance, conditions of streets, condition of sidewalks, the streets being primarily for motor vehicles, granite bicycles do travel on streets, but on a lot of streets not very safely, residential streets for the most part it's okay to mix bicycles and motor vehicles. I think to have the third mode of transportation here, condition of bicycle lanes or bicycle facilities or whatever, in your neighborhood, rounds out that whole issue. So I'd appreciate if that were included. In number 16, the availability of safe routes for children walking or bicycling to school, I appreciate that being added. That's excellent and it's a major issue in a lot of people's minds and also the connectivity of bicycle lanes, I appreciate that being added because connectivity is what we're really talking about for an effective bicycle transportation system. Overall, I'm very pleased, other than those two issues that I would like to have my comments included. Just to wrap up, on number 22, the one which I like to refer to as vote with your dollars. If you have a \$100 would you spend it on blah, blah, blah? I see that that's been rephrased and there are a couple of options here. I kind of like the idea of vote with your dollars. I mean this survey is going to be part of the budget deliberations, its coming back to you in a month or two as part of your budget and maybe having some items there with dollar amounts, might be a good idea. If not, then of the two options that staff had come up with or ETC, I think I would prefer option 1 simply because it spells it out more completely and it's more understandable. Those are my comments and I appreciate your interest and further revisions. Oh, and I like adding the zip code.

Vice Mayor Soden stated well question 22 is what I had the most issue with and I talked quite a bit to Casey about it and I think these two options are actually really great. I even

thought that maybe both questions could stay in there. I particularly like option 1 that got more at what I was trying to say, so thank you.

Commissioner Boley stated I like Option 1.

Commissioner Amyx stated Option 1 is fine.

Commissioner Herbert stated it's still 7 pages long which I think is our biggest obstacle. I showed the survey to quite a few people just to try and get some feedback and the thing I kept hearing from everybody is how much time do you expect us to devote to this. I'm really afraid that we'll get 2500 of these sent out to the community and you're going to have a lot of pretty disinterested people in taking the time to fill 7 pages of this out. The reason I asked the question about whether or not this \$29,950 is already been allocated and is committed is all be perfectly honest with you that I'm not necessarily a big advocate of this survey's existence. I went back and looked at the 2011. We sent out 2500 of these and we got back a little over 1,000 of them which at that price tag means we're currently paying about 30 dollars per person's opinion. I just got to believe in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we have a way more efficient way that we can gather feedback. I think it's kind of ironic that today we're talking about spending 30,000 on this mail out survey, 24 hours after we unveiled to the public, Lawrence Talks which is a way for people to reach out to us through social media and we can connect with a greater number of people at a far reduced price. It's all chiseled into stone now, by previous Commissioners, I understand that, I just want to kind of want to publically acknowledged that I'm not a huge advocate of this expenditure and now we did in 2007 and 2011 and I know we're doing it 2015. I'm not going to support doing it in 2019.

Vice Mayor Soden stated that leads me to ask a question. If we were to do something like cut it in half, would that reduce the cost of it?

Toomay stated I don't believe it's a dollar for dollar and it's not going to be half as expensive if we cut it in half. The mailing and distribution of the survey isn't where the bulk of the cost comes from, it's from the analysis; it's from the follow-up phone calls to get to the right

number of responses; it's the tabulation; it's the manual entry of the data; it's creation of the final report and all those supporting maps and GIS mapping that goes into it. That's where the bulk of those expenditures are coming from. The number of pages doesn't necessarily affect it.

Commissioner Amyx stated Scott, Horizon 2020 ETC Survey that was done, how many pages were there?

Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services Director, stated it wasn't as comprehensive. It was focused mainly on planning issues.

Commissioner Amyx stated it was still quite a number of pages.

McCullough stated it was a number of pages. They anticipated 10 minutes or under to complete. We got incredible response. We were seeking 800 and got close to 1500. There was a real interest.

Toomay stated similarly our last survey the number of responses that we got equated to a 52% response rate which ETC reported as off the charts in terms of people responding to a survey. I understand the concerns about the length, but I would offer that at that time the on-line option did not exist. It was just about paper or a follow up phone call. Now people who receive the document will have the ability to go on-line and do it which I anticipate would somehow alleviate some of those issues which it seems faster when you're clicking through it on a computer as opposed to having to circle it as you go on the paper.

Mayor Farmer stated Matt, I understand where you're coming from in relationship to the expenditure and that sort of thing, but I think it's imperative that we find different mechanisms in order to get feedback from the community and having comparative data to look at glaring issues related. I think, from what I remember of the survey Chuck was used to state some glaringly obvious deficiencies to our infrastructure, back in 2008 which enabled us to then essentially pass a tax that was able to give use focus money and 5 million dollars annually to make sure to repair people's streets. I mean anecdotally we know that it's true, but nobody's every down

here talking about how their street needs to be fixed and we get the occasional issue like we're going to hear about next week in relationship to traffic calming on 27<sup>th</sup>, but in relationship specifically to overall community deficiencies in relationship to issues, I think having some comparative data from 2007 to 2011 to 2015, I would be in support of doing this more often because I don't think we could listen enough to our community. One of the Capital Improvement listen sessions, Casey refresh my memory if I'm misremembering this, but the sense from that group, I believe Fire Station 5 was, we have to have more ways to engage with the public. I'm excited about Lawrence Listens, don't get me wrong and Megan's done an awesome job with it, but wasn't there a conversation there centered around, what if you don't have internet and what if you don't have a computer. Am I remembering that conversation right?

Toomey stated there were folks that shared those comments.

Mayor Farmer stated a way for us to interact with them that isn't specific to having a computer or the internet. For the purposes of that and the comparative data is really helpful because of the questions in relationship to downtown or people not being satisfied with parks and recreation with the availability of gym space, I would anticipate that's probably going to be higher now, then it was 4 years ago. Those would be my only comments and feedback. It is expensive.

Commissioner Herbert stated I hear you Jeremy, I think the timing of it, to me, is somewhat interesting. We just elected 60% of a new Commission and this was less than a month ago. I'm not trying to stop getting feedback from the community. I just knocked on 4,000 doors. Stuart Boley just knocked on 4,000 doors. Leslie Soden just knocked on 4,000 doors. We've had feedback from the community. We're asking multiple choice questions about economic development. You want to know what people think about economic development then why don't you talk to the 3 of us because we just talked to about 5,000 people about economic development and this survey is not even going to half of that and a month after we

had an election, I don't know. It's going to pass, it's going to happen and I'll support it, but I just want to kind of publically state that this is not something that I would have been a champion for. Let's put it that way.

Mayor Farmer stated, thanks for those comments.

Vice Mayor Soden asked is it going to any KU Students because they're about to get out of school and I don't want it just sitting in their mailbox.

Toomay stated that's the reason that it's important that we get direction from you all tonight. If we're able to get it back to ETC by this Friday, which we should be able to meet, depending on your decision here tonight. ETC has assured us that they'll get it out in enough time that folks are able to get it before they typically leave for the summer. Do any of you have thoughts on any of Michael's items that were left? Is it your direction to take all of his comments and put them in?

Commissioner Herbert asked is that survey just kind of a rough draft. If it passed today was that the final survey?

Toomay stated yes.

Commissioner Herbert stated if that's the case there's a typo that I wanted to point out. It was the one "children walking to or biking to" the word walking is missing.

Mayor Farmer stated there were a couple of them, near to destination on number 3, availability of bicycle parking.

Toomay stated I think staff's thought and ETC's thought on that one was to be consistent with the availability of parking for vehicles. I understand Mr. Almon's issues, just so you understand the other side of when we were considering the feedback that was where we came down on that.

Mayor Farmer stated and the other was 6, adding navigating busy intersection so foot and on a bicycle.

Commissioner Amyx stated I would do the change then on number 6. I wouldn't go with the parking change.

Commissioner Boley stated I'm okay with changing number 6. I also appreciate the Section 22, Option 1 that you recommended.

Toomay stated so I'm hearing consensus on option 1 for question 22 and then the intersection question, add those to number 6.

Mayor Farmer asked do we want to add near to your destinations on number 3 or amend that.

Commissioner Amyx stated, I say the way that it's written here.

Commissioner Boley stated I'm okay with that.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Boley,** to approve the 2015 City of Lawrence Community Survey with the addendums. Aye: Amyx, Boley, Farmer and Soden. Nay: Herbert. Motion carried.

**F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager, outlined potential future agenda items.

**G: COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Mayor Farmer stated I have one in relationship to how we want to proceed with setting goals as a group. There's been some discussion about taking a day or perhaps two half days to have conversations as a group. Vice Mayor Soden had articulated maybe wanting to do something differently. Other than that, we just kind of need to get something on the calendar and some direction so that we can let staff know kind of what the plan is and what we want to do.

Vice Mayor Soden stated I bring this up because we got the email today saying hey, what day are you available. When I read it the first thought that popped into my head as, hey, we're already meeting every Tuesday night. So I kind of started thinking about how we can accomplish this just during our regular meetings instead of having a special all-day one. So just

a random idea and it's not a good or bad idea, for example, we can cover on the regular agenda at the end perhaps one each Tuesday night for six weeks. That was just a thought. It doesn't have to be that. I was just trying to think of how we could cover it on our regular agenda.

Mayor Farmer stated my only feedback to that as I share with you an email today, is we're getting done relatively early tonight. If we would have had the first agenda item, my sense is it would have taken longer. The goal setting session really, we need to give it more than sloppy seconds, I think as far as later on at night when it's not 9:30. I just hate to have us not to have adequate time to have conversation or to not fully be present after a 3 or 3 ½ hour meeting to not be able to give it our full attention. I would be curious to hear what other Commissioners think.

Vice Mayor Soden stated I was also a little concerned that perhaps the retreat or whatever we would label it, a special day, might be getting more into details than I really ever wanted to get into details. I don't want to get into where we create some kind of action plan or work plan that involves micromanaging the public departments. I don't see us doing that and so I was kind of concern that we might be setting ourselves up to create a detailed action plan that would be the outcome of it so I want to be careful that we don't do that. I personally don't feel like that's my roll.

Mayor Farmer stated the way that I envisioned that was staff can thrive when they have good direction from the Commission. I don't think it was so much micro-managing them as much as it was just being able to articulate a very clear direction for information that we needed in relationship to the 6 issues, maybe more study sessions that we needed to have, possible budget implications and just conversations because these are really kind of vague things and some of them don't really have anything behind them. In relationship to mental health, it's not so much I was thinking of staff issue in relationship to micro-managing them, but we really haven't talked about what the 5 of us would want to see in relationship to progressing mental health issues in the community. I think any input we can give would help staff do a better job. I

don't think its micro-managing you guys at all. Right now mental health is hanging out there wan you guys have no idea what in the world we're thinking. That was the sense, not to have in two years were going to accomplish A, B, C, D, and E, but in relationship to mental health Commissioner Boley, Vice Mayor Soden, Farmer, Amyx and Herbert, what do we think about that and then how can we kind of find some common ground to craft some ways for us to continue have that evolving conversation over the next few years. Those are my thoughts anyway.

Commissioner Boley stated mental health gives us an opportunity to think. I don't honestly know what resources the City's putting to mental health at this point. Some of the information that we would get in advance of this could be what is happening now in that area. What are we spending; what are we paying for; what are we getting. I'd like to have that information before we get together and talk about it. That's just an example.

Commissioner Amyx stated Mayor, what about an idea of holding study sessions 3 hours or a couple of hours before every other meeting for 3 or 4 weeks before our meeting, a goal setting.

Mayor Farmer stated timeframe is completely up to the group. Another thought that I had was maybe us on these 6 issues, writing a one or two page per issue, you know what do we think about that and giving it to staff and kind of having you guys compile it so that we can kind of have a basis to start the conversation. That may also be another option rather than just kind of, "Okay, mental health, what do you think?" I think what you suggested, Stuart is really helpful to find out what we have now and what we're spending and what's going on. I think that would be very helpful to have before.

Diane Stoddard, Interim City Manager, stated I was going to add that any items like what Commissioner Boley has suggested for these items that you all will find this helpful background information, we would be happy to put together and would want to get that from you all so we're providing you what you all need to have those discussions.

Commissioner Amyx stated my suggestion is that we do study sessions before our meetings. We go two items at a time over a 6 week period or you know we do it every other week, however long we can work it out. We start here in a couple of weeks. We give staff the opportunity to start compiling information over everything that we have going on now. There's a lot of information that's already on the goals. I don't know how much more than we can get. Some of these other things, mental health and all, I think those are brand new deals. It's important to be able to find out what's going on there. Also to be able to find out too, what the County's doing. I think there's some information there. You know we partner with them on so many items today that they're obviously going to be part of any discussions that we have. I think anything else that is of help that way and we can't leave anybody out. I suggest that we start on the 19<sup>th</sup> and if you want to go every week that's fine or every other week, whatever.

Mayor Farmer stated just knocking it out in three weeks because we want to get a lot of this stuff, budget session in the event they have budget implications.

KT Walsh stated I'm a member of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and there's been so much research done in the past year with the Justice Matters Faith Group on mental health in our community and they look deeply at what the County's doing, what the City is doing, what Haskell and the University are doing, what the School District is doing and they have also met with consumer groups who use mental health services. The people at the homeless shelter, the NAMI, you know people are family members who have been deeply impacted by the lack of services here and the people at the jail. I mean, you know the drill, but what I'm hoping is that we just don't get information from the head of the hospital who says "Oh no psychiatrist will work here." I think we need to go deeper and I think that a lot of that research has just been done, it's very current. I'm not saying staff would give you light weight research, but that's a resource you could really pull from. Thank you.

Mayor Farmer stated good on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Mayor Soden stated sure.

Mayor Farmer stated so the 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Will that work for everybody?

Commissioner Amyx stated make it happen.

Commissioner Herbert stated what time do you want to start that up here.

Mayor Farmer stated if we do two issues per week, I think an hour for each issue would probably be good.

Commissioner Amyx stated 4:00.

Mayor Farmer stated well we start the meeting at 5:45.

Commissioner Herbert stated 3:25.

Mayor Farmer stated will probably want to eat dinner and have a break so 3:00 to 5:00.

We could go at 4:00 and start the meeting at 6:15.

Commissioner Amyx stated its high school graduation.

Commissioner Herbert stated that's Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Amyx stated Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> is High School Graduation.

Mayor Farmer stated maybe we could have a light agenda that week.

Commissioner Herbert stated this is my priority so I'll be here.

Commissioner Amyx stated I may have to go.

Mayor Farmer stated will play that by ear and if we need to have just a light agenda on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the study session and then a light agenda so we can plan on that. Let's keep that in mind when we're building the agenda. So it's the 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Stoddard stated Mayor we did have kind of tentatively a 19<sup>th</sup> Study Session related to the budget so maybe what we could do is just visit about how we may be could fill some of your study session time with some of that discussion and then I think that you had mentioned that you may want to visit, as a group, about City Manager search. I think the other topic was at some point did you want to talk about strategic planning as a group and your interest level in doing anything related to that.

Commissioner Amyx stated Mayor how about we start the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Farmer stated, start it on the 26<sup>th</sup>?

Commissioner Amyx stated start these on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the goal setting that way were able to get all these other things done that we've made commitments too. We'll just start it the 26<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Farmer stated because we already have a study session the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Herbert stated, but we'll still do the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Farmer stated yeah because there's a budget study session. I didn't see it till now. I think those other items, especially in relation to the City Manager search and strategic plan. If we need to take another week or add it on to the regular agenda maybe first then I think we can do that. I think it would be good to have the City Manager conversation on a regular agenda that way we can hear some public comment in relationship to what the community feels like we need.

Stoddard stated we'll take your direction on when you'd like to schedule that.

Mayor Farmer stated perfect and then would it be helpful to get our thoughts in relationship to priorities because K.T brought up a good point, Justice Matters has done a lot of research in relationship to that and think, you know and something that you had said, I think, on Facebook, but I really... we need to be about action and actually doing something. I talk to that in relationship to fiber I think. For us to just say: what do we want to accomplish in relationship to mental health and how does that work with budget implications, affordable housing, infrastructure, non-motorized transportation. We had the request tonight for \$150,000 a year and \$500,000 a year so I think having those conversations concurrently as we're talking about what it is that are thoughts are. Would it be helpful for us to maybe submit to city staff in advance if we did the first one under public safety and mental health and just kind of maybe a page or two? What do we think about that?

Commissioner Boley stated I guess what we're talking about is goals and we've got baseline for every one of these things and I think it's important for us to understand what the

basis line is. What are we doing now? Not just what can we do, but what are we doing now and that's what I'd really like to see from staff. You know dollar figures, a brief description. The Justice Matters is more about and the research they've done is more about what's possible, what are other people doing. I'd really like to be in touch with what the City of Lawrence is doing right now on those things.

Vice Mayor Soden stated it's good to get our facts straight because I could brainstorm all kinds of things, but it's good to know what we're doing. Now maybe funding was slashed for these programs in 2007 you know and they just need to be refunded. You know that makes me think of the WRAP Program for schools, kids and schools. So yeah I think learning what we do now is a good start.

Mayor Farmer stated so maybe we could get that out in advance and spend a little bit of time talking about that. I think it's important that we as a group have some conversation because moving forward I think that's how we're going to get some stuff done. If we're able to get that out in advance and take the first two, public safety and mental health and get exactly to what you're talking about, what are we doing, how much are we spending, kind of ease into public safety and police and fire because we know, but in relationship to mental health, who are our partners, you know. If we can get that out, you know two weeks before so we can review, give feedback, ask questions and that way we don't have to have you or somebody else present for an hour so that we don't have any time to talk about things.

Stoddard stated exactly. Do you want us to try and gather the other reports that were mentioned that involve more than just what the City's doing? Would that level of information be of interest? I'm not sure that I've seen the report that was mentioned.

Commissioner Boley stated I'm okay to get that. It's kind of hard to say. It seems like what we're talking about is higher level goals and that we can get lost in detail if we start looking at everything that's out there. What we want to do is kind of say this is the direction we want to head not figure everything out in these meeting. So I think that might be a little more detailed

then I'm comfortable saying that we need to have to do this kind of meeting. I'm certainly willing to hear from other folks on that.

Commissioner Amyx stated but here's an opportunity too as we talk about the idea of strategic planning as where we are right now, where we want to be no matter where it is and what does it take to get there. I think those are the kind of things that we probably that we need to be looking at as a Commission and as a City as to what that direction is going to look like. Maybe we're happy with where we are right now. I mean when it all comes down to it, maybe we're happy right there, but I'm going to guess you know that there's probably going to be some kind of question as to the level of service that we provide because there always is and so we need to recognize that, but where we are maybe pretty good and you know I throw that out as we provide the best services around. Can we do better? Oh, hell yeah. We can always do better, but the truth is without strategic planning, we don't have an idea how to get there. So that's just me.

Mayor Farmer stated good conversation. Okay, do you guys have enough direction? Any other thoughts from the Commission?

Vice Mayor Soden stated we might bundle public transit with the non-motorized transportation. What do you think Matthew? Did you want to add that as a goal?

Commissioner Herbert stated for efficiency sake I'm fine bundling it. I mean I feel like the ideas we need will get a whole lot in conversation regardless of how we chose to tag them under headings, but however we want to organize it, I'm okay with that.

Mayor Farmer stated I think we talked about in agenda review putting the transit hub.

Stoddard stated we'll certainly add transit there and we're going to gather the information about the hub study that we looked at so we'll add some other resources here that we know of. I think Vice Mayor Soden also requested the 2007 Housing Task Force Report. We're kind of in the process of kind of adding more materials here for you all and there will be a number of items under infrastructure too that we talked about adding, a lot of things that you've seen before but

maybe so that they're in one place. Another question Mayor, I'm assuming you all just want to have a conversation really amongst yourselves with this background information provided in advance as opposed to having a facilitator that you all have talked about earlier and so I just wanted to make sure that we understood that.

Mayor Farmer stated I would love to have a facilitator, but that's really.

Vice Mayor Soden stated, I think we should see what we could accomplish ourselves before seeing if we need to do something like that.

Mayor Farmer stated okay.

Vice Mayor Soden stated and we have facilitators on staff.

Commissioner Herbert stated I would feel much more comfortable not farming this out just yet.

Mayor Farmer stated okay and any other commission items.

Vice Mayor Soden stated yes. Justice Matters. We need to talk about that Thursday night.

Commissioner Herbert stated so I actually had an opportunity to meet with them just prior to our meeting. I think we, we being the group that happened to be there, are pretty okay with the concept of having just two Commissioners at the meeting and I believe that's the direction you want us to head. Is that correct?

Commissioner Amyx stated, I'm going to say something and Mayor, the advice and council that we've been given by our City Attorney, I think is tremendous. One of the things that is so important is to make sure that we do the public's business open and you know that law, the Kansas Open Meetings Law, gives that opportunity. A couple of weeks ago when the new Commission was seated, City Attorney spent a lot of time telling us what we could and couldn't do and the fact that the folks involved with Justice Matters, they have put a lot of work together and we're going to have a lot of great information, but the truth of the matter is, is that the law is the law. I want to thank you for recognizing that we just don't want to put the public through a

situation of being investigated and the whole deal that goes on with violations of open meetings so I take that very seriously and appreciate the work of the City Attorney. When it comes to this item I read the email. It talked about one of the people they wanted was the Mayor. I don't know about your availability but my suggestion would obviously be is that it would be the Mayor or Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Herbert stated that is what they mentioned to me today. The email had requested Mayor Farmer and then they said in addition to Mayor Farmer they wanted one of the three newbies so that excludes you and I think I don't want to send you somewhere without your permission.

Vice Mayor Soden stated, I have mixed feelings about it because I've already been working on those things so to me, it just seems like they'd be preaching to the choir at that point. I think it would be good for someone that isn't familiar with affordable housing or mental health needs to go.

Commissioner Amyx stated well looking at the leadership of this Commission and Mayor Farmer obviously, they expect that you'll be able to do it and that request is the Mayor and Vice Mayor, I have respect for you in your position and I would strongly suggest that it's you two. It's kind of the pecking order, you know.

Vice Mayor Soden stated what do you think Jeremy, you and me?

Mayor Farmer stated I'm fine with it.

Vice Mayor Soden stated we'll be hand and hand.

Commissioner Herbert stated please send me a photo of that.

Vice Mayor Soden stated can we wear matching shirts?

Mayor Farmer stated, yes, we can. I'd love to. Let's make it happen. Are you good with that?

Vice Mayor Soden stated yes, I guess I've been looking this way the whole time.

Commissioner Herbert stated you are the chosen ones.

Mayor Farmer stated very good. Anything else on the event on Thursday?

Commissioner Amyx stated okay, question, if I were to go as a member of my church.

Vice Mayor Soden stated now he wants to go.

Commissioner Amyx stated this is a complicated issue. In that am I a Commissioner first and always Commissioner?

Toni Wheeler, City Attorney, stated it is a complicated question and the advice I give is I'm always sort of worried about the worst case scenario and I don't want you to be in a situation where it's uncomfortable or difficult for you. So my advice is that just two members attend so that there's no question that it's not a meeting of this body because you don't have a majority of the member of this Commission present, but I understand that you are member of a church and may want to attend. If two other Commissioner are there you do have three members of this body that are present and it could be difficult for you not to talk with each other or to even talk on those issues. It's just a difficult situation and the easiest thing would be if just two people were present.

Commissioner Amyx stated my questions comes up, is that I guess I'm Commissioner 24/7 and that takes precedence over pretty much everything.

Wheeler stated that is probably the best way for you all to consider your position while you're elected officials it's really hard to separate those rolls.

Commissioner Amyx stated I bring it up right now because I've been having a hard time figuring that out as I've gone through the day and read your emails, but one of the things that was important, I was talking to my wife on the phone, I probably can't go anyway and so that's fine because I believe I'm Commissioner 24/7 and that settles it. Okay and I never asked you about that.

Vice Mayor Soden stated Toni, will you say for everyone in the room and maybe watching on TV, what you advised us in that email.

Wheeler stated certainly. First of all on your City Commission calendar there is a meeting that is hosted on May 7<sup>th</sup>, this Thursday at the Lied Center. It is hosted by Justice Matters an organization of affiliated churches in town. It's their intention to make that a ticketed event although the tickets are free and they are going to, it's our understanding, allow members of the public to attend, that don't have tickets, but it may be in an overflow area. We also learned recently that rather than just presenting information, to the people in attendance, they may be planning to have the elected officials participate by discussing the topics that they are interested in which we understand to be affordable housing, mental health, and children so those are topics that are obviously of interest to this governing body and you will be discussing those topics in the future. With the knowledge or the information that they would be asking you to participate and discuss and perhaps make some commitments, staff became concerned that that might be an open meetings violation if three or more members were present because remember from our training a couple of weeks ago, a meeting occurs when there's three members present, there's an interactive discussion and you're discussing the business of the body. We would not want to put the elected officials in a situation where somebody could misconstrue and think that you are trying to hold a meeting, make decisions etc. And, so my advice has been, if all of you wish to attend, then you don't speak or discuss the topics at hand or if only two of you go then we don't have a majority and there's not a meeting and so those requirements on the open meetings act wouldn't apply. I know that the Justice Matters people are putting this together with the very best intentions and it's going to be a great event, they just are not familiar that as elected officials you have certain rules that you have to comply with. It's a different way of thinking about how you have to do things that are open and transparent for the public so that the public knows higher decisions are being made and can listen in to your discussion about very important policy decisions for this community. I've been giving advice that I would prefer that only two elected members of this body attend that meeting so that there

is no concern of a meeting occurring and decisions being made in a manner that's not consistent with that law.

The Commission thanked Wheeler.

Mayor Farmer stated any other Commission items?

Commissioner Herbert stated I just have one thing that I should have said about 3 hours ago when Dani was presenting the gifted program, just a quick public shout out, this is a Teacher Appreciation Week and USD497 employs 1827 people. That's a huge body within this community that doesn't even include those who teach in private schools and so I just wanted to take a minute and share my appreciation for the people who do what they do. I work with quite a few of them and they are wonderful human beings and they don't get the appreciation they deserve and that's my 30 second plug, publically.

Vice Mayor Soden stated wait, are you telling me teachers aren't union thugs?

Commissioner Herbert stated, I didn't say that, I said there are 1827 of us and this is our week.

Mayor Farmer stated we'd be remiss if we didn't say thank you for your investment in our young people and so we celebrate you since you're up here tonight.

Commissioner Herbert stated when Dr. Blake Holly was speaking I wanted to let him know that his son did very well on his government test today.

Mayor Farmer stated very good, well now it's on the record.

**H: CALENDAR:**

Diane Stoddard, City Manager, reviewed calendar items

Commissioner Herbert stated I do need to add one event to the calendar, courtesy of my talking with Justice Matters, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Carnegie Building; they're doing an affordable housing meeting that I believe is going to run approximately 8:00 to noon though that part has not been yet made official.

Vice Mayor Soden stated and NAACP meeting, I think it's the second Thursday of the month. I have to double check, but I definitely want to get that on here.

Commissioner Boley asked if Juneteenth was on here.

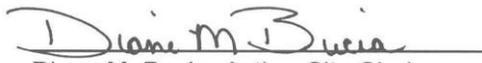
Stoddard stated we can definitely get those added.

**I: CURRENT VACANCIES – BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:**

Existing and upcoming vacancies on City of Lawrence Boards and Commissions were listed on the agenda.

**Moved by Amyx, seconded by Soden,** to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

  
Diane M. Bucia, Acting City Clerk