

## OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 18, 2025

Mayor Curt Skoog called the Overland Park City Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Mrs. Holly Grummert, Council President; Mr. Jim Kite; Mrs. Melissa Cheatham; Mr. Scott Mosher; Mr. Gregg Riess; Ms. Inas Younis; Mr. Chris Newlin; Mr. Richard Borlaza; and Mr. Drew Mitrisin. Mr. Logan Heley and Mr. Jeff Cox were absent. (excused)

Also present were: Mrs. Lori Curtis Luther, City Manager; Mr. Michael Koss, City Attorney; Mrs. Kristy Stallings, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Bryan Dehner, Assistant City Manager; Mrs. Kate Gunja, Assistant City Manager; Mrs. Lorraine Basalo, Director, Public Works; Ms. Doreen Jokerst, Police Chief; Mr. Alan Long, Fire Chief; Mrs. Leslie Karr, Director of Planning and Development Services; Ms. Gena McDonald, Director of Finance and Budget; Mr. Bryan Toben, Director of Parks and Recreation; Ms. Meg Ralph, Director of Strategic Communications; Mr. Bill Trimble, IT Support Specialist; and Ms. Kathleen Behrens, Recording Secretary. There were approximately 25 audience members.

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### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Curt Skoog led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No report.

### **MAYOR CURT SKOOG**

#### **PRESENTATION OF LEGACY OF GREENERY COMMITTEE 2025 CANOPY STREET OF EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

Delmar, 95th Street to El Monte Street.

City Forester Bailey Patterson presented the Legacy of Greenery Committee 2025 Canopy Award, stating they created the award in 2021 to increase awareness of the environmental, social, aesthetic and economic value of mature street trees, and to also promote the expansion of street trees in the City. A canopy street is a street that has street trees with continuous uniform spacing and overarching limbs for at least one city block. Each year, they accept many nominees, and this year the winner of the award was Delmar Street, 95th Street to El Monte Street, in the Empire Estates neighborhood. Most of the homes on this street have one-to-three trees, which are solid and provide shade. The canopies are raised, which provides evidence of good maintenance through the years. The street itself slopes downhill from 95th Street towards El Monte. This neighborhood has a preset replanting species plan any time staff removes a tree, they automatically replace it with that known species in that space, provides good revitalization for the future. There were 45 trees, and of all the

13 nominees had a diversity of species. The breakdown of tree species and sizes are provided. About 20 of the trees have a three-to-four-foot depth and are massive, which consist mostly Pin Oaks and Siberian Elms. These trees will provide a good canopy cover well into the future.

Ms. Patterson provided the prescribed replanting plan for the neighborhood. She noted that for 95th Street and Delmar will have Linden trees and hearty Rubber trees planted. This neighborhood had been previously nominated with two different streets, but they were also part of the Ash Tree Removal Program, and there will be revitalization of this neighborhood. The one-year benefits for each of the 45 trees at their current sizes will amount to \$4,400, and over 103,000 gallons of rainfall intercepted with those big dense canopies. Regarding a 20-year projection, if those trees stay in good health, the value increases to over \$93,000 and over two million gallons of rainfall intercepted over 20 years.

Ms. Patterson explained that the goal of the award is to provide it annually to promote street tree planting so they have future nominees, especially where they have lost Ash trees.

NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE LEGACY OF GREENERY COMMITTEE:

Elizabeth McKinney – Term 10-02-2023 to 10-02-2025

NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Tirzah Gregory – Term 10-14-2022 to 10-14-2025

Mayor Skoog presented the new appointments to the Legacy of Greenery Committee and Planning Commission for approval.

Mrs. Holly Grummert moved to approve the new appointment of Elizabeth McKinney to the Legacy of Greenery of Committee for a term of 10-2-2023 to 10-2-2025, and the new appointment of Tirzah Gregory to the Planning Commission with a term of 10-14-2022 to 10-14-2025. Mr. Chris Newlin seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 10 to 0.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT HOLLY GRUMMERT**

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING HELD AUGUST 11, 2025 – Relating to the Employment Agreement between the City of Overland Park and City Manager Lori Curtis Luther.

Council President Grummert stated the Committee of the Whole met on August 11, 2025 to discuss the Employment Agreement between the City of Overland Park and City Manager Lori Curtis Luther. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the annual performance review of the City Manager. Following the review, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommended approval of an amendment to the City Manager's Employment Agreement.

Mrs. Grummert moved to direct the City Attorney to prepare the necessary amendment to the Employment Agreement between the City and City Manager Lori Curtis Luther to provide for a 2.4 percent base salary increase for the cost-of-living

adjustment, and a 2.5 percent base salary increase for a merit adjustment; and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the amendment to the agreement. Mr. Newlin seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 10 to 0.

Mayor Skoog thanked Ms. Luther for her strong leadership.

Mrs. Grummert noted the Committee of the Whole met earlier this evening to discuss and select a new City flag that staff has been working on since April when they adopted the new brand to update the design to be consistent with the City's new brand. Staff worked with members of the North American Vexillological Association, to gather designs and feedback from the community and consulted with the branding team to develop three options for the Council to consider, redirected staff to move forward with Flag No. 1A. The City Council will formally adopt the flag at the September 8, 2025, City Council meeting.

#### **CITY MANAGER LORI CURTIS LUTHER**

City Manager Lori Curtis Luther stated it was a continued privilege to serve the City Council and the City of Overland Park as the City Manager. She was humbled to be entrusted with this responsibility, and she felt public service is a noble service. She felt she could only perform this job by maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity so they can earn the trust and respect of the public they serve. She thanked the Council for the opportunity.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Committee Report:**

ORDINANCE NO. MW-3489 – Levying special assessments against private properties for unpaid expenses incurred by the City, for costs associated with cutting weeds and vegetation, removing trash and refuse, correcting nuisances or other property maintenance violations, and failed inspection fees.

BID TABULATION – Rosehill Gardens, Inc., for 2025 Street Tree Planting, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.

AGREEMENT – Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park, Inc., for funding the purchase of a Permanent Art Collection at the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens LongHouse Visitor Center, in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.

CONSIDERATION OF UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE REQUIREMENT – Regarding the number of day care home employees to allow for greater flexibility of staffing and coverage; and authorize staff to set a public hearing to consider the amendments.

##### **FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Staff Report:**

COUNCIL MINUTES – May 19, 2025.

EXPENDITURE ORDINANCE NO. 7B – Outlining the expenditures from the General Operating Fund and the Capital Projects Fund for July 18 through July 31, 2025.

Mayor Skoog presented the Consent Agenda for approval and asked if any items needed to be removed for separate discussion.

Council President Grummert moved to approve the Consent Agenda as outlined. Mr. Newlin seconded the motion, which carried by a roll-call vote of 10 to 0.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Committee Report:**

Logan Heley, Chair

No report.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – Staff Report:**

No report.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES – Staff Report:**

No report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY – Committee Report:**

Melissa Cheatham, Chair

No report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE DEPARTMENT – Staff Report:**

No report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE DEPARTMENT – Staff Report:**

No report.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Committee Report:**

Jim Kite, Chair

No report.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Staff Report:**

No report.

**FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Committee Report:**

Chris Newlin, Chair

No report.

**FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Staff Report:**

No report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS –  
REGULAR AGENDA:**

No report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

**PLANNING COMMISSION - Consent Agenda**

No report.

**PLANNING COMMISSION – REGULAR AGENDA**

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Skoog adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Minutes transcribed by Kathleen Behrens.

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Curt Skoog, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Elizabeth Kelley, City Clerk