

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

April 1, 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Wichita, Kansas, April 1, 2025

Tuesday, 09:00 AM

The City Council met in regular session with Lily Wu, JV Johnston, Becky Tuttle, Brandon Johnson, Mike Hoheisel, Dalton Glasscock, and Maggie Ballard.

Staff Members Present: Robert Layton, City Manager, Jennifer Magana - Director of Law, and Paul Leeker, City Clerk.

[Approve the minutes of regular meetings March 18, 2025 and March 25, 2025](#)

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to approve the minutes of regular meetings March 18, 2025 and March 25, 2025.

Motion carried 7 to 0

AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamations:

[Child Abuse Prevention Month Arab American Heritage Month Crime Victims Rights Week](#)

I) **PUBLIC AGENDA**

1.) **Kelly Ake - Food Trucks, Licensing and Enforcement**

Kelly Ake stated My address is - do I have to give the full address?

Mayor Wu stated you can just say your district.

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Kelly Ake stated Honestly, I don't know. I'm four?

Council Member Glasscock stated you are in my district.

Kelly Ake stated Okay. Thank you. Okay. So today, I'm here to talk about the food trucks within the City of Wichita for, uh, city licensing. Um, there are currently 220 registered trucks in Wichita and if you take the current city license at \$350, that's \$77,000 a year. There are so many unlicensed trucks that, I mean, something's got to be done. One, having a current license means that you're on the up and up and you're doing what you need to do and it just makes it unfair for us that are doing the right thing. Okay? Um, also, with the \$350 city license, to my knowledge, we cannot just go roll up on a city street and just start serving. So, I mean, what are we really paying for because everywhere that we go to serve, we have to be on some type of private property? Sorry. I'm really nervous. Um, and then if - if it was enforced, the licensing, how much more could the city be making to potentially pay somebody to go out and police the trucks that are not being legit with the city license? I will say this, um, Captain Ake and Chief Ortiz, or - how do you say his name - (Ocares) has come to several meetings and tried to educate us on, um, the new licensing that came out this current year with the sticker, the inspections. They've created a fire, um - a fire coalition with other surrounding towns, which has really helped and then it's easier to identify with a sticker in your window. So that - he's been - he's been great. And he is my point of contact, like, if I have questions or I say, hey, there's currently a truck sitting up off 21st and Amidon that has - they're - they're selling alcohol, that - that is not legal from a truck. And I know that he's been there to - to look at it, I believe. He can speak on that, but I believe he's been there. Um, but they just continue to sell. One, if it's - if it's illegal for them to sell alcohol out of their truck, I mean, why is the city not trying to enforce that? Um, not only beyond just the food trucks, you have so many people setting up with tents selling food. Are they licensed? They have no way to wash their hands. Do they have liability insurance? I mean, these are all things that us as food truckers we have to spend to be able to be legit. Um, then you get traveling trucks from out of town that come in with no licensing and they're just - have lines out the wazoo, which I want everybody to be able to make money. If you're doing it right and you're doing it fair and equally and you're paying your dues basically, then I'm all for it. I mean, it's - it could be a great living to - to be had. Um, and then bein' able to park downtown. Like, I know there's a lot of other larger cities that have food truck rows for, like, when their bar districts get out. There's no place downtown that we could offer that. And I know that the police probably want those people to get out of there to clear the areas, but, I mean, even if you cut the timeframe - frame off at 2:00 am to where the bars are closing, but,

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I mean, people leave bars at all hours of the time or all hours of the evening. So why not allow us to be able to be down there to - to capture that income? Um, special events. So I don't find it - this is my personal opinion, and I did not come to the March Madness this year, but how does the city charge a \$750 fee for your food truck to be at Naftzger Park when we already pay a city license? I mean, that - to me, that's double-dipping. You don't charge brick and mortars that are - that are in that area. So I'm not sure why you're capitalizing on a food truck in the way that - that you are. And then also, like city parks, we have to have permission to go to some of those, but we pay for a city license. So I'm not quite sure where we can draw those boundaries a little bit in our favor. That's really all I got cause my time's up.

Council Member Glasscock stated Thank you, Mayor. Kelly, thank you for coming today. You are my district, so I will follow up with a lot of your concerns as well. I've been in this job a little bit over a year and every day, there's something new. Uh, and I can tell you that I haven't investigated food truck licensing, uh, in the past year, but I'll look into it. I'll meet with the chief, um, and look at some information and try and do a follow-up. I believe I have your contact information here. Before you leave, if you could leave your email with the clerk, I'll make sure to respond back to you as well. Hopefully a component of it is just education for individuals that are especially trying to maybe start a business, but they don't know about the licensing. So how can we better educate individuals and maybe proactively go out there. But I appreciate you raising these concerns and this is a good example of public comment, bringing something that we were not aware of bringing it to our attention. So thank you for being here and you did great, despite being nervous.

Council Member Ballard stated actually, my question is for staff. (Isaac), I hate to put you on the spot. I have a couple of questions about event permitting. Sorry. I'd rather just have you say it in front of everybody if - if you're able to. Can you address some - a couple of the questions about special events like in Naftzger Park and what that looks like for the food trucks?

Isaac Unruh, Park & Recreation Department, stated so for Naftzger, it's just - it's strictly for the NCAA Tournament we allowed food trucks to register online, first come, first serve. So the first five vendors to sign up and pay \$750 were our five food trucks. And that filled up within two business days.

Council Member Ballard stated okay. And what does it - how is that different from outside the tournament? Like, you just apply for the license?

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Isaac Unruh, Park & Recreation Department, stated correct. Yeah. You just apply for the license. Now, food trucks can operate within, I believe it's, 400 square - or 400 feet of a licensed community event without permission from that community event. The only exception is if they're on private property. They do not have to, uh - they can still be within 400 feet of a community event. Does that answer your question?

Council Member Ballard stated I think so. and is the normal fee outside of the tournament also \$750 at Naftzger Park?

Isaac Unruh, Park & Recreation Department, stated it is not. No. That was a one-off that we did.

Council Member Ballard stated what is the normal fee?

Isaac Unruh, Park & Recreation Department, stated that would vary event to event.

Council Member Ballard stated so there's n- you're saying there's no fee?

Kelly Ake stated no. If I wanted to go up there and serve lunch today, I can go up there and serve lunch for free.

Council Member Ballard stated okay. Okay. I think that answers a couple of my questions. And then Captain Ake. Sorry. Thank you so much. Appreciate it, (Isaac). Thank you so much. Sorry to put you on the spot. could you just address how you, um - I know that you guys go through the licensing, but how do you enforce the permits?

Captain Ake, Wichita Fire Department, stated yep. And also for full disclosure, fourth cousin, maybe. not 100% if we're related but I do make sure that I do not inspect her food truck to - that there's no conflict of interest here when it comes to that. So if you could - now that I got that out of the way, if you could repeat your question for me.

Council Member Ballard stated sure. I'm just curious how - how do you guys approach trucks to make sure that they have proper permitting and so on?

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Captain Ake, Wichita Fire Department, stated okay. So we do have our, thanks to the new ordinance and the change with the - like we addressed before with the stickers, the licensing process. And we do have a list. When we go up - if it's a city event, like, like, Naftzger Park or some of the other city-sponsored events I'll get notification from (Isaac) and then I will show up or Chief (Ocadés) will show up to these events and we'll look to see that all the food trucks are licensed. We show up on a regular basis to Final Friday and some of the others, um - because in order to be in those city - special city events they do have to pay to be part of that. So we want to make sure everyone there, one, is licensed and they're also on the list. So if they're not on the list then we do actually have them leave. When we do come across other food trucks is whether or when we're out and about it's going to be a lot easier now if we can see the sticker and be able to know instantly that they're licensed or not. If I don't see the sticker, and then we'll approach 'em and talk to 'em about it. And so we do get from different people, like, I'll get from Facebook sayin', hey, this food truck is going to be here. I don't see them. I'll go visit 'em, talk to them and say, hey, I don't see that you're licensed. This is what you need to do. we temporarily - I will temporarily shut them down until they get the process done. One of the processes is the full inspection from our department and they cannot operate until they have our approval, plus other city approvals that they have to go through as far as legal in the department and getting that paid for. Council Member Ballard stated Awesome. could you email, uh - uh - me or us the link for, um - just for the food trucks to get their license just in case anybody asks us since I represent Old Town and downtown and Delano? There's lots of different areas that often have food trucks. It would be nice for us to just be able to send that off to them. Maybe some people don't know. I don't know, but I'd like to add that at my fingertips if you would be willing. Okay. Thank you so much. Appreciate it. And thank you for coming to speak.

2.) [Maggie Allen - General feedback on previous City Council Meeting](#)

Maggie Allen stated Hello. I'm here today as an ally to the trans community and to offer my feedback on the City Council meeting that took place on March 18. first, a little history. International Transgender Day Visibility was created in 2010 by Rachel Crandall-Crocker of Transgender Michigan in response to the overwhelming majority of media stories about transgender people being focused on misinformation and violence. She helped to create a day where people could celebrate the lives and accomplishments of transgender people while simultaneously acknowledging that due to discrimination, not every trans person can or wants to be visible. okay. So 2 weeks ago when you, Mayor Lily Wu, chose to not read the proclamation for Transgender Day Visibility, not only was this a blatant shirking of your mayoral duties, it

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completely flies in the face of your campaigning on a platform of inclusion and transparency. To borrow a phrase from another person that was there it was virtue signaling just to the people and groups who are okay with erasing trans existence. In the 2 weeks since, you have been the one spreading misinformation to the public about the meaning of Transgender Day Visibility. You say you don't believe trans people's gender identities are any of your business, but the hundreds of people who came to Transgender Day Visibility events in Wichita, Sunday and Monday are your business. They're your constituents. We are your constituents. While other cities are declaring themselves sanctuaries for LGBTQ people, you have let us all know that a Wichita led by Lily Wu is not a sanctuary for anyone but your donors and allies. Trans people are not anyone's political talking point. They're living, breathing people from all walks of life who represent an evolution of humanity and the promise of a future where we all have more rights and everyone is guaranteed life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness regardless of their gender identity. Trans existence is sacred, eternal, and worthy of protection. Shame on you and your fellow nay-saying council members for not being willing to acknowledge that fact. And just to use the rest of my time considering the fact that we had proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention and Crime Victims' Rights Week, I would like to acknowledge that trans people are both statistically higher more likely to be both victims of child abuse and victims of crime. So it's an additional reason why it's important to have a Transgender Day Visibility because they're an extremely at-risk minority. So thank you.

3.) [Becca Johnson on Behalf of Friends of Kansas Wild Life Exhibit - Update on the Exhibit's work and ongoing Pagoda project in Riverside Park](#)

Becca Johnson stated good morning, Council. I'm Becca Johnson, 429 West Central. I've been at this podium before as a staff member, but never as a public member. So thank you for letting me be here. Outside of my duties for the city, I spend a lot of time at the Kansas Wildlife Exhibit, which is one of the jewels of Riverside Park playing with a bunch of animal ambassadors, and now sit on the board of the Friends of the Kansas Wildlife Exhibit doing work to help expand their education and community-oriented goals. I am going to yield most of my time to Lynn Rogers, our president, so he can tell you about several initiatives we're doing.

Lynn Rogers stated Thank you, Becca. Good after- or good morning. I believe this is the first time I've ever approached the City Council. So it's a pleasure to be here. I represent the Friends of the Wildlife. We have several of our board members here. The Friends were started in 2023 and our job is to enhance and encourage more use of the wildlife exhibit. Attendance there from

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2023 to 2024 went from 26,000 participants to over 40,000. often times because of many of the - the projects, the story times and the special events that we have. you may want to put on your calendar April 26. that's Upchuck the turkey vulture's birthday as he's our oldest ambassador, 31 years of age. we will also in May be starting our second year of Trash Panda. that's where we encourage kids to pick up trash with grabbers and all those kinda things. And last year, we - we did hundreds of pounds of - of trash that was picked up from the park. We're going to expand that this year to multiple parks throughout the city. we have sponsors with both Freddy's and - and with Dylan's. The other thing that's most exciting that we're going to be presenting is the renovation project that we're starting for the pa- pagoda, the Japanese pagoda. Originally built in 1911 as a concession stand, we think it's the oldest park building in Riverside Park, as well as maybe the entire city. it was converted to bathrooms in the mid-20s, and then basically used as storage until the 1960s and today, but in the '60s it was used for a couple of years to start the Wichita Zoological Society and the start of the Sedgwick County Park. we're going to be hopeful turning that into a multi-purpose route - room - excuse me - something that can be used as a classroom for the wildlife exhibit. Hundreds, hundreds of buses and kids come each summer and each spring to the park and there isn't really a place for them to eat. There isn't a place for them to sit and talk to the - the staff at the wildlife exhibits. So we're starting the - the process of raising \$200,000 to do that. We've got in the process of an MOU with the city and the parks department. we'll be introducing that once we get that finalized. we will be taking donations and seeking folks that can help us on that. we think it'll be a great place in Riverside Park, a great addition, and again, it'll expand the use of the wildlife exhibit. Pull it out here.

Becca Johnson stated thank you. it is spring, which means we also do have new ambassadors coming to the exhibit because spring brings baby animals. And so we did bring one of our baby turtles if you all would like to take a photo with an animal ambassador. We would've brought Upchuck, but he's not a very well-behaved guest and he gets his name for a reason. So we didn't think you'd want that in council chambers but our turtle is right here.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Thank you, Becca, for the presentation. And Mr. Rogers, one quick question. When the kids do the Trash Panda pickup, do they have to wear a racoon mask?

Lynn Rogers stated they don't. We were hoping we can maybe enhance with some T-shirts but they have gloves and vests and - and grabbers. So they're protected and taken care of. but it's kinda fun and exciting to - to see. But, uh - that may be somethin' we want to add.

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Becca Johnson stated I do believe we still have some masks, so if they would like to take them.

Lynn Rogers stated there are masks available. Yeah.

Unknown citizen with the Wildlife Exhibit stated if you need a racoon mask, like, the racoon masks are an option. We do have a collection of them. In general, the kids pick up trash and get a popsicle.

Council Member Johnson stated I might need two of those.

Lynn Rogers stated I - we used 'em for our Halloween celebration and I think we have a number of other animal choices too. So, uh - and I guess to remind everybody too is that the feeding is daily at noon and we have hundreds of people come to that, particularly during spring break. but it's a great thing to enhance. we work with a lot of the hotels and different organizations around the city to encourage people to come. we think it's one of the - the best examples of - of how the community can work together.

Council Member Johnson stated awesome. And then last point, although he's a private citizen now, it's always great to have the former Lieutenant Governor of Kansas in the chambers.

Lynn Rogers stated it's, uh - it's nice to be retired. Let me put it that way. Thank you.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you. I just want to say thank you so much for coming to present. I'm very biased, but I'm very excited to see some new ideas and renovated ideas in Riverside Park. So thank you for all of you guys taking the initiative and - and all of the other things that you do throughout the year. So thanks for coming.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. just a quick question. You talked about having' to chase that turtle around. How quick is that turtle?

Unknown Citizen with Wildlife Exhibit stated I mean, I couldn't tell you exactly. I mean, I can bring him to you if you would like to see how quickly he (unintelligible). He's a little bit sleepy (unintelligible).

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. I would like to thank you for all your work at Riverside Park and the exhibits. I take my grandkids there. They absolutely love it. And feeding time is really exciting.

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4.) [Ava Glancy - Wildflower Community School - Transgender Validation](#)

Ava Glancy stated Hi. My name is Ava Glancy. I would like to thank Council Members Johnson, Ballard, Hoheisel and Tuttle for signing the proclamation for Trans Day of Visibility. I go to Wildflower School at 6- 1650 North Fairview in District 6.

Molly Stevenson stated hi, Council. I'm Molly Stevenson. I'm Ava and Ash's teacher and the founder at Wildflower Community School. My students are wonderful and civically engaged and attentive people. And this issue in particular, is near and dear to our heart and our community. Ava and Ash had some thoughts to share with you guys today. one of the thoughts, in particular, is we would like to have a conversation, Mayor Wu, with our students and you about the city's ongoing commitment to inclusion. having a diverse and inclusive city is good business. There's lots of data about that. Trans people as Maggie shared with us earlier, are one of the most at-risk groups of people really in the whole country. Trans youth, in particular have some of the worst mental health outcomes of any population group across the country. Our little private school is a place where we have a lot of representation of the gender-expansive and LGBTQA community. We are excited to be able to support that community, to recognize them, to just be a good acknowledgement to both their validity and their existence. Ava, Ash and other students, we've been in Topeka. We've talked about similar things with other lawmakers and how the things that get decided in rooms like this have real implications for the health and well-being of our - of our young people, of the rest of our city, but particularly I think as an educator it's important that you all hear that having one affirming person and a gender-expansive student's life. So affirming being saying their chosen name and pronouns recognizing their space for existence reduces the risk of suicide and other adverse mental health outcomes by 40%. It is a huge preventative factor. it's a huge protective factor. And we have made it a bit of our mission in our school, and especially in our secondary classroom, to make sure that we share that data. Would you like to share anything else?

Ava Glancy stated no.

Molly Stevenson stated no? All right. thank you for hearing us today. And Ava, thank you for letting me jump in on your time. I'm glad you're here. Yes. Thank you, Council Members.

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Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to say thank you so much for being brave and especially having our gauge, um - our youth engage at any level makes me really happy to see. So thank you for being here.

Council Member Hoheisel stated oh. Thank you, Mayor. I still get nervous talking up here every single week, so please relay to, to them that. We - we - we understand. We feel it here and it takes a lot of bravery to get up here and speak in front of everybody, especially on some of these more sensitive issues. So please relay that.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. I too just wanted to share for Ava that I get nervous as well, but also that I appreciate the courage shown to come up here and speak whatever she wanted to say, what was on her mind, and just want to encourage her going forward when she sees this that she matters and her voice matters. And I'm appreciative that she was willing to step forward and use it and want to encourage her to do so as she gets older.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. to Ava, I believe, in the hallway, and to Ash, I just want to say that you're welcome in this place. this is your space as much as it is anybody in our communities. I want you to feel in this community that you're welcome that you're heard and that you're seen as well. And so thank you for being here. Thank you for speaking' out, especially as young people. we need to engage more - or young people in the process. And so thank you for being involved today and thank you for being here. And don't be nervous in this space. I know it - it can be incredibly nervous at the bench but up here you're not going to see judgment and so thank you for being here.

Mayor Wu stated Council Members, I will just add to teacher Molly, as well as, Ava outside, this is a respectful community. This is an inclusive community and having dialogue is important. And my favorite part about being mayor, since I'm an ambassador for this community, is to go out to schools. My favorite part is going to schools with young people under the age of 18 who cannot vote, who have the desire to make a change in the world, and I would be open and happy to come and dialogue. And I would believe that any of our council members have that same opportunity anyone in the community can ask any council member as well as the mayor to speak at any school or classroom. All you have to do is go to the website, Wichita.gov/citycouncil and there are opportunities for that engagement. And I believe that more engagement and more dialogue is important. but having grown up in this community since I was 8 years old, I can tell you this is an inclusive community and a respectful community, and it will continue to be that way.

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5.) [Ash White - Wildflower Community School - Transgender Validation](#)

Ash White stated hello. My name is Ash White and I am a student at Wildflower Community School, District 6. I would like to start by saying thank you to Council Members Johnson, Ballard, Hoheisel and Tuttle for voting for the Trans Date Visibility Proclamation. Trans Day Visibility was celebrated Sunday in our school building and it was a wonderful experience. Being able to express ourselves is incredibly important. This proclamation shows us that you care. I would like to ask for a meeting with Mayor Wu to talk about the, uh - about inclusion policies and practices to keep Wichita a safe - safe and inclusive. Thank you.

Mayor Wu stated thank you very much, Ash. And again, like I said earlier, anytime that you want to engage with either council members or the mayor, we get asked often times to come to schools and have that engagement. Again, it's Wichita.gov/citycouncil and that is available to any school, home school as well. we want that engagement and we like to hear from young people because, again, many of the decisions we make from this bench are for the future and you are the future. All of the young people in our community. And just as a reminder, no rights were taken away from anyone based off of a proclamation. What this council does is a lot of resolutions and that was not a resolution. Thank you.

II) [CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 24](#)***Motion:***

Mayor Wu moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 24.

Motion carried 7 to 0

COUNCIL BUSINESSIII) [BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS](#)

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- 1.) [Board of Bids and Contracts dated March 31, 2025.](#)

Attachment: [03-31-2025 Board of Bids.pdf](#)

Attachment: [03-31-2025 WAA Board of Bids.pdf](#)

Josh Lauber, Department of Finance, presented the item.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to receive and file report, approve the contracts and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

IV) PETITIONS FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

- 1.) [Petitions for Public Improvements](#)

Attachment: [Clear Creek.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-124 SS 013791.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-149 WDS 013790](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-150 PV 086041](#)

Attachment: [PFPI.docx](#)

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Paul Gunzleman, Public Works & Utilities Department, presented the item.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to approve the revised petitions and budgets, adopt the amending resolutions, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

V) UNFINISHED BUSINESS1.) [Extension of Lease for City-owned Property at 303 North Mead \(District I\)](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report V-1.doc](#)

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, presented the item.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, John. only question I have since there were no additional documents and we knew that this was going to be tabled for some time, can you address when was - when was this contract supposed to end specifically? Cause I feel like it was already a holdover lease. can you explain that?

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, stated this particular lease had a year-to-year clause, year-to-year term. So it would've ended December 31 of this year - or of 2024, but we initiated negotiations with the tenant for an extension in September. That item was pulled for additional review and discussion. It was presented back to council on February 4. And so we did not initiate the holdover penalties at that time because we were in negotiations to adjust the lease and the determination to, you know, not move forward was, you know, based on the city's actions. But now, we've reached a point where we will consider the lease a holdover if we cannot negotiate a new lease.

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Council Member Ballard stated thank you. John, thank you. how long has this business been a tenant?

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, stated this tenant has been in occupancy, I want to say, since 2017.

Council Member Ballard stated And is the negotiation based on the - the changes in price or, I mean, is that basically what the holdup is ?

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, stated what we have done, we presented a lease for a new tenant on March 4 and the - that lease was predicated on a pass-through of operating expenses, a triple net lease. It had a, um - a shorter term. It was a 3-year term with a 2-year extension cause there was some concern that the proposed extensions from February were 5 years. It also had a higher face rate. We were looking' at \$19 a foot. And then that would be based on a \$10 base and a \$9 expense capture. That lease was approved and so we have presented, basically, those same terms to - to this tenant, and that is what they're looking at. And so part of the concern is a higher rate and then the fact that were changing. We were using a modified gross lease where we collected the money, we paid all the expenses, and here we're going' to a trip net, and that's the tenant to want to think about that.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. John, how close do you think you are to getting this worked out with the tenant?

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, stated I really cannot say. They - they have not provided a lot of feedback, and in this particular case, you know, we're looking at a, um - a pretty significant jump in - in - in rent. They - they - this was a tenant that was at the low end of our rent range originally. And so when we came back, we took them up a dollar a foot and then \$2 a foot in February. And that was pushed back and told we were deferring it. So we're asking them to increase up to \$19 a foot. So I'm - I'm not sure where they are.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated I'm - I'm - I'm worried that we're going to lose a tenant in the depth of zero. So I encourage you to do everything you can to get to a lease rate with them. Those

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businesses have not rebounded COVID like other businesses have? Parking's important to them. Rent - rent structure's important to them, so I am very worried about several tenants in that area. So - so thank you for your work. I hope you can get it worked out.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to table the item.

Motion carried 7 to 0

2.) [Extension of Lease for City-owned Property at 307-309 North Mead \(District I\)](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report V-2.doc](#)

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, presented the item.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you. John, and how long has this tenant been here?

John Philbrick, City Manager's Office, stated this is one of the original tenants. So they have been there since about 2003.

Council Member Ballard stated I think it's important that we are looking at the different rent rates and different types of leases and such, but the last thing I want to do too is push all these businesses out where everything is vacant. So I appreciate you working hard on this to negotiate deals that work for everybody. Or not deals, but leases that work for everybody. I'm hopeful that this new type of lease that we're looking at isn't potentially the problem. that's not my wheelhouse, so I - I don't know how to navigate all of that. But I hope that we are having fruitful conversations with the tenants because being a tenant since, you know, it started in 2003, I mean, that's a very long time and I know that a lot of people, you know, go to those businesses and, like I said, the last thing I want to do is price people out to where Old Town is vacant. So I appreciate your hard work on this. And when it's time to make a motion, since it's in my district, I'd be happy to do it.

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Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. Again, I know - I know both these tenants personally. I know 'em before I was a City Council. I always ask how business is and they're always honest with me. I'm - I am worried. this one is - is at retirement age. Could just close it and get rid of the headache but he likes the business. He likes the people. so I sure hope we can work something' out. And of my 4 boys, 3 of 'em it's their favorite place to go. So I certainly hope they stay open.

Mayor Wu stated I see no further questions. I'll just add one more, John. again, this was spurred by the idea that we should be the best stewards of taxpayer dollars. And so I want you, or in my opinion, you should be negotiating in the best interest of the City of Wichita, which would be the citizens of Wichita. And so I think that this conversation is good. We want to make sure that when we have spaces that are owned by the public, which is everyone in this community, that we're negotiating in the best interest of its citizens. So thank you very much, John, for continuing that work. And again, we want businesses to thrive, but not at the expense of the rest of the community.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to table the item.

Motion carried 7 to 0

VI) NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 1.) [Applicant Appeal of HPC2025-00008 – Demolition Permit for 1416 and 1418 N Park Place \(District VI\)](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-1.docx](#)

Attachment: [Sedgwick_ParkPlaceFairviewHistoricDistrictNR_excerpt.pdf](#)

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Attachment: [6-10-2024 Approved Minutes.docx](#)

Attachment: [HPB minutes 2025-2-10_Aproved.pdf](#)

Attachment: [HPC2025-00008 Staff Report CMR.docx](#)

Attachment: [DRAFT Letter to KS SHPO - Mayor.docx](#)

Council Member Ballard stated Mayor, why did you do that? I asked when it was time to make a motion, since it was in my district, that I would like to make the motions, and you've done that two different times in the previous meeting on these two items in Old Town and then again today.

Mayor Wu stated Council Member Ballard, I simply motioned to table the discussion.

Council Member Ballard stated right. But I also in my comments - well, number one, it says District 1 and it's District 6, but you did this in the meeting before and I don't notice that you do that to other council members. You typically let them make the motion for whose district it's in except for me, and specifically on these items. And I just said it a couple of minutes ago. I work really hard in the district, for my district, and I know you represent the whole city, but you do that to me and not to other council members and I don't appreciate it.

Mayor Wu stated it is not of ill intent to not ask you to do the motion. It was simply to motion to table a discussion until further review by the rest of the staff. So again, if you would like to motion, please go ahead and push that button.

It's already done, and I did, but thank you.

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, presented the item.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. Scott, the minutes here, they're - they're really pretty basic. so it - it's hard to really get kind of a grasp of what the Historic Preservation

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Board thought about this. Would you say that - not trying' to put words in anybody's mouth - would you say that the concern was more about whether or not this process is acceptable, like, they're just looking at the basic language of this or did they also have concerns about the upkeep, but they just see that this matches, kind of the process there?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated Yeah. as far as a couple of questions in there, I'd like to respond about the minutes and just let you know that we have previously - I've received feedback from you all about the quality of the minutes and how robust or lacking of that they are. We are changing the process that we're using for doing minutes. So in the future I'm hopeful that they, uh - those will be improved and you will see that improvement. Second thing is in terms of the Historic Preservation Boards dialoguing debate on this one discussion, they are constrained in how they review it because there, again, they're reviewing it against the Secretary of the Interior's standards and a demolition clearly will have an impact to a historic property. So their review it - it - they really don't have much choice other than the find that it will damage or destroy a historic property. Now, there was discussion and dialogue. There has been at each of the Historic Preservation Board meetings there have been comments from the public about their efforts to improve the property and acquire it, but again, it's a - it's a complicated process and it - it takes some time to work through that.

Mayor Wu stated further questions for staff? I do have a couple of questions. I wanted to know, I saw in the actual packet that there are unpaid taxes on this property. Can you talk about the value of this property at the current minute, as well as, the back taxes that they still owe?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated yes. in terms of the value of the property, I'm unaware of that. In terms of the back taxes, I am going to look to MABCD staff and see if they might have some insights on that.

Council Member Ballard stated It - it's a little over \$9,000. And I believe that's including the abatement.

Mayor Wu stated and the value of this property?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated MABCD staff indicated approximately \$21,000.

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Mayor Wu invited public comment.

Diana Fisher stated Mayor, Council Members, my name's Diana Fisher. My address is 1563 Southwest Butler Road, Benton, Kansas. I'm a niece of Alma Niasis and Arlene Sperling, who were the owners of the duplex located at 1416 and 1418 Park Place. I have lived out of the area until recently. I was named the executor of Aunt Arlene's will. A little bit of background, Aunt Alma purchased the duplex because she wanted a historic home. She lived over in the Hillside area and her home there had been taken under eminent domain and she was bound determined she was going to live in a historic home. And so she bought the duplex. She lived in one side of the duplex and rented the other side out. she was active in the Midtown Citizens Association. She loved sharing with the family at family dinners what the Midtown citizens were doing and how she was so thrilled to be there in the neighborhood. she talked about, you know, the activities they had. She talked about the fundraising the association did. She loved gardening, so her yard was always full of flowers. Unfortunately, Aunt Alma became ill in 2002 with cancer and she invited her sister, which is my Aunt Arlene, to move into the other side of the duplex and Alma passed away in 2005. Aunt Arlene inherited the duplex. Neither of these aunts had any children. Aunt Arlene continued to live in the duplex until she became ill in 2010. Aunt Arlene ended up in assisted living in Pittsburgh, Kansas. she'd exhausted all of her funds and she was required to have Medicaid and state aid take care of her while she lived in assisted living. at the time she passed away, we understood the state then placed a lien on the duplex. Therefore, we did not probate her estate at that time. A couple of months ago, I was approached by a representative of the Historic Midtown Citizens Association asking if they could acquire the duplex to be able to restore it. that was wonderful news to our family who hated to see the property be destroyed or demolished but knew there were no funds available in the estate to restore it. So we have engaged with the Historic Midtown Citizens Association and we hope you will work with them to be able to restore this duplex and save it from demolition. Thank you.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. just a quick question, I guess, for staff. Maybe two quick questions. So is this is going through the probate process currently?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated hey. Council Member Hoheisel, Chris Labr Director of MABCD. my understanding is that has not yet begun. I do have indication. I have evidence that they've - the group has retained a lawyer and has begun that process, but I don't think they have an official case filed at this point.

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Council Member Hoheisel stated how long would it - does it take to go through a probate process if there's not really any opposition or family members to squabble about dividing it up?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated that - that can very greatly, uh - the lawyer involved has indicated that he believes he can do it within 100 to 120 days.

Barbara Riggs stated good morning. Barbara Riggs. I live at 1412/1414 North Park Place, next door to this house that's being discussed. 3-1/2 years ago, the city came with a great crew and boarded everything up and I was freaked out. I asked the lady, "How long is going to be like this?" She says, "Oh, 2 or 3 years," which I couldn't believe. It's 3-1/2 years now since the house has been boarded up and this continual deterioration, hot and cold running thieves, took so much stuff squatters. At this point that has all died down due to the efforts, I think, of the Midtown Citizens Association, the historic people who have come to clean up the yard, which shows that somebody cares. throughout this whole 3-1/2 years, I have - I - I - I've - I've lived with the, um - embarrassment of having a house like that next to me. My guests come, people come, and where you live, this place looks horrible. And I would sell - would tell 'em that the people who lived there had such misfortune that they - that that - that - that isn't something' anybody would want and - and - and - and that we - and that we should feel merciful to the people that let it get into this condition. It seemed like there were three options, one of which was to destroy the house, one of which was to, uh - and then have it empty or have somebody build something that looks like shipping containers in our Historic District. And believe me, I - I have great fear of that, having something horrible built there. And then also someone who would restore the house to its - to its former condition. I am greatly in favor of having the house be restored. It appears that the Historic Board is working on financing and the ability to do this work. I - I - I actually moved into the - the house I live in 39 years ago today, April the 1st, 1986, I moved in, and I - I didn't know where I w- I just found a neat place to live. I found out later of it being a Historic District and I just always so proud that I lived in that area. I just really loved being in that area with old houses and - and people who cared about their properties. it seems like - it - it seems like it - it's important for historic areas to be maintained and to be, uh - to m- to - to give us a sense of our history. I know that the city really likes to tear stuff down and build modern structures, but I don't, and many people in that area also do not, uh - uh - do not appreciate that. in honor of the two ladies that I knew very, very well who would be - would be hurt beyond words to see the condition of the property, I would - I would maintain that - that it should be restored and it appears that the Historic Board of Wichita has worked on

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getting financing for that. and I - I would desperately - desperate - I don't know - I would sincerely ask you to consider their proposal to re- restore the house to make it look beautiful again, and I just ask for that consideration. Thank you.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Barbara. I have several questions before we continue. It's not for you, Barbara. For staff. first and foremost, to clear - correct the record actually, it is not the back taxes that's \$9000. The back taxes is a total of \$4774.13. MABCD assessments and cleanup is \$9762.96. Are there any other items within that property that still need to be accounted for so that when the individuals that are trying to restore this specific property know exactly how much they need to raise?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated so good - good morning again, Mayor. And yes, thank you. Great question. So the total taxes as you stated are \$9762.96 at this time, of which \$4957.93 are MABCD-related assessments. There has been an abatement ta- done very recently since this time. We do not have final billing on that yet, but it will be between \$800 and - and \$1,000 that will be added to that total bill.

Mayor Wu stated and how many police calls and fire calls have been called out to this specific address?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated there - there have been no fire responses. There had been 12 police responses over the last 5 years and those were based on vandalism taking place at the, uh - at the structure.

Gretchen Eick stated hello. Good morning. I'm Gretchen Eick. I live at 1536 North Park Place, a block north of this property, and I've lived there for about 12 years. I would like to - to support the previous speakers and urge that you not demolish this building. we've seen in along Park Place many developers picking up properties and then turning them into multi occupancy apartment buildings that - and I have one on - on - I have two north of me and that - that has been a serious problem because the - the upkeep of the property goes down as you increase the numbers of rental properties and divi- divided properties in the neighborhood. so I'd - I'd like to encourage you to go with the inexpensive cost of rehabilitating this property. It isn't - it actually isn't very much. I mean, I'm thinking several of us neighbors could go together if we'd even known about this and - and purchased that property to make it to, uh - to make it you know, pay the back taxes and - and the fees and rehabilitate it so that, you know - we have so many

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structures in Wichita that are boarded up and that have been boarded up for years and years and years. I lived in Northeast for 18 years and the - we could never get anybody to - to go after the owners of those properties and take 'em over and rehabilitate them. So this is a great opportunity. I mean, I - I never - I've never understood that, why that never seemed to be possible absentee landlords. In this case, you don't have an absentee landlord. You have two elderly ladies who have died and who didn't have the resources to leave, uh - money for the upkeep of the property. So it's a prime opportunity to keep this in, um - in - in the hands of people who will be owner - an owner-occupied situation and that will be overseen by the - the Historic Preservation Board. So I'd really urge you to go that route rather than demolition. Thank you.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you. According to the 2024 tax statement, the amount currently owed, the minimum payment is \$8816.84 to redeem the property. The full amount payment is \$9845.96 that is due by May the 12th. I also have the 2024 tax statement if paid after May 12 it would be \$9953.68 to be - to be paid to redeem the property. the known specials for 2025 are \$1697.61 and they are due by August 26th of 2025.

Susie Cunningham stated hi everybody. My name's Susie Cunningham and I live in Midtown. I'm only a few blocks west of there. I just came up for a moment. I wrote you a pretty long, uh - letter but I wanted to address resources from the police because they really haven't spent hardly any. I went on LexisNexis, which is a link off the community policing page, and those are not specific to an address. They are identified as 1400-block by either single-family or a category of commercial that if - if property was being reported, recorded and given a case number, it would be duplex/multi-family or abandoned property. Those are the categories that would apply. let's see. I have the - so far in 2025, there's been no reports on the entire block. There was only one report on the block in 2024 and there were three in 2023. And, like I said, none were identified specifically to a specific address, but none were - were in the category of duplex/multi-family or abandoned. I guess that what that means is we're not using a lot of city resources on this. I'd like to go back to that picture of the pillar with the big gaping hole in it. If I could, can we get the - can we get that up? Or if - do you remember it well? That showed the pillar with the big gap in it? The neighbors who live nearby said that that happened by - yes. There was something heavy and hanging out of the truck that came to do cleanup and it was contracted by the city. I think it was an outsourced group that hit that and broke that pillar. So I'm questioning whether they should be charged for somebody coming out from under the City's order and damaging it further. So maybe you could discount some of that money. I

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just - I hope that you see that when - this process is so long, I got involved with it back, I think, in 2022 and found that there was an error. I turned it over to a - a developer friend that lived in that Benton/St. John area where - where the neighbors seemed to have come from. I talked to the, um - nursing home that put the \$6000 lien on. I said, "Can you come down on that any? If this gets demolished you won't see any money anyway." they referred me to different people that - that were in charge and ultimately, they just stopped taking my calls. They wouldn't respond to any emails. They were not willing to negotiate at that time. And about that time, it all got turned over to (Michaela) and I haven't been involved very much. But I do live in midtown. My brother and his wife live across the street and it's about a \$250,000 dollar home, 3-story Victorian, fully redone living and - and - living and maintaining historic property has served them very well. They are currently traveling the United States and they've been traveling now for 2 years. And that was after a year of - of going on - on cruises and things. So I'm real proud of my brother and the - and the work that he did on - on the Skinner Lee home. He was a - a restoration contractor. He - he has worked in that area a lot. He finished his career as a restoration contractor and - and carpenter in - in Vicarage. So I think that just because they're old and run down doesn't mean that they're just suddenly a - a waste of everybody's time, and I think that being on the MAPC for 14 months, I can tell you that if that goes vacant and infill comes, one of those duplexes with the wide pressed siding, no front doors, no front windows, two double garages, will be put there and it will not go. And I don't care what builder brings a zoning change for that, they get it. They're putting those things everywhere. They say the market is - is valid for it, but the market - the people don't have a choice. The people really want to buy a home, but they're not being built, and there's not enough rentals. So they're having to live in these caves that don't foster community because you can't see out the front. The garage is there. You can't see on one side because that's where your neighbor is. Anyway, I just really think that if you care about history and you care about this, you need to improve the process and not let all the responsibility fall on the heirs because, you know, the land bank, they haven't been very successful in this either. And part of that is falls on the city.

Claire Willenburg stated good morning. My name is Claire Willenburg. I live at 1402 North Garland. We neighbor the Historic Midtown District. I have first a question. This is a two-part denial as I understand it. Should these comments wait when we're talking about condition rather than the Historic Preservation Boards? Or - or is it okay to go ahead and talk about part two now? Okay.

Mayor Wu stated you can talk about it. As long as it's pertaining to 1416 and 1418 North Park Place, you can.

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Claire Willenburg stated we were getting confused. Thank you for the clarification. I also am a member of the Historic Preservation Board. Have been off and on for 25 years, I think. When term limits, I go to Code Standards or someplace else and then I come back because I'm very interested in that. and what Scott gave you is information, Historic Preservation Board being limited to why we can say yay or nay is correct. But we did hear a lot from the neighbors and the Historic Midtown Association Development Committee. So you'll be hearing more about that later. What I want to address is the condition of the structure. I'm going to read experts - excerpts - excuse me - from Gene Schulte who has been hired by the group. He is a very well-respected structural engineer. It says, "I have inspected the dwelling at the above noted address to evaluate structural integrity make rec- recommendations." Excuse me. I have essential tremor and it affects my voice also. Anyway. "To make recommendations for corrections as may be necessary. Early 1920s twin home, wood frame construction, full basement. The exterior appearance of the dwelling, especially the front, is poor. The front porch columns on each half need to be reconstructed - reconstructed. Additional work may be required with exposure of the porch framing. Foundations of both halves very good to excellent condition. South wall of unit 416 has a slight inward slope, but the amount of movement is minimal, not sufficient to require mechanical stabilization. Floors are solid. The visible floor framing in the basements, very good condition. Minimal cracks in the plaster finish of the main and second levels on both halves. I could not find any indication of roof leaks on the ceiling or the roof. The chimneys require some mason repair at the top." I'll skip through because it talks about which touch pointing needs to be done on the chimneys. "However, the chimneys are in satisfactory condition. Brick foundation of the porch for 416 will require some tuck pointing. Despite the rough appearance of the structure, the foundation and actual structure is very sound. Very little repairs are expected to be necessary outside of those noted herein. Roof structure repair is not expected to be necessary. The dwelling requires mostly cosmetic repair. The structure is in very good condition." I also have an email that was copied to me from the attorney that they have hired. He explains that he is out of town on a very time-consuming trial. He will be back next week. He expects to have the petition work done the week of 21st April. So that will be filed shortly. Any questions?

Vice Major Johnston left the bench.

Michaela Welch stated Mikayla Welch. I am at 1346 North Emporia, and I have the privilege of being the president of Historic Midtown Citizens Association. Councilwoman Ballard, Mayor

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Wu, Council it seems forever ago at this point, Mayor Wu, that you and I took a walk in my neighborhood. We took an opportunity to discuss the possibilities of what historic neighborhoods can do and also the challenges that do exist within the - the neighborhoods, i.e., let's talk about sidewalks. At that time, we discussed this duplex on Park Place. We discussed the fact that we could not take ownership of it yet as we were still searching for heirs. Unfortunately, we lost an heir during the search and that further complicated the situation. We discussed how important it is that we continue taking care of our historic neighborhoods and that once the - we save our history by not building homes that don't belong in the area and that they do not contribute to the esthetic of what the neighbors who work so diligently on their homes are trying. We discussed how we save our history of Wichita by maintaining these properties. This duplex is a contributing structure to the Fairview Park Place historic neighborhood. It is triple listed. This is one of the projects that Mayor Wu and I discussed on our walk. It is now finally coming to fruition. This has not been easy. Rhandalee Hinman, who could not be here because she's on vacation - no. She wanted desperately to be here, but this was scheduled after she had already planned. She is the president of the Historic Midtown Citizens Development Fund. So we do have a separate organization that is to develop the Midtown area. They have been working diligently for well over a year to sort out the ownership of this property. We had to have tens of thousands of dollars of liens released against the property, which Ms. Hinman was able to do. She's worked with the neighborhood police, Officer Byers, to secure the building better so that we didn't have continual calls on the property. We have felt the responsibility to save this home for our Historic District, but honestly even more so, for our neighbors. I would not want to live next to a house that looked like this and I don't want to require my neighbors to longer. We have felt the weight of how difficult it is to live with a home that looks like this, especially when some of our neighbors have businesses that run out of their homes and they see this as they drive up. While I wish I could have waved a magic wand and fixed this when it first became aware to me, I haven't been able to do that. We do, however, have that ability now. The structural engineer, as you recently heard, has indicated that this house is not a house for demo. The funds that are required for the exterior work, the - what the structural engineer has said needs to immediately been taken care of, those funds are available. We are also going to be working with the State of Kansas Historic Tax Credits to assist us in our progress. Most of those will be for the interior as we move forward. We have already begun cleanup of the exterior. We did that for our neighbors. We wanted to make sure that they would see that we're coming in with the hope that with your efforts to not demolish this home. We will work as a neighborhood again to save this house. There are many things that I'd love to share with you about the interior of this duplex that I was very shocked about, but we'll save that for when you come for a visit and take a look at

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what we're able to accomplish when we work together. So we ask that you deny the request for demolish in the spirit of preserving Wichita's history. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Johnston returned to the bench.

Mayor Wu stated. thank you, Mikayla. And I did enjoy that walk and appreciated that conversation. It is important to save Wichita's history and it does take community to come together to try to solve issues, especially in neighborhoods. And so, again, this is a private property and there's a legal process when it comes to property that does not belong to the City of Wichita. It is not a public property. And so I appreciate that community is coming together. And all of us received multiple emails throughout this last week, including one that was directly to me from Rhandalee, who's spoke about how this group has already secured some funds, and we'll continue to do that. And I appreciate you bringing Rhandalee up. Thank you. We'll continue with public comment.

Myron Ackerman stated Myron Ackerman. I'm in District 1. I find it odd that a council would even have to think about denying this dem- demolition permit. You just heard you have a physically sound building that you're - someone wants to destroy. The exterior it sounds like need very little work. woodwork on pillars on - on a porch is very simple and relatively inexpensive. the house, if it's in probate, I would take it as grossly incompetent if you were to take a house that was currently being probated. It may up- sorry, I wasn't prepared to speak on this - it may turn out that there will be someone who will have ownership of this house once it's probated. You would be denying that person an asset. Also, you're allowing - you're denying, say me as a businessman, to buy this home at tax audit, tax sale. I could buy it for the - for the residual taxes that are due, then I would have the option if it's a structurally sound house, and it is historic, with the neighborhood, destroying it would be inexcusable. The fact that it's structurally sound, it may be - well I would say almost certainly, it will be bought at tax auction. To go ahead and destroy this building, I - I can't conceive of any of you being so blatantly insulting that you would destroy a structurally sound building with historic si- significance in a historic neighborhood. I would ask that you - I would ask that you find that you will not approve this. I find it, as I say, rather - rather unbelievable that you would consider destroying a historic, structurally sound building. Also, I guess while I have an extra few minutes I would seriously question the value of that house being at 20 some thousand. I would venture to say that lot is probably worth that much in that neighborhood. A house like that, if the exterior needs minimal

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work, what are - we aren't talking about the interior. If the house is - is kept, the interior completely - can be completely gutted and redone as long as the exterior meets the historic me- requirements. So to me, this is a - this is a no-brainer to say no, we will not destroy this house.

Council Member Glasscock stated Thank you, Mayor. Myron, just context, nobody on this council brought this forward. This goes through the process of historic preservation. And so no one from this council said we want to demolish this building and brought this forward from the council.

Myron Akerman stated I'm - excuse me. I'm not saying that you are wanting to demolish this. Someone is wanting to demolish this and I am asking you seriously to say no, this is not - this - this should be demolished. It's structurally sound. It's valued in this - in the community. And there are at least two more options for ownership of this home. And to allow demolition of a house that can be rehabilitated, can be picked up inexpensively relatively at tax auction, why would you destroy it? Why would you approve demolition?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated Scott Wadle again from Planning. There have been some questions about the taxes and assessments placed on the property. We have copies of the property report from the Appraiser's Office. And so I just wanted to distribute those, if that's okay.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Scott. I see the number now matches what I mentioned, which was \$9,762.96 from our green packet. So thank you very much for the clarification. We will close public comment now and bring it back to the bench, to the Council Members.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. I guess a question for staff. so if it's on the verge of going into being seized by the county in tax auction, is there a way to, like - when would that process start since they're 4 years behind? Or 5 years now, I guess?

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Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated yeah, Mayor and Council, Chris Labrum again. The, uh - so the property is currently listed for the tax sale with Sedgwick County that will be administered by the Treas- the Sedgwick County Treasurer and the Sheriff's Office, and that is forecast to take place the third week of October of this year. they - they will not have a date certain until 30 days in advance of the sale and that's when that will be published. But they have confirmed to us that it is on those rolls.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. And then - so there's still time for it to go through the probate process?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated correct. And generally speaking if - if taxes are paid even up until the day before that sale, they will remove it from the list.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. And that - and whatever sale would happen, \$9000, almost \$10,000 would automatically go to pay off the taxes?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated correct. assuming it was sold for that amount it - it would come back to pay property and assessment taxes in that order.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. thank you Scott and Chris and everybody else that has been working hard on this. Thank you, Mikayla and all of the residents from Midtown and District 6, actually, that have come to speak about this. This has been really interesting. This has been a property that has been on the radar since I got on council. it went through the process first and, I believe, Claire was my appointment on the Historic Preservation Board then. And it was interesting we learned that if the Historic Preservation Board denies the demo, it just kind of dies and, like, nothing - nothing happens. So we've talked to you, you know, Scott, about what does that process look like. They can't just be kind of stagnant and, like, hanging out there. There needs to be a plan. If we're going to pull it off and not demo it, there needs to be a plan. So that's why this is gone through the whole second time to go through the process. again, and I have been in very close communication with the Midtown Board. They do have a general contractor estimate. They have done a structural engineer report that shows that the - the bones of it are - are good. It just needs a little bit of TLC on the outside. and they have spoken to the bank and have a letter to secure financing. So with that I move to defer this item to October 7, 2025 City Council Meeting, which is the first regular meeting following 120 - or 180 days from this present meeting. In support of this motion, I would like to offer the

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following. This would provide approximately 6 months for stakeholders to improve the property. In addition, it would provide some time for stakeholders to work on resolving the property ownership issue. and my expectations are that during the deferral, I would receive regular updates about the progress made in improving the property and the building permits will be pulled during the deferral period.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. I just want to speak briefly to this. I'll be supportive of the motion. I think this is a win for the community if we can work like this on future properties to save historical properties. I think that's a plus. Hopefully, we can look at this because this also involves the property owner. It's why I'm supportive of this - of - as well. hopefully, we can replicate this if it is successful next 180 days to save historic properties and make sure we put these property - restore these properties and put them back on the tax rolls as well. Thank you for the work on this and I look forward to seeing what happens in 180 days.

Motion:

Council Member Ballard moved to defer to October 7, 2025.

Motion carried 7 to 0

2.) [Repair or Removal of Dangerous and Unsafe Structure \(District VI\)](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-2.docx](#)

Attachment: [04-01-25 Supporting Documents 1416 N Park Place NDA and Letter to Council.docx](#)

Attachment: [04-01-25 Summary Table Spreadsheet 1416 N Park Place.xlsx](#)

Chris Labrum, MABCD, presented the item.

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Mayor Wu stated thank you, Chris. I do have one question, and I think it has to do, not with this property, but the process itself. I've had some neighbors from specifically, South Broadway ask questions regarding illegal encampments on private property where the property owner's not found. That there's also, kind of like this situation where it took years to truly find the property owner. What is the process for these individuals especially as they see encampments in - on private property, but there's no property owner that can be immediately found?

Chris Labrum, MABCD, stated so, and in - in basic terms, Mayor, since we deal with the property, once the house homeless outreach team police department, or whoever would be involved in that has taken care of the people aspect of that, the process is very similar for us through abatement. Now with our new ordinance, and we can get (Kalyn) up here to talk more specifics. But with the cleanup ordinance, this allows us to initiate that process much more quickly, especially if we have not been able to, u m, reach property owners, and - and verify those notifications, we're able to go ahead and - and energize that process, and - and get the property.

Kalyn Nethercot, MABCD, stated Kalyn Nethercot, Neighborhood Inspection, Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department, for the record. to echo what Chris said, we are able to expedite those cleanups. the notification process is different. It's a slightly expedited process when there's not an active property owner involved. We do all that research on the front end. and then it can move - it can also be expedited when there's second and subsequent complaints for the same type of issue on the same lot. but once again, we're going to rely on the HOT team and WPD to take care of the people issue, and then we're going to move as quickly as we possibly can to take care of the property issue that's created by that homeless encampment. the one thing I would re- remind and reiterate, I think I - I said this in the last workshop, is to please tell people to continue to report to us, because we're not going back to double-check something that we've already cleaned up. We're - we're relying on those reported complaints to let us know if the problems recur, so.

Mayor Wu stated I appreciate that. I know that, that was a specific question that I had, had from a community member in District Number 3 Council Member Hoheisel's district about how the revised encampment ordinance would allow for a quicker response as neighbors want to have a safe neighborhood and a clean neighborhood, what they would have to do in order to have some encampments in their areas cleaned up quicker.

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Kaylin Nethercott, MABCD, stated yes. And I - I would, one caveat to that, is that obviously, size of that is also going to dictate how quickly we can move on the cleanup. the - the size of the encampments will - will also, be a little bit of a determining factor, a little - little planning and organizing on our part on how we address those. So, thank you.

Mayor Wu invited public comment.

Michaela Welch stated still Mikayla Welch on North Emporia. And I just wanted to clarify a couple of items that I may not have spent time on. we as Historic Midtown Citizens Development - goodness, the acronyms Association, we have plans to pay the back taxes and any additional as soon as we receive the vote that we are not going to be demolishing today. So we needed to wait for that per our attorney. (Claire) was able to read for you the message from the attorney that has also been shared with all of you that they will begin process as soon as he comes back into town so that we can take rightful ownership. We brought you today the heirs for the property to be able to say that they want us to be there and to save the property. So I just wanted to link all of that up for all of you, so if you have any questions. Thank you.

John Todd stated good morning, Mayors and members of the Wichita City Council. (John Todd), 1559 North Payne, District 6. I really support the - your efforts to repair the building. And I would say that the - the total fees on this you should not require that to happen until - until the owner actually has the good title. So that - that's all I have to say. Thank you so much. Bye.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. in light of the information provided by MABCD and the information provided during the previous agenda item, HPB2024-00008, I move the City Council open the condemnation hearing, but defer comments and action until October the 7th Wichita City Council meeting. During the deferral period, the following conditions will apply. The interested parties will pursue obtaining legal ownership. In relation to obtaining legal ownership, the interested parties will provide any filing information complete with a case number to MABCD. The interested parties will obtain a building permit for the needed structural repairs once they have legal right to make such repairs. The structure is to

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remain secure. The property's premise will remain clean of debris and be maintained in accordance with municipal code. And all property taxes will be paid and kept current.

Motion:

Council Member Ballard moved to open the condemnation hearing, but defer comments and action until October the 7th Wichita City Council meeting. During the deferral period, the following conditions will apply. The interested parties will pursue obtaining legal ownership. In relation to obtaining legal ownership, the interested parties will provide any filing information complete with a case number to MABCD. The interested parties will obtain a building permit for the needed structural repairs once they have legal right to make such repairs. The structure is to remain secure. The property's premise will remain clean of debris and be maintained in accordance with municipal code. And all property taxes will be paid and kept current.

Motion carried 7 to 0

3.) [Police Department Property Acquisition](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-3.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-133 Bonding Resolution for Repairs of 332. N. Riverview Property and Adjacent Parking Spaces.docx](#)

Captain Aaron Moses presented the Item.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Aaron, for the presentation. Questions for staff? I have several. can we s- I think this might not be a PD question. It's more of a either Gerri question, or Sally question. it's about the building itself. How big is this building? Is this fair market value? I looked back at the agreement from April of 2024, when the city sold the Habitat for Humanity building for \$682,500. That building was 19,798 square feet, but the total property, I believe, is 115,852 square feet. Can we - I'd like a comparison. Is this fair market value?

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Gerri Ford, City Manager's Office, stated this is considered fair market value. The city of Wichita procured an appraisal on behalf of housing as part of the disposition process application needed for HUD. So this property was appraised by an independent third-party appraiser at a value of \$670,000, which is approximately \$50 a square foot for the property. the property is 13,430 square feet, according to my notes.

Mayor Wu stated just the building itself?

Gerri Ford, City Manager's Office, stated that's just the building itself. When it's an improved property, generally, it's - the value is, as it is improved. So the land is not separate.

Mayor Wu stated I have questions about that appraisal. I want to make sure that since this building is really a transfer from a city department to a city department, I know it's a HUD property that taxpayers don't have to pay extra for this building so that it truly is fair. so that's question so it's more of a comment. I want to make sure that, that is truly \$670,000, instead of a lowered price. The second question I have regarding that building is, does PD currently pay rent for that space?

Gerri Ford, City Manager's Office, stated not to my knowledge, PD does not pay rent. when PD moved into the property in 2018, they made some significant capital improvements to the property, which in theory, then contribute to the value that was presented today.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. And this is now a question, I think for the City Manager. What other properties does PD pay rent for?

Captain Aaron Moses stated Manager, if it's okay, I'll take care of that. I looked into that Mayor, and we currently have two locations that we pay rent for. One is our Patrol South community policing office in the Old Town area. And the other is a facility that I'm not going to disclose the location of due to the sensitive activity that occurs there that's on the west side of town.

Mayor Wu stated I'm going to ask questions regarding the Patrol South community policing Old Town specific building. How long have we been paying rent at that location, and what is the rent?

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Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated so the earliest record I could find was 2008. So we've been there at least since 2008. The current agreement was - the most recent agreement was signed in 2021 through 2024, and it offered one two-year extension. the leased rate was \$2000 a month. For the 2-year extension, that increased to \$2300 a month. And that extension goes through July of 2026.

Mayor Wu stated this is more of a question, again, back to, I think, City Manager. What prompted this paying Old Town for a building knowing - I know for a fact, that there are a lot of officers in that area to try to keep folks safe. why was there rent that PD has to pay for?

City Manager Robert Layton stated Mayor, thank you for the question. You and I have discussed some of this in the past. My recollection of the history is that the police wanted a presence in Old Town due to public concerns about safety in Old Town, especially over the weekends. But the feeling that a police presence would improve the perception of safety for those that were using the hotel and retail spaces in that area. When - I - I - I could be wrong about this, but my recollection is when I arrived here, we were moving out of space we owned in the parking garage area at Old Town Square. we had to vacate that space for a tenant who wanted to expand their retail use. And that's when the police department looked for an alternative site. S- you - since you've raised those questions, I've had conversations with the chief. And at the end of our time in this current space, he believes that we can reconfigure some of the space at the building that will be purchased from, uh - uh - the housing department. he thinks we can move them over there because the presence in Old Town is probably not as important to us. It's just a matter of having a presence downtown that w- that is important for this unit. And Aaron can talk more about that from a program standpoint.

Mayor Wu stated City Manager, I have multiple more questions regarding that. so the City of Wichita public property that is owned would be what we discussed a few, now, probably an hour ago regarding the garage area and those tenants. That is owned by the City of Wichita. The City of Wichita also owns City Arts, the building, correct?

City Manager Robert Layton stated yes.

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Mayor Wu stated and obviously, the - in total, the two garages in Old Town.

City Manager Robert Layton stated right.

Mayor Wu stated my question then is, why has that never been thought of - of why didn't we just have PD have some space in either of those two city-owned properties so you don't have to pay rent?

City Manager Robert Layton stated at - for most of the last 5 to 10 years, we've not had vacant space in the garage area. we just had a space vacate that Council just approved a lease for recently, but we've not had much turnover in those spaces. In terms of City Arts, it's just a matter of there - I - I don't know that there was available space. We would have had to cut back on programming in order to put the police in that off- in that space.

Mayor Wu stated I can't change what has happened in the past. But this does not seem financially or fiscally prudent to have to pay for rent especially when the City already owns property downtown, where you could maybe carve out space, and actually make it dedicated. I know that it is convenient for police to have a space in Old Town, given that they have a presence to make sure that people are safe. And so I really appreciate that. However, I don't believe that it is prudent that the city should be paying rent for property when the city actually owns property in that vicinity. so that's just for the record. And then now knowing that you've had the conversation with chief about possibly moving some of that over to the b- the building that we're discussing right now, I still don't know if that is the solution given that there's still a presence in Old Town, and people want the - the officers in that area, and the convenience of the officers having that space. So I don't want to inconvenience our officers who are literally, providing safety in that area. but I don't like the fact that we - we've been paying rent at that location when again, we have property that the city owns. So I just, again, it's more of a comment. And I know that we're n- we're now going to rectify this moving forward. But again, when I was - when this was brought to my attention that the city of Wichita has been paying rent in Old Town, given all the conversations we've had about deferred maintenance at parking lots in Old Town, it really bothered me. And I think that, that is part of the conversation that we need to have about, well, we have city property. Why not use city property to the best usage rather than having to pay private developers rent? It really doesn't make sense.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. quick question, I guess, for Sally. are we under the gun no pun intended for that one to get this deal through with regards to some of the

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changes that HUD has coming down the pipeline?

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated I don't know that I'd say under the gun. once we do receive the approval of the disposition, which it's still in HUD's hands at that point, we would need to be making progress towards disposition of that property. The approval of that application could be another 30 to 120 days, by my estimate.

Council Member Hoheisel stated Okay. So, and we don't expect that to either be expedited, or to disappear all together with...

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated we hope not. We hope not. We've had no additional follow-up from HUD on the application since it was assigned to the HUD staffer who's reviewing it.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. Captain Moses, what's the square footage of that rented space in Old Town?

Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated I have - I don't have it in front of me.

City Manager Robert Layton stated 2000 square feet.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated 2000 square feet. So \$2300 a month is pretty cheap, very, very cheap. Doing numbers in my head. I think, Mayor, what we need to think about too, is we have the Triple Net in Old Town that we own, the parking garage space. it's about \$9 a square foot. So if we do - are in that space, it is going to cost us \$9 a square foot. the other question you have to ask is, what is the best uses of that space? Since that's an entertainment district, is it better to have a police station there or to have a tenant in there that draws people down to that area? So I would s- I would say it's the latter. It's better to have a tenant in that space. So I don't see a problem with the police renting a space in Old Town for \$2300 a month. it's a very, very inexpensive rent for that space, and it gives them a present- presence in Old Town. So I think we have to weigh all - all all options and all the benefits and the costs to it. So not just look at just - we have to be an all city space. That's my comment.

Mayor Wu stated as a follow-up to that question, has City Arts building ever been considered since that is not a tenant-based location? Has City Arts, maybe a portion of City Arts, provide

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some space for PD, maybe in the back to store some of their items? I guess, has that ever been explored?

Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated not that I'm aware of.

Mayor Wu stated and does PD believe the convenience of that location, would that serve the purpose better than being a central building, the one that we're discussing?

Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated we've modified our deployment approach to Old Town as far as closing, and in the evening hours. certainly, it's beneficial to have- we believe it's beneficial to have a presence in the area during the day. but we will certainly look to Council direction on - on the desire of Council and their wishes, and execute that appropriately. either building would suit our needs. I think there is a benefit to having police presence in the Old Town area during the day. Like I said, at night, bar closing time, we have that covered through an alternative deployment plan that we use on the weekends. it's during the day and during the week that we - we don't necessarily have dedicated - we have dedicated staff to that area, but they're responding to calls all over the Patrol South Bureau, if that makes sense.

Mayor Wu stated I know that a lot of people were walking around during the NCAA games, and they appreciated seeing a presence of our police department. But again, I - I would say that you're providing this safety service every single weekend, especially in the Old Town area. So I don't believe that it was prudent, not - not the PD's it was not up to PD, but they should not have been - you guys should not have been having to pay for that space given that there's a lot of resources including PD's time and personnel that goes out to Old Town every single weekend to keep folks safe in that area. So I'm more upset that we've been paying since 2008, this rent, when really, the services that are provided by the police department I'm sure outweigh a lot of that \$2000 per month. And it provides extra safety for people in Old Town. And so again, I am still not believing that we should have to pay \$2000 per month. It should be that added service that already is being provided. and so I'm just going to again, be on the record that, that is not prudent, that the City of Wichita should have to pay rent again, for an area that you do provide extra safety.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. And I see Linda- (Lindsay) is here way in the back. but regarding City Arts, I just wanted to make a quick comment. I am on the City Arts advisory board, so I am in that building quite often. And there would not be room, I would not estimate, for additional occupants. One of the things that they have done in addition to not

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only having the wonderful exhibits, but they also now are a licensed child care provider. And so they have camps, and they have classes, and - and things that serve young and old almost every day. So (Lindsey), if I have said anything wrong, please let me know. But as I mentioned, I am in that space quite frequently, and I don't see a spare inch. So just a comment. Thank you.

Mayor Wu stated Captain Moses, the 2000 square feet in the Old Town building, what is it utilized for? And then can you explain the 19,000, or sorry, 13,400 square feet at the Central Bureau currently, what does that get used for?

Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated so the space in Old Town is dedicated to our Patrol - Patrol South Community Policing Office. it is a structure that we're looking at changing as we move into the future. So we have had dedicated separate space for our community policing officers in the past. recently, Patrol East, with the construction of a new station, they moved into the new station. we stopped leasing space at the Old Wichita Mall. Patrol West, our plan is to do the same thing. They have a dedicated community policing office now but as hope- we should be breaking ground on the new station in the spring this spring. And then at the completion of that project, Patrol West community policing will move into the station. we don't currently have plans to build a new Patrol South in the near future. but certainly, if that were to happen, I could see the same thing, that the Patrol South community policing officers would move into the station That's our ideal scenario is to have them in the station with other officers But that office space in the Old Town area specifically is used by our community policing officers to do some of their administrative work, and have an additional presence in the area during the day. Um - uh - additionally providing officers who work in that area a space to go if they need some workspace as well. The Central Bureau is - houses, like I said, our accident follow-up investigators. It houses professional staff that process all of our accident reports, process some of our out-of-custody DUI investigations. It also has a dedicated garage space, which is very important to us for our motorcycles so we're able to park our - our police motorcycles inside. They're also able to do work on those motorcycles inside, so that's a very important part of this space for us. and it has workspace for our community support specialists, which are two DCF partnership positions. That's the best way I can describe them. Council Member Hoheisel is well aware of what they do. he helped us with some work at the state level on - with their positions. and it also houses our Homeless Outreach Team now. They moved from Patrol South into the Central Bureau. so that - that's what currently is housed within the Riverview- Riverview building. again, we've had discussions about potentially, moving the patrol south community policing office into that building. We don't think there's enough space currently to move the Patrol South community policing officers into Patrol South. It's a relatively

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small substation. but we do believe we can find space in the central building, if we need to but we do believe we can find space in the central building, if we need to.

Mayor Wu invited public comment. No one came forward.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. I appreciate the presentation. Everything I just heard makes a lot of sense to me to support this. So I'll be supportive of this. Hopefully, we can see some more officers getting into that space. Sounds like a great location. And also for the record I definitely support city arts and would love to see both of these items stay separate. And by approving' this, I think we can do that and city arts can keep its space active as it has been.

Motion:

Council Member Ballard moved to approve the project and the necessary budget adjustments, the bonding resolution, and authorize all necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

- 4.) [Initiation of the Process to Nominate the Crown Uptown Theatre to the Wichita Register of Historic Places. \(District I\)](#)

Attachment: [WCC_Agenda_Report_Nomination_Initiation_V2.docx](#)

Attachment: [Kansas Historic Resource Inventory.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-125 Nomination of Crown Uptown to be Listed on the Wichita Register of Historic Places.docx](#)

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, presented the Item.

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Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. Scott, so this has to go Historic Preservation Board and then MAPC?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated yes, sir.

Council Member Hoheisel stated what happens if either of those vote to deny it? Does that throw a kink in it, or is that just for our information to consider at the end?

Council Member Johnson left the bench.

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated I'm going to grab some resources that - so I can answer that question. So in the Municipal Code, so what is required at the Historic Preservation Board level is an affirmative vote of the majority of the members to constitute approval of the application. Likewise, at the Planning Commission, it lists what the materials are. the - okay. And the Planning Commission so set forth its finding as to whether the listing is consistent with adopted plans and shall transmit such findings to the City Council. It does not immediately - a quick review, it does not immediately indicate what should happen if that - you do not receive that, but I think it is implied that the - at the Historic Preservation Board, if they do not approve it, it does not move forward. But again, that's a quick read and that's what I believe is implied. It's not explicit.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. So MAPC does not follow the same?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated no. I believe they're providing you with finding as to whether or not it's consistent with adopted plans. So they could find that it's not and yet, it would still be go forward because it indicates that they shall transmit such findings to the City Council. So with that language, to me, it does not mean that the application would fail if they found that it did not. They would still transmit that to you.

Council Member Hoheisel stated last question. and you touched on it briefly. What considerations does the Historic Preservation Board need to look at with it? Is it more - is this appropriate to be designated, or do they take it, like, it's appropriate in this particular case?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated no. They will be reviewing that in whether or not it meets - whether or not it meets guidelines. And - just one moment. I, um - yes. Okay. So ex-

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materials character, also they would be looking at historic events that took place there. So there are a number of different qualifying features that could - could be with 'em - associate with a property.

Council Member Johnson returned to the bench.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. So similar to the other ones? It's more a question of it's appropriate for this particular location to be designated as historical?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated that is correct. And that would be again - you could base it on architecture. You could ta- base it on historic events that have taken place there. or there could be someone famous that's associated with a property, maybe a given architect or someone who maybe owned it and operated it at one time.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. Is the - does the owner of the property consent to this process being initiated?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated we have not heard directly on this. So I will not speak for them.

Council Member Glasscock stated they have a minimum of 50% of property owners within the record of the applicant. So the Historic District begun this process?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated I would say the property owner is not initiating his - it's not requested for this process to be initiated.

Mayor Wu stated so I'll have the follow-up question. can you go back to the slide regarding the process? Can you explain how you can initiate the process one more time? There are specifically four ways to initiate this process. Can you explain those four processes?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated yes. There are four indivi- there are four individuals or organizations that can initiate this process, and that is the property owner or in the case of a district, a minimum of 50% of the property owners. a - so that's the first one. The second one is a majority of the Historic Preservation Board. So the Wichita Historic Preservation Board. A

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third one is a majority of the City Council. So four out of seven. And the last option is other, if accompanied by written consent of the owner.

Mayor Wu stated and if I look at the process right now, remind us who initiated this conversation?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated so this item is being presented at the request of a council member.

Mayor Wu stated so I see that the initiation right now is being considered by the council, and the last step - last step in this process is back to the council. So the same organization that would initiate would then also have a final determining decision, especially when this is not a public property. The City of Wichita does not own this, correct?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated that is correct.

Mayor Wu stated I have grave concern in trying to take away property rights from property owners. This, again, since there are four ways to initiate this process, and the council has final say at the very end, I don't believe this is prudent to try to take away property owners' rights. and so I would like to know if the council is not one of the entities that initiates - and you just said that the property owner has not initiated this - what has the Historic Preservation Board done?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated And so it - I'm going to re- reflect the question back to make sure I understand it correctly. So the question is in similar circumstances where the property owner has initiated the listing process, what has the City Council traditionally done? Or the Historic Preservation Board?

Mayor Wu stated so right now, the four ways that you can initiate is, one, by the property owner, two, by a majority of the individuals in that community if the property owner says yes, three, would be the Historic Preservation Board, or four, the council. So in this situation, the property owner has not said yes or a majority of the individuals in the area with the consent of the property owner have not said yes. Right now, we're discussing the council, but I just mentioned that this is the council initiating and then the council making final decision at the very end, which seems to conflict with property or rights. and the - the final one is the Historic Preservation Board. What has the Historic Preservation Board done since?

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Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated there have not been properties added to the Wichita Historic Registry in many, many years. So we do not have kind of precedence in this instance.

Mayor Wu stated so this would be the very first time, if approved, it would set the precedent that the council can initiate a process without the consent of a property owner, is that correct?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated I just want to clarify that the - it - obviously, this process has been used in the past at some point because there are properties that are listed on the Wichita Register of Historic Places. It's just not in recent history that we've seen that property get listed on there. In terms of whether or not an established precedence it's in the Municipal Code as an option. So that - that - that is how it's provided. in terms of the details about how other properties have been listed I - I do not have that readily available.

Mayor Wu stated can you also explain why in the past it has not been initiated by previous property owners or why that process has not begun? As - as I understand it, this specific building is not on the Wichita Registry, it's not on the state one and it's not on the national one, but it's been around for decades. So my question is why - do you know why it was never put on the registry prior to this specific property owner?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated I do - I do not know and - and I don't know that I would want to speculate at this time.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. just for transparency, I am that council member that asked for this.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. Any further questions? Have we received any response from the property owner since the March 4 council meeting?

Scott Wadle, Planning Department, stated there was the letter leading up to that one. there were the comments that were provided at that meeting. I do not believe that we've received any other communications from the owner.

Mayor Wu invited public comment.

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Arthur Allen stated Arthur Allen, District 1. just k- point of order or case i- information that the owner has had offers, but he is not willing to discuss a purchase price. So there are people obviously that are interested in purchasing the building and saving the building, and he had given his word when he bought it from Mr. Basham that he would not destroy it. And we all know that he has not kept his word to you all in the past, but that's the truth. It is that there are offers, but he will not negotiate. Thank you.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. I will not be supportive of this today. I believe that property rights are one of the most fundamental rights and I believe that our job from this bench is to protect it. I would hope that if someone was trying to seize my property or do something with it against my wishes, there'd be somebody from this bench to defend me and my property rights as well. I will say I love this building. I've urged from this bench for the developer or the owner not to tear it down. I often go to this building. I believe it's valuable to the history of Wichita, but I don't take my value of it higher than his property rights. I appreciate that there have been offers but just because there's offers on a property does not mean an owner has to accept those offers. And so because of my desire to make sure that we have properties that are maintained in the future, I am working with Scott actively to work on a preservation plan with my appointee to the Historic Board that we can proactively add properties to the registry with the consent of the owner. And so her and I will be meeting in the coming weeks regarding this as well so we can make sure that we're setting ourselves up for success. I think what happened with Midtown earlier today is a good example of how we can make sure that we're saving these properties with the consent of the owner, with neighborhoods working together, and everybody pushing in the same direction. And so I will not be supportive of this today. though, again, I love this property and I urge that we maintain it as part of integral to Wichita's history.

Motion:

Council Member Johnson moved to initiate the process to nominate the Crown Uptown Theatre for placement on the Wichita Register of Historic Places.

Motion carried 4 to 3 (Nay: Lily Wu, JV Johnston, Dalton Glasscock).

Mayor Wu stated I will just add my two cents before adding my vote to refuse this. It is not because I don't believe in the value of the Crown Uptown. I believe in the value of the Crown

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Uptown and its historic presence and part of our Wichita history. However, I'm very concerned when we are taking away a property owner's right to say whether they do or do not consent to have something done to their property. This should have been initiated years ago. And why it was not, we still don't know, but we are at this juncture where this property is not owned by the city. It's not owned by private citi- by the taxpayers of this community. Rather, it is owned by one property owner. And knowing that at the end of the process, we as a council will be able to vote on this designation. Again, does not seem to be right. And because of that and the opportunity for the property owner to say in conjunction with the community whether he wants to sell it or not I think having the conversation's important and we should have those conversations, but in this situation, I believe in property rights. And so I will not be voting in favor of this.

5.) [2025 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Submission](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-6.docx](#)

Attachment: [SLCGP Grant Application Fire-Police.pdf](#)

Attachment: [SLCGP Grant Application City_Hall.pdf](#)

Attachment: [SLCGP Grant Application City Public Services.pdf](#)

Mike Mayta, IT Department, presented the item.

Vice Mayor Johnston invited public comment. No one came forward.

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Motion:

Vice Mayor Johnston moved to approve the grant agreements and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

- 6.) [Purchase of 12 Public Housing Authority properties from the Wichita Housing Authority and Allocation of CDBG Funds \(District I\)](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-7.doc](#)

Attachment: [CH10HS450-SW-03-13-2025-09-48-48.pdf](#)

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, reviewed the item.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. thank you, Sally. I think we've seen the beginning of this presentation like two dozen times since I've been (unintelligible).

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated I'm sorry. I do that for the public.

Council Member Hoheisel stated oh, yeah. I appreciate that. just a couple of quick questions. the Affordable Housing restrictions, those are the same that we have with LIHTC credits and whatnot?

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated it would - if it - if we were to do rentals, it would be a 15-year restriction. On affordable home buyers, it's a 10-year period in which the - any down payment assistance, half would be forgiven if they stay 10 years. if they don't stay 10 years, then that actually comes back back to the CDBG fund, so it would be recaptured upon sale.

Council Member Hoheisel stated and what's the plan if we do this, and we come up, you know,

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we have an extra \$100,000 that wasn't spent on restoration, or we're butting up against the timeline. Do we have any contingency plans for any of that funding?

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated so, I - it - absolutely we could come back and ask to reallocate the funds to a different project so long as it's already in the Annual Action Plan. If we were to want to allocate that to a project that's not in the plan that will be brought to you in May then we would have to actually do a substantial amendment to the plan which would take about 6 months.

Council Member Hoheisel stated And then one last question. You kind of brought it up. the Home Repair Program. One of the things I hear from the public who have applied for this is, you have to have home insurance in order to qualify for the loan, yet a lot of people, because of structural deficiencies that they wish to address with the loan, cannot receive homeowner insurance.

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated correct.

Council Member Hoheisel stated so, is that a federal guideline...HUD guideline?

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated it is not a - a federal requirement, but it is national best practice if you're going to invest taxpayer dollars into someone's home that it be insured against catastrophe.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. So is - is that something' we can talk about sometime maybe about trying to figure out a plan? Cause if we're having funds that aren't being spent on it, maybe coming' up with a plan to help people get it up to the point to where they can...

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated we're actually seeing more of the challenges around the - anything o- the first \$5000 is a grant, so long as they stay in the unit for 5 years. The remainder - the t- the si- you know, \$5001 up to \$25,000 is a loan. what - some of the feedback we're hearing, that we've implemented a 10% match on the amount over - over \$5000. That seems to be more of the hiccup. And so it's been about a year, and I've actually challenged the staff to re-look at the program plan to see if we have some other opportunities. So perhaps leveraging other op- you know, other programs, connecting people to low intrent- interest loans in the banking market. How can we help fill that gap? I even brought up the idea of them being able to pay that over time. They kind of cringed at me when I said

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that. but they are in the process of reviewing that program plan to try and make adjustments to make it easier for families to - to meet those requirements.

Council Member Hoheisel stated do we think this funding is under the microscope federally?

Sally Stang, Housing & Community Services Department, stated absolutely. Absolutely under the microscope. we have seen, I mean, it's all speculation at the moment. We have not received the allocations for the 2025 funding year. I would not even venture a guess as to what that's going to look like. The continuing resolution keeps our funding flat through, you know, the end of the fiscal year. So we just kind of watch and see what's happening. That is one nice thing about bringing back an annual action plan and you'll see that in - in May, is if we decide not to do something in that plan because something has changed, we can come back in next year's plan and make that adjustment.

Mayor Wu invited public comment, nobody came forward.

Motion:

Council Member Johnson moved to approve the real estate contract and the allocation of \$575,000 in CDBG funds for acquisition and \$900,000 for renovation of 12 Public Housing properties and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

7.) [2025 Facilities Maintenance](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-8.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-126 Automated Building Controls.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-127 AV Systems Enhancements.doc](#)

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Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-128 Building Energy Improvements.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-129 Century II Improvements.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-131 City Facility Improvements.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-132 GO Bond for City Hall Maintenance.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-134 City Hall Remodels.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-135 Cultural Facilities Maintenance.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-136 Facilities Security Improvements.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-137 Fire Facilities Maintenance.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-138 Museum of World Treasures Improvements.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-139 Park Facility Maintenance.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-140 Parking Lot Surface Lot Improvements.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-141 Police Facilities Maintenance.doc](#)

Attachment: [04-1-2025 Resolution No. 25-130 City ADA Improvements.doc](#)

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Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities, presented the Item.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. Hey, I - I appreciate all the work you're doing' on this. how many - what - if we pass this, how many buildings is that moving out of the critical category?

Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated I would have to run a simulation and find out and tell you.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. I appreciate that. could you give just a quick background on some of the ADA improvements?

Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated yeah, the ADA line there was a City program where we had to do a whole bunch of improvements from a long time ago lawsuit that's since been closed out. So ADA improvements now are as requested. So if we come across a sidewalk that needs the inclination changed or if the handicap access buttons on the outside of a door aren't working that's what that money is intended for.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. so are - have we covered pretty much all of the complaints and concerns that came in with ADA?

Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated so as far as I'm aware of, yes.

Mayor Wu stated I have several questions regarding garages. so you've only touched upon the City Hall garage. What about the other garages?

Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated I'll tell you there is an RFQ that is active - RFP, sorry - active right now. we have already shortlisted the firms that will do a condition assessment of all eight City parking garages, not including the airport. I expect those interviews - I think I sa- just saw on my calendar, the interviews are scheduled for the end of this month.

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Mayor Wu stated so this only accounts for properties that have been assessed so far, but not the garages themselves? and I know that during the presentations over the last few months, we've had double-digit amounts for maintenance of those garages. what was the amount that was previously stated regarding garages?

Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated I think we had an estimate of \$18 million, and that's without the assessment. That was a - initial preliminary assessment.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. as someone who has been advocating for maintaining what you have and seeing this come before us, it really does make me realize not just that there's a tool, but maybe the Council should've gotten that presentation also. I know that it was 2020 that we've had that last presentation and several of us were not on that Council then. I would like to see a workshop that does talk about all of our buildings and how hopefully after the \$5 million in improvements they will be deemed in good use or in fair use rather in this critical use period.

City Manager Robert Layton stated Mayor, I - I don't want to put all of you to sleep, but we do have some decision support tools for almost every class of infrastructure. So, and those have been presented over time, not at one meeting. More than happy to schedule that for other infrastructure as well. I know the focus today is on facilities. your call, but we can always do that.

Mayor Wu stated I think it would be a good opportunity to, again, see all of our assets. As you mentioned, the number of assets have in- increased since 2020 and I'm sure some have deteriorated also over that time. one of those buildings that I still don't even see on here is the former Central Library. I know that the roof is getting renovated or replaced right now, which, by the way, what's the progress on that?

Chris Sewell, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated it's supposed to be finishing up within the next couple of weeks. They've had a number of weather delays.

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Mayor Wu stated thank you. and also, as I've traveled across the city visiting fire stations, I've noticed a lot of deferred maintenance that troubles me. even this past weekend, I visited Station 18, and the leaking roofs really bother me as these firefighters, again, these are their second home. And so I was glad to see that \$1.1 million will be spent on fire facility maintenance. And I know that there's a decision support it - support tool, but not everyone understands how those different fire stations are prioritized. And so I'd like that to be part of that conversation. So again, our firefighters know that they're not being forgotten and that there's an opportunity for them to even say these are the major issues, and we'd like them to be addressed.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Bob, I don't know if - I don't remember the name of that workshop, but it sounds like what the mayor is referring to is a workshop that we did where we had the decision support tool, and it went over some facilities and I think fire and police were a part of that. It may have been 2020, I don't remember that year, but it kind of sounds like that was all encompassing of that. Just an updated version of that one.

Mayor Wu stated That would be great. I think in the presentation it said I didn't know which month in 2020, but it would be a really great opportunity for this Council to see 5 years later what that is looking like in particular to Public Safety buildings, so police and fire, and our critical infrastructure, obviously, water, sewer. I know we're making major investments in water and the sewer system, but if we can have that, that might be able to tailor the conversation a little bit more and focused. Thank you.

Mayor Wu invited public comment. No one came forward.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to approve the projects, adopt the bonding resolutions, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

- 8.) [Supplemental Design Agreement No. 2, Revised Budget, and Public Art for Improvements to Douglas from Seneca to Meridian \(Districts IV and VI\)](#)

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Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-9.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-142 Douglas Avenue from Seneca to Meridian Street Improvements](#)

Attachment: [SA#2_DouglasSenecaMeridian_Signed.pdf](#)

Paul Gunzelman, Public Works & Utilities Department, presented the Item.

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, presented the Item.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. so regarding the 30% approval from - why it's brought before this board, is there still an opportunity for this to be brought to my district advisory board?

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated for the art specifically? It can be. We don't traditionally bring the art to d- to DABS. That's why we have the Design Council as our advisory board on art, but we can if requested.

Council Member Glasscock stated yeah, we had the art pieces for the installation of the new library at Alford Branch. They've come for the past four DABS and asked for feedback. And so I would be interested - the DAB members I think gave good feedback especially about the district and how we can reflect that as well, so I might be interested in that. I have a meeting on Monday. Even if it's just a presentation, so we can get just feedback, it doesn't have to be formalized or anything.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. I think if Council Member Glasscock's going to do that, since we split Douglas we should probably do it at District Six. Or if you want to just

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have a meeting where we encourage Delano or anybody else, I mean, happy to do that too. but yeah, I think - I think that's maybe a good option to look at. personally, I like the cluster idea if as opposed to them being kind of spread out. I really love the entrance to Delano. I really - I like the mosaic, to be honest, but I think all of that looks really great and I like the Longhorns tied in with the Delano Path Park that goes all the way down to the river. I do have some questions about the feather portion. I know we talked a little bit about that before, but I would be curious to see if - I'm not really sure. I'm not - I'm not an artist, but I - maybe they could just fine tune those ideas or something I - when I just look at it, I have some questions on the feather part, but I think there's a lot of opportunity maybe with just a little bit of feedback. I love the idea but maybe we can just work on it, like, a little bit more and yeah, I'm super excited. I feel like we've been talking about this for a very long time, and I'm really excited to see that we're getting a few steps closer to actually completing the project, so thank you.

Council Member Glasscock stated Thank you, Mayor. Will this be the last time this comes before the Council?

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated it would be. we can bring it back upon request. Typically, it would just go through Design Council for final approval. And that's where when we consider bringing at 30% or final design. By the time we get to final design, we're pretty close to construction, so there's not a lot of opportunity for wholesale changes. If there's massive changes requested we would like them to happen right now. but we - upon request we can.

Council Member Glasscock stated yeah, I will echo Councilman Ballard's comments. I think A, fantastic. I think it fits Delano very much. I have more concerns about B, especially probably response from community members, and so I'm just trying to figure out the best way to handle that as I'm necessarily not in favor of B as it stands right now. I know that we're probably going to get pushback if B got approved today as well. So that would be my only concern is if we approve this at 30% design, it doesn't come back before the Council, theoretically the Design Council could not move forward with any of the recommendations from this body or the concerns from Councilman Ballard and I, and I know we've talked to Paul about it - we both have. And so that would be my only concern about moving forward. If you can assure me that those concerns will be taken in consideration. I might feel (unintelligible) as well.

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated I can definitely make sure that Council Members

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whose districts are affiliated with the projects are invited to participate in the Design Council approval process or d- at the Design Council meetings where those take place, so you see the conversation and can weigh in and help advise Design Council as well. it should be symbiotic relationship between City Council and the Design Council on what the best step forward is. I will say at this point in the project, because we're just at the concept approach, there hasn't been public engagement just yet on the project. All of our projects have public engagement, so that could help steer the project accordingly, I know with the library project we had a couple different public engagement opportunities after design concept that really shifted where that project went, so the designs you see today are no - by no means end all be all. If we're not liking the design in any fashion and we want to scrap that, this is kind of our opportunity to do that. Or do we want to see it refined or do we like the initial idea but are worried about the - the final product? those are kind of where we would just appreciate some guidance from Council on where you'd like us to go.

Council Member Glasscock stated Councilman Ballard. when is your next DAB.

Council Member Ballard stated (unintelligible)

City Manager Robert Layton stated Mayor? I've - I've got a suggestion, if that would be all right. In order for us to be able to continue to move forward with the project, the Council may want to consider the supplemental design agreement approval, the revised budget approval and then holding off on the public art design - approval of the public art design concept. And then that would allow you to come back and discuss that, but at least we've got everything - continue going forward with design.

Council Member Glasscock stated so would that amended motion be recommend that City Council approve the revised budget subliminal design agreement and adopt the mini-resolution and authorize the necessary signatures?

City Manager Robert Layton stated yes, I believe so.

Council Member Glasscock stated which would mean the approval of the public art design just for community feedback and then it would come back before us.

City Manager Robert Layton stated yes.

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Council Member Ballard stated Yeah, I mean, I definitely think it's important to - either for us to participate in the Design Council. I just don't want to delay the project, like, any longer because I know we're really early in that process. I just don't want to be the delay for an already really long process.

City Manager Robert Layton stated that's why we suggested the motion the way I - I did. That way all you have is really just to focus in on that second design element. We'll try to get it wrapped up, and then we obviously want to get it wrapped up within the next 30 days, so that would allow you to have public input and also maybe participate with the Design Council based on the input and - public input and your concerns. Shouldn't delay the rest of the project, I don't believe.

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated No, I - I would just encourage the supplemental design agreement be approved to - because right now the - the artists are not on full contract, so for them to do any design development, we would need some sort of contract, otherwise they're - they're out on hold right now.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. I also agree with Council Member Ballard and - and Glasscock (unintelligible) I like the mosaic - Ballard said. not real excited about B. I would, like - you know, Delano is not just a neighborhood center, it's a regional draw. I'd like to have our - our District 5 Council look at it also (unintelligible) know a lot of our residents do go down to - to Delano (unintelligible) so I would like to have some input, too, from District 5.

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated may I ask if is - be appropriate just cause now we're at three districts, would a community meeting be sufficient, if we host a special meeting based on this project? Seeing' some head nods, so we'll look at calendars and figure out that opportunity.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. can we go back to page one s- or Slide 175 regarding the feathers? I know you mentioned the Ulrich Museum has a kinetic sculpture, and it only has had maintenance once. That is my biggest concern, just on the heels of the last council item about maintaining what we have. these new structures, since they are moving pieces, and we know it's very windy here in Wichita. I'm concerned about the maintenance moving forward. While Ulrich might have had one instance, this is multiple pieces, and that, again, gives me grave

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concern that if it fails, you would need additional dollars to try to maintain it. So I think, uh - do you know if that one piece at Ulrich, what did that look like versus what this looks like?

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated I can't speak to that specific work of art. (Janna), if you would be interested? No. W- we can't speak in - on that specific s- piece, but I would say we're so early in the design p- process, we don't necessarily have a maintenance plan in place, but part of the completion of all projects is a maintenance plan that has to be approved by the city, so we never want to acquire something that we're not going to be able to take care of. and that's part of the design process as well. Is this feasible, can we actually accommodate this? that's something' that the Design Council brings up on every single work of art regardless if it has a moving piece or not is can we responsibly take care of this. over the past couple years we've now added part of our the Person For Art Fund, 10% of that fund can be used for maintenance which has been a - a really great opportunity for us to - to get the collection back up to - to its maintenance needs. And if a- acquired correctly, this would just fall into our normal maintenance routine. and with regular maintenance, I wouldn't anticipate any challenges. I think in a previous slide or a future slide right now the structure's rated for 150 miles per hour wind speed. that would be sufficient for our area to its current - to - to what our current needs are. but all f- all sites would be - or all pieces would be engineered appropriately to make sure that we could maintain them, but valid concern.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. And then my next question is about Project A or Site A. knowing that the pedestal would be at the start of - is it Douglas and Meridian?

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated yes.

Mayor Wu stated Douglas and Meridian. a lot of folks consider Delano s- obviously starting at the river. Would there be - what would be the opportunity or is there an opportunity to even have bookends, basically?

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated anything is possible, eh, would be my short answer, but this project scope is Seneca to Meridian, so it wouldn't go to the river. I would say from a cultural icon standpoint, the clock tower would be our end cap on the other end of Delano. but for a future project consideration, we could look at expanding it or having a mirrored image of this gateway on the river if funding and project availability were to permit.

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Mayor Wu invited public comment. No one came forward.

Motion:

Council Member Glasscock moved to approve the revised budget, public art design, Supplemental Design Agreement No. 2, adopt the amending resolution, and authorize the necessary signatures. Justification for this is to allow this come back before Council for the approval of the actual public art design.

Motion carried 7 to 0

COUNCIL BUSINESS SUBMITTED BY CITY AUTHORITIES

PLANNING AGENDA

VII) **NON-CONSENT PLANNING AGENDA - NONE**

HOUSING AGENDA

VIII) **NON-CONSENT HOUSING AGENDA - NONE**

AIRPORT AGENDA

IX) **NON-CONSENT AIRPORT AGENDA - NONE**

COUNCIL AGENDA

X) **COUNCIL MEMBER AGENDA**

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1.) [Selection of Appeal Panel to Hear Denial of Security Permit](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report X-1.doc](#)

Jennifer Magana, Law Department, presented the item.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to recommend that Council Members for District 5, J.V. Johnston, Council Member District 6, Maggie Ballard, and the Mayor, will serve on this three-member panel to preside over administrative appeals of the denial of permits.

Motion carried 7 to 0

2.) [Discussion of Proclamation Procedures](#)

City Manager Robert Layton presented the Item.

Mayor Wu stated yeah. I think, can you please clarify and explain the situation that happened 2 weeks ago? The process, and the breakdown in that process?

City Manager Robert Layton stated sure. So Mayor, uh - uh - has put as fine a point on it as I can. Y- the Mayor suggested au- aud- edits to the proclamation. And in that, she asked for this language to be substituted in terms of now there would be resolved by. And she asked that it be the City Council and not be the Mayor and City Council. Staff mid- misunderstood and thought that that edit also applied to the signature line. And so, the signature, the electronic signature, was not attached to the proclamation. So that's - that's probably about as close as I can come to explaining what happened and the misunderstanding on staff in terms of what the Mayor's wishes were.

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Mayor Wu stated did the Mayor refuse or decline to sign?

City Manager Robert Layton stated No. Not to my knowledge.

Mayor Wu stated can you say that again?

City Manager Robert Layton stated no, not to my knowledge.

Mayor Wu stated and then I would like to know one more time, how is the signature applied currently and in the future?

City Manager Robert Layton stated it's an electronic signature, Mayor.

Mayor Wu stated can you go back to that slide, please? So the Mayor does not use a pen to sign these proclamations, but rather it's an electronic signature, is that correct?

City Manager Robert Layton stated that is correct.

Mayor Wu stated how long has the electronic signature been applied to proclamations here at the city?

City Manager Robert Layton stated yeah, Mayor, I don't know that.

Mayor Wu stated approximate time.

City Manager Robert Layton stated I don't know because I'm not involved in that process, so I - I - I don't know how long that's been a practice.

Mayor Wu stated obviously during this Council. Can you say whether it was in the previous Council as well?

City Manager Robert Layton stated I can't, because I don't know that process. I - I don't, I - I just

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don't know, I - I've never been involved in the proclamation process, so I've never paid attention to - I usually don't even receive those in my council packets, so I don't know, I'm assuming that we've used electronic signatures because that is part of the process today, but I don't know when it started.

Mayor Wu stated You don't know when it started, but do you know if it also was applied during the previous Mayor's time?

City Manager Robert Layton stated no, and I - I don't have a staff person here that could tell me that.

Mayor Wu stated I would like someone from staff to be able to answer that as I have a proclamation from 2020 that also had an electronic signature, so, again, I want to record the time when electronic signatures started getting put onto proclamations and rather than with an actual pen, signing every one of these proclamations.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor, could we go back to slide, I think, 190? so I guess just kicking off conversation, I don't think any of these changes really are necessary, personally. I think it's special to have the Mayor's name, whomever it is, in a proclamation. I've received a few from different governors. I can always point out to a specific governor or person when I receive it, I think that's special to community members. I know it was for me, I've received some from the City Council before I was on council, so I think it is significant to show who the mayor was at the time as well as the City Council approving. So, personally, I don't think that should change. Voting process-wise I acknowledge there's probably been - I'll give myself five that - over my two terms I may have not seen in my email or maybe not voted for. I'm always happy to say yay or nay if I would vote for something', but I think, again, if we move forward with a majority process as it has been, we've not had any issues up until now. And that won't slow the process down for anybody requesting a proclamation, so I really don't see a need to change that process either. Council has several forms of recognition, a proclamation is one that is special for whatever person or group requests it because the council, a majority, would say a or nay to it. We also have certificates of recognition, which I give out regularly for people who want to recognize a birthday or something' that doesn't rise to the level of a proclamation. So, I don't really think there's a need for this, and I also think on proclamations, and I wasn't there the whole time when - when this thing happened, but I do know that the last two mayors and now this one, there's multiple opportunities to review a proclamation for what it's - what it looks like, whether it's before it's officially printed or not. I look at every proclamation that I'm asked to read off-site, even though I know it's usually correct. So, I think with multiple opportunities to review, I

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believe there was probably multiple opportunities to review for this, that we don't really need to change anything. I appreciate having' this conversation in the public, but this process isn't broke and I really don't think it needs to be fixed.

Mayor Wu stated Council Member Johnson, I will quickly make a comment. I see the Wichita Eagle here today, and I actually got an email on March 25 telling me that they were going to be invoiced \$112 for a record to simply find out who voted for proclamations, and I believe that's outrageous. I believe that the votes, whether by email or here before you as we speak about the topic, should be made public, and should not require media to have to pay \$112 in order to find out who voted for, against, or abstained from voting. So, I do think that the process is broken, and it does need fixing. so I would be the first to say that I want these votes to be out in the public versus via email. I think it is prudent for community to know what council members/mayor believe, approve, deny, or abstain from. And so, I think that the system is actually broken, so I want to see change, and that is the reason why I encourage City Manager to provide a clear process so that people could see what currently is happening with proclamations and how it can improve. And then now we're moving towards the more policy discussion about let's talk about what's the purpose of a proclamation. Let's talk about how to make it public so people and media can see who votes for and against, as well as abstains from these proclamations.

Council Member Johnson stated well - well, Mayor, real quick, you mention three things. so KORA is also paying' for staff time to get all the information that they were looking' for together. We approved, I think, some changes to that process, 2021, maybe 2022. Can't remember, couple of years ago. so the media's aware of that, and looking' for emails, I think a really simple solution that doesn't require, again, all a these changes is to take the form that's bein' used now that shows the Council Members who approved and just put it online. And then you can see who voted in favor, who didn't vote, although we shouldn't be abstaining as Council Members, we are elected to vote, so we should be voting for that. if there's something' where we missed an email, staff could reach out to us and get a response to that. But it's simpler to take the form that's bein' filled out now when we say approve or not. Just put that online. That cuts down all that ease of access for the media so they don't have to do a CORA request and it's there and open. But we should be voting. and I don't think that there's a reason to abstain on a proclamation. And, again, proclamations are significant to various groups. It means a whole lot for us, it may just be an approve or deny every week cause we get a lot. But for the people who receive it, it really means a big deal. And I know it did for us when we did, think it was baseball night in Wichita at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium and we had Mayor, think it was Longwell come out. And he read it

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at the stadi and it was a great night. It means a lot to the people requesting it, so, again, I don't think there's a lotta change that's necessary.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. Were these proposed changes reflected in the proclamations that were read today?

City Manager Robert Layton stated I don't remember.

Mayor Wu stated yes, they were.

Council Member Ballard I asked legal whether or not this fell under the privy of legally-binding language. And according to legal, because it's the majority of the council that voted, it should say now therefore be it resolved that the Wichita City Council does hereby proclaim. And, according to legal, it did not preclude having to have the mayor's name on there. And to clarify Council Member Johnson's comments, the mayor's signature and name is on the proclamation, so the mayor's name and signature is already on the document, so this is a double opportunity, I guess, to have the mayor have a lot more recognition when I don't believe the mayor needs to have extra recognition but rather the Wichita City Council's majority voted to proclaim this day to be whatever it is. Council Member ho- or...

Council Member Ballard stated Yeah. So, these changes were made without us voting on changes? That's correct. Okay, I don't like that. I thought I noticed it when she read them. I mean, we also didn't take a vote for this to be on today's agenda, like four of us, to vote to give direction to staff to put - I don't know, I think if we're going to follow the rules, we need to follow all of the rules.

City Manager Robert Layton stated right.

Council Member Ballard stated I'm not sure that's bein' done right now.

City Manager Robert Layton stated Council Member, if - if I could, I had notes from 2 weeks ago that said that you wanted the proclamation process to maybe come back at a - a workshop. And I thought that putting on here meant that in intent.

Council Member Ballard stated I'm just making sure we're following all of the rules. Another

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question is, why doesn't the Mayor physically sign proclamation, I mean, I think you sign stuff all the time, I don't know why this would be any different, then we can just eliminate the electronic signature, that way you know what you're signing? you know, I don't know if that's an option or opportunity to explore, I think that could prevent some of the confusion. and, also, a question maybe for the Mayor or, I guess, every- anybody on the Council. If you don't support it, do you think that you should be presenting it, I know there's been other opportunities where specifically Council Member Tuttle, you know, has taken a big lead in the firefighter cancer initiative, and maybe she could have had the opportunity to read it. But, you know, it was for the Mayor, and I know I've come down to stand with you for Junior League and stuff like that, so, you know, there's other Council Members that have, you know, taken the lead on some of these projects, but you've been pretty adamant about you reading 'em until this whole situation happened a couple weeks ago, so, you know, it just makes me wonder, like, have you presented other proclamations in the past that you either didn't respond to, or missed it, or didn't vote, or, you know, maybe you didn't say no but maybe you didn't get back to it? And - but you have still presented them, so, I mean, I just would be curious on the thought process there, thank you.

Mayor Wu stated again, I will reiterate what I said 2 weeks ago. Since this was the first proclamation ever presented by the City of Wichita, I wanted to give the honor and yield the floor to the four individuals who voted for it. And I, again, will stand by that. I did not refuse to read it. Rather, I yielded the floor to the four individuals who voted for it who were obviously passionate about it, and I think that that was out of respect. And so, again, moving forward, I do believe that there's opportunities for improvement in not only the process of proclamations, but reading proclamations. I know that last m- 2 months ago, when it was Black History Month, there were some proclamations that I was not invited to read. and - and I'm glad that Council Member Johnson was able to present them. and so, again, I think that the language actually is very clear now that where it says now therefore be it resolved that the Wichita City Council does hereby proclaim, really represents all seven of us, but really a majority having voted. and still the signature of the mayor and the name of the mayor still remain on a proclamation.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. A couple of quick questions here, and specifically about the edits. do we see - okay, what happens if the edits come back and they're not agreed on by the person who who proposed the - the proclamation.

City Manager Robert Layton stated it's an interesting question, Council Member, cause I don't know that we circle back with the sponsor or the submitter at all. Those edits normally are very simple, usually not content related. but I'm - I can't - I don't know that I've ever heard of a

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sponsoring organization or individual that objected to the language. So I - I would tell you that in most cases or probably all the cases, it doesn't undermine this - the nature of the - of the proclamation is just to clean it up.

Council Member Hoheisel stated I mean, I can understand that. I'm just trying' to make sure because there's a potential there for some things that are pertinent to what they're trying to say, some opportunity for that to go.

City Manager Robert Layton stated I will note that in the new form or the new process, those are electronic changes made in a shared file. And if the Council wanted access to that before the proclamation was eventually issued, that - we do have that shared file. So I mean I guess that would be a check in that regard.

Council Member Hoheisel stated I can appreciate that. Also do we - do they do the edits before or after the vote? Cause I don't want to vote for something or against something and then find out later that the language has been changed, that alters kind of the spirit of what they're - they're trying to pursue here. But yeah, that's another consideration there, do we see the edits before or after we vote?

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. Thank you, (Bob), for your work on this and - and I'm quite sad that we're spending time on this. I issued proclamations - asked for proclamations in the community before I was on Council for issues that were important to me, and it was done in the spirit of raising awareness and I always felt respected and quite honored to be able to come and stand at the podium in front of the electeds of our community. So I do respect the process. I see the value of it and - and I have a great deal of you know, I w- I want to see the process of having proclamations continue. I think we can figure out the - the portion about signatures, clean it up, whatever, but we will have to change our ordinance because the ordinance now says proclamations will be signed by the mayor and issued at the next regularly scheduled meeting. So either they're all going to be signed by the mayor, none of them are going to be signed by the mayor, but I don't think it can be any other way because that's not fair to the community, and it's very inconsistent, and it's not transparent. I think while we're pausing and taking this opportunity to look at this and having some robust discussion also the reading process should be reviewed. I - I - I don't think that it - I - I wish that the process would have gone differently for the people who issued the proclamation a few weeks ago. as I mentioned, we will have to obviously revise

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the ordinance. So I just think if we're going to do it, let's rip off the Band-Aid and look at how we read them as well as how we sign them, so it's fair and consistent and transparent to the community. Thank you.

Mayor Wu stated I will add a point of clarification, City Manager again, did the Mayor refuse or declined to sign the document?

City Manager Robert Layton stated no, Mayor.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. So the law or ordinance in Municode says that the Mayor's signature does apply to these documents. And again, I believe the City Manager just answered the question. So just for point of clarification, I did not vote for the proclamation, but I did not refuse or decline to sign this document. Again, as these documents are signed electronically and applied to the document by staff.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. Quick point of clarification for Councilman Ballard's point. we didn't vote in Council Member Agenda to bring this forward. We also didn't vote to take property rights away and have that conversation on a Council Member Agenda. That was brought by one member to have a conversation from this bench, and we had a legally binding action there. We're not having a legally binding action here. Second off I do believe that the current process is a secret ballot. I don't believe it's transparent. I think we should be open to the public. to Councilman Johnson's point, maybe we just add it to the minutes, maybe we continue voting via email, and then we just add it to the minutes, so there's some public record, so the media doesn't have to request that. I think that's maybe a compromise solution that we might be able to look at, so it's still recorded publicly because obviously the status quo isn't working if the media has to request information. And this isn't the first time the media has requested information of our proclamations, and it won't be the last time. So I think that's just a more transparent process. I think this Council wants to be more transparent and that's an easy fix to just add it to the minutes in the future as well. regarding language of the City Council, I don't care. I think it could be the therefore be resolved that Wichita City Council does proclaim. We are one governing body and I don't know if we single out one individual. The Mayor has equal voting rights with every other member on this body, so I'm fine. Wichita - maybe you say Wichita City Council and Mayor and maybe just don't say the Mayor by name. I don't really have a strong opinion either way. one thing that I would be interested that might be able to fix some of these regarding, you know, edits. Often proclamations will come forward, and they have grammatical errors, they'll have sp- spelling

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errors, or I've questioned multiple times if even some of the information in proclamations over the course of the past year has been accurate. We just rely on the submitter regarding the accuracy of proclamations. And so, I'd be interested if there was, you know, people could still submit their interest in a proclamation, but it has to be sponsored by maybe a member on the council. That way, as Councilman Tuttle had said as well, that maybe we change the process we read it. The individual that's sponsoring the proclamation is the one that reads it, and so an individual can still request. So the process would be an individual could still request a proclamation as is, and list who they want to be the sponsor of the proclamation, and the individual can say yes or no. They can be the ones to read the proclamation cause often we are requested to go to events to read proclamations. And so, when Councilman Johnson goes to an event, if he's requested, then he can automatically be the one to read it. Because I often see that on proclamation requests as well, cause it already - it already actually asks that question of, do you want this presented, and if so, what council person do you want to present it? Maybe that's just the person that reads it from the bench. I think that's an easy fix. So, my suggestions, we would be doing this, and I think this would provide the accountability cause if you have a sponsor, they can help edit it to make sure it's factually correct, doesn't have grammatical errors. They could be the one to read it. It's also more special to the individual or the organization to have a member that's passionate about the issue. Again, as Councilman Tuttle is passionate about child care. She should probably be the ones reading child care proclamations and then maybe just add it to the minutes to be more transparent process. that way we can still vote the email, but it still comes before. So those would be my suggestions.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Try to answer you before I get to my notes. I agree with putting it in the packet, but I would suggest maybe once a month at the consent meeting. That way, it's just not every week trying to do that. Once a month, it's in there. Everyone knows where to look, so Council approves that with consent. So I don't disagree with that. I like that suggestion. I was going to say cause at first I said I didn't necessarily agree that all of this needed to happen. I feel that way, but the tracking sheet is a good update, I think, just cause it shows who is doing' what. I would make one suggestion to the tracking sheet, and that's adding a comment to who is requesting whatever that change might be. So I'll use myself as an example. I got a Black History Month, that wasn't what it was called, Black Educators Hall of Fame proclamation request that came in, Council approved it. The requester had, like, some language she wanted added to it. It wasn't in there. I asked for some language changes, but I worked with that requester as well as City staff, so the comment would show Council Member Johnson requested this. That way you can point back to I was the one. So if they're not happy with the way it reads, I'm at fault and my name's in there. So I think we should add comment

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notes on that, that way it's not staff getting' blamed if one of us was actually doing' it, in that case me. I will not die on the hill about the name. I don't think it needs to change, but if the majority of the Council agrees with that, the Wichita City Council does proclaim, okay. I will say there was a question earlier about working with the respondent. I just gave one example, but I've done that from time to time. If somebody requests a proclamation, is this what you want to say, or this year is off, or, you know, just making' sure that language is right. So it does happen. historically, from what I've seen, it's up to us if we work with City staff and that person making' a request to make sure the language is right and the message that they want to convey. It has happened. It doesn't happen all the time, but it has. And then I forgot to respond earlier to the Mayor. The questions to the Manager about process. From the whole time I've been elected, I've never seen a Manager, Assistant City Managers, dealing' with the proclamation. It's always just been in-house, downstairs, Mayor, Mayor's assistant and City staff going' over reviews of changes and all that. So I will say I believe Mayor Longwell did hand-sign a few proclamations, depending' on what it was, but also electronic signature, and I've seen that with both the prior mayors. Can't speak for before that, but the electronic signature is used the most, but again, I wouldn't expect anybody else to know that except for down there. I think that's all my notes that I have for conversation so far.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. Would you be willing to entertain hand-signing them all as opposed to the electronic signature? That way you know what you're signing and is that something that you would be interested in?

Mayor Wu stated I would be okay with that. I know that it does put extra amount of time to this proclamation process, so I would now like to really be able to delay, because right now I think we have ten proclamations in - that have been on hold since this conversation, because we still wanted to, again, provide the opportunity for the community to be able to see who votes for what, and I still believe that it should be even more transparent. I sh- I believe that it should come back every week in th- in our consent agenda, so you can see it. These are the proclamations that came in. So far these are the individuals who voted yay, nay or have not responded, and then it provides again that checks and balance so that you have greater transparency with community. But that will also delay the process for staff and I don't know if staff is able to continue - would be able to do a new process like that, where it would be added into our consent agenda, so again, anyone can pull the consent agenda items at any point in time.

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Council Member Ballard stated I would say - okay, sorry. I just have one more question. And then I know repeatedly over the last couple weeks you have mentioned that you did not ask staff to remove your name. So I guess in the conversation of edits, what - what were your edits to the proclamation if they weren't removing your name or the - the signature part where it says therefore be resolved?

Mayor Wu stated that's why this slide is up. I removed, I, Lily Wu, Mayor of the City of Wichita.

Council Member Ballard stated that's what the edit was.

Mayor Wu stated correct.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. I just want to give my view of pro-procula- proclamations. I think it should be for organizations that are doing something positive in the community Salvation Army, Guadalupe Clinic, things like that. Pitch there. I - I just - I - I have come over the past year and 3 months not to vote for any ethnic group or subset of people to - to pull them out of and recognize them, and I've been consistent on that. So two of the three I voted for today, one I did not, wasn't because I'm against that group at all. It's just that I think my view is proclamations should be for organizations making' a positive - positive impact on the community. Not that other groups are not making a positive impact, I understand that. But I just really think that it shouldn't just be for everything. So, thank you.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. Vice Mayor Johnston. Can I just add one point of clarification? I asked Sedgwick County to provide me their proclamation policy, and in their proclamation policy it says, "Proclamations are issued for organizations with countywide, regional or statewide interest. Proclamations will not be issued to endorse or promote a private for profit business that competes with similar for profit businesses, or to endorse or promote a partisan political position or candidate," and they have other points that they also mention. And I don't know if we have all this in our Municode so I would ask law to let us know, because this would be now a policy discussion, moving away from process, how policy would now be the conversation.

Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated Mayor, Council, you have great discretion in how you want to frame this ordinance. I will say that. You just have to recognize First Amendment rights under the Constitution.

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Mayor Wu stated currently, our Municode doesn't have a specific proclamation policy with outlines of what will not be issued.

Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated proclamation ordinance does not give guidelines.

Mayor Wu stated so have one from Salina. They also provided theirs, and it has a lot more guidance. And I think that given that this conversation is continuing beyond just a process, now we're moving to policy, I think it would be prudent to put it out to all the DABs and have DABs ex- talk about what changes they would like to see in policy, what types of proclamations they would like to see or not see. so could that be maybe put so that there is greater community input? There are six District Advisory Boards and so six District Advisory Boards could talk about proclamations. Council members?

Vice Mayor Johnston stated I would agree with that. I think we should get more public input.

Council Member Johnson stated I don't mind going to DAB but given the spirit of what I have been seeing and hearing regarding this last for the proclamation in question, I really am not wanting to continue to drag this out. The community of individuals that we had a proclamation for continues to be exposed to some things that just, you know, nationally it's happening, and I think it's happening' more locally just because of some of this conversation, and I'd hate to see that continue to DAB with hateful examples of why we need to change process when again, I don't think we do. Again, I'll follow what the majority of the Council says, but I don't think I don't think that's right to continue to belabor those points. I also would add to Council Member Ballard's point hand signing - and again your prerogative, Mayor - I think it would be actually good cause it gives another review I know that there's two reviews of proclamations now in this process means infinite because you can always see and track changes, but, you know, that means the signature is the final - this is an order. It's worded right, and that way there's a review, and they sit I think on the desk now. I've actually been in the same location at least since I've been in office. So I just think you know there's only three and if you just have to sign three before meeting I don't really think it extends the time to wait for proclamations.

Mayor Wu stated I think that if it's ceremonial, actually, I would prefer to sign them right in front of everyone. so again, I'm not opposed to any of this. I think that, again, I wanted to pay respect to the Wichita City Council as a majority being the ones that voted for a certain proclamation

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that the emphasis should be now therefore be it resolved that the Wichita City Council, and I'm part of that Wichita City Council. And so I think that it does provide even greater sense of authority by the Council itself as - as a group than singling one individual out in a situation where, again, this is not a resolution. So we did not take away rights from people. We did not do anything legally binding other than do a proclamation to celebrate, and so again, I'm still going to stick with wanting to make this change moving forward as it did for today's prop- three proclamations.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. I - I'm fine if it goes to DAB. I have some of the same concerns Council Member Johnson has. So I would like if we do go to DAB to try and make sure that we keep it as precise and on topic as possible. I respect Vice Mayor Johnston, your - kind of your - your thoughts as to where the proclamation should come from. That's up for every one of us to kind of decide and parse through as best we can. I'm just going to say, though, my - and I guess maybe I shoulda spoken a couple of weeks ago, but my thoughts on it is right now we have a group of people who are under persecution across this country, and a lot of people are scared right now about what's going on. fire takes place at somebody's house, our City's going to show up. They're not going to ask anybody's gender or identity or anything. They're going to put the fire out. Same thing with PD, same thing if we're filling' out potholes. So, my thoughts as far as the proclamation was going, let's reaffirm that to everybody. Let's let everybody know that Wichita is a safe and accepting community, and regardless of any differences we might have as far as opinion or any of the other things I mentioned, it's important that we let people know, as Council Member Glasscock spoke about earlier today, this is the people's building. This is your building. This is your City as well. So those are my thoughts as far as kind of the overall goal of proclamations. I can't think of anything more worthwhile as far as the proclamations, no more value in it than something like that. It's always nice when we have recognition for people but the ones that truly matter, the ones that people pay attention to are the ones that bring people in and let them feel accepted and let them know that Wichita is our home. So again, everybody's different, everybody can make up their own mind as far as the purpose of proclamations or why you would approve or deny them. So I just figured I would share mine as well.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. I'll synthesize kind of the comments here, and I'd be interested. I know we're not officially takin' a vote or policy discussion, but I'm trying to synthesize kind of where we all are at. First off, (Bob) and I have talked about this probably over the course of the past year. I've had concerns with the proclamation process as a whole, just

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voting via email. And so I've categorized this in maybe three categories. For first, right now it says, "I, Lilly Wu and the Wichita City Council." I think a compromise is that the Mayor and the City Council. that way you're not specifically naming any individual, doesn't elevate anybody from this bench, but it also shows a majority of this bench of the Mayor and the Council support something. I think that's an honor for the community. So that's category number one, and I think maybe a compromise with maybe the suggestions up here as well. Number two, a record in the minutes. I think we could still maybe vote via email, but we at least record it and the consent agenda as Councilman Johnson said that way we have accountability, but media doesn't have to request this information. They can willingly get it. There's a record of it, but it also makes it easy for all of us because there's so many proclamation requests to still vote via email. I think that's a compromise solution. And number three, I think having a sponsor, somebody from this bench, I think every proclamation that we've agreed to, somebody from this bench would be willing to sponsor it. That way that individual is responsible, as con- Councilman Johnson said, for doing the edits with that organization. And so it's not seven of us doing different edits, and then I think that would just be very chaotic in the process. You have one member responsible for doing edits, responsible for the factual or the facts of it, responsible for the grammatical side, spelling errors. That way you also have the accountability and honor. And I think that also answers the question of who presents from the bench as well. If you have a sponsor of the of the proclamation they're the ones that read it to the community because they're the ones that have a vested interest and also, you know, have been committed to a specific issue. I think that answers all of our concerns. I'd be interested if there are more concerns. but I think that streamlines the process. It creates accountability, it creates honor, it also makes sure that there's less questions about the process, and it's more transparent.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. Again, thank you for the robust discussion. I am fine with the voting however we do it because I think people need to vote. We don't get to not vote up here, so we shouldn't get to not vote on other things. So making a hard vote means making a hard vote, and so I want - I think all of us should have to do that. I do, and I know Council Member Dalton mentioned it but just also the reading process. you know how can we make sure that the - the folks who - who've asked for the proclamation are - it's done in a respectful way. Cause I'm - I'll be honest, I wasn't happy the way it happened a couple weeks ago and I don't think it was fair. So I want to make sure that we are ultimately taking care of our residents and making them feel respected because this is their building. I've said that for 6 years. so happy to move forward and also happy to move away from this topic. I think we'll figure it out. But we've got people who are sleeping' on the streets downtown, and we have a child care gap, and we have

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firefighters who are getting cancer and all the things that we had on the agenda today. That's what I hope we can get our focus back soon. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. In response to the Councilman Hoheisel, which I - I really - I respect your opinion a lot I - I would say to add to your burning house, if - if someone comes to Guadalupe Clinic, which I run, we don't even ask. And we do have transgender people that come there, we take care of them, it's not even a question (unintelligible) we take care of them. To your point, I agree with that. That's how it should be for everything. Sometimes I think if we give publicity to something, it gives more reason for the haters to act. So I think even though it's - it may be good publicity and visibility, it gives more reason for people who - who don't like that, that subset of people, whoever it is, whether it's Jewish or Palestinian or whoever it is it gives them more reason to act. And so that's why I like to focus just on organizations. I respect your opinion though, thank you. And I do think it should be recorded on how we vote. I agree with that.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Vice Mayor Johnston. Council Member Glasscock summarized or synthesized the information, however, I will again on point number one, I would like to see the language as was read today. I believe that I am a Council Member on the City Council, and when I get to vote here on this bench, I'm equal to each of - and every one of you six individuals. My vote does not count more. It is one exactly the same as each of you. So I believe that the language should be changed and should stand as is as it does not violate any laws that it should remain as now therefore be it resolved that the Wichita City Council does hereby proclaim. on the second point regarding the reporting of votes. I do want that on the consent agenda and including the ones that don't get enough votes. I think it would allow the community to see even the ones that fail so you can see why it failed, because it didn't get the four votes, and I'd like to see it in the consent agenda each week, because that will allow for keeping up with the amount of proclamations that actually come in. Right now, we really do have nearly a dozen proclamations, including some that are supposed to come before us next week that still haven't been voted on, and so, again, I - I would like to see that process be on a weekly basis in the consent agenda showing the votes on proclamations. And third, regarding the reading of proclamations, I agree that it should be sponsored by a specific Council Member and that Council Member can then have that opportunity since they're an advocate for it and someone who is passionate about it to have the opportunity to read that proclamation and that again provides not only transparency but accountability. So if that gives some direction and I see that there's now more comments but does that provide some direction to staff?

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City Manager Robert Layton stated it does. I - I guess one just practical question. If no council member is willing to sponsor it, then the proclamation would not go forward. Is that the idea? Okay.

Mayor Wu stated that would be a process question. So - sorry. So right now, there - none of the proclamations have a sponsor. So this would be a new process to be added to proclamations where you would say who would sponsor that bill, or sorry, that proclamation.

City Manager Robert Layton stated and then be responsible for edits as well, correct? Okay.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. I will not be supportive of having a Council Member support it, and I'll give you a personal reason why. my first year on Council, there was a proclamation from an organization I've never heard before, and they brought to us National Infertility Awareness Week. as a woman who has suffered from infertility, I didn't know the group existed, but since then, because they came here and raised my awareness, as well as awareness of my Council Members. I'm now active. I help lead their walk, and I'm involved in their activities all week. So I would not want a group that maybe is just merging, forming, or doesn't have a huge presence in the community to maybe not know one of us and not be able to share their voice. This is everyone's City hall, and you shouldn't have to know a Council Member or have a Council Member passionate about your topic for it to be heard, because maybe the people watching - and I'm always surprised how many people do watch or go back and watch - will learn something. So the part about having a sponsor is something that's going to be really - really challenging for me to support. I appreciate the idea. I'll engage in the discussion, but I've had, as I mentioned, my own personal example where it would've limited an opportunity for me that's something I'm quite proud of now.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Piggybacking on Council Member Tuttle's point, I too do not agree with the forced sponsorship of proclamations. I think they should come in as they have been. If one of us is passionate enough to want to sponsor and - and lead that effort, I think that's fine, but I don't think it should have to happen. Much like Council Member Tuttle said, I've learned quite a bit from proclamations over the years of things I didn't know about, and quite frankly, just given how much work I was doing, may not have looked into until meeting with that group and them getting the proclamation. So I think that process should stay the same. I don't agree with the weekly consent agenda. I still - I would like to see the consent agenda at a consent meeting, which is the fourth Tuesday. So again, everybody will know point to the fourth

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Tuesday. These are the proclamations that were approved for the month, this is who voted for it, whatever that sheet has. I think we should go there. and again, like Council Member Tuttle, who took my notes for what I was about to say hopefully we get all of this taken care of today and we don't have to continue to talk about proclamations for another couple weeks.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. first off, I agree with my fellow Council members on the sponsor. I - I think that is another barrier, just because, again, you may not know the particular person or find a Council Member, but that doesn't mean that your request isn't any more valid. and the same thing with the consent agenda. I - I want to take - I w- I respect the transparency angle, but I also just want to balance that out with staff time, and we have staff doing an awful lot nowadays, and sometimes being overworked leads to - to issues. I would ask a question, is any of this - do we have to take a vote on any of this? Is there any ordinance change attached to this? No- I mean not today, not - not voting today. I'm asking if it'll have to come back with any changes that we have.

Mayor Wu stated these are all process questions, so it's not a - an actual ordinance change. If I remember correctly.

Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated I will - I will say that the current ordinance and what we're - we're doing are not directly aligning. I would think this is a good time if there are changes to go ahead and clean up the ordinance, make it consistent with what you are directing staff to do.

Council Member Ballard it is a good time or isn't?

Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated (unintelligible), sorry.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. I don't necessarily care if it's on a consent agenda item at the end of the month, as long as it's public. there might be some issue of timeliness, given if somebody had questions about particular proclamations, but maybe it's just if it's, you proclaim them, you know, within a month it's on a consent agenda. I don't necessarily care about that. Regarding the sponsor, I pulled up the proclamation request form online. There's already a box - a box right now that says are you requesting an official to present. So just check the box if you want an official to present the proclamation, but it could be done as a drop-down

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where it has one of our names or to I think mitigate both your concerns, just a representative from the Wichita City Council and that way they don't need to know one of us, an individual can do it and then we can still have an up or down vote. But that way if there's an individual that's supposed to read it there could be a sponsor of it or the sponsor is just the Wichita City Council if they don't know a particular member and that way it can be read.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. I have a question for Legal. Jennifer since this is a council member agenda, do we allow public comment today?

Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated traditionally, no.

Council Member Tuttle stated okay. But we could take a vote to allow public comment, is that correct?

Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated you can.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to allow public comment regarding this agenda item.

Motion carried 6 to 1 (Nay: JV Johnston).

Mayor Wu invited public comment.

Todd Ramsey stated good afternoon. My name is (Todd Ramsey). I live in District One. I was hoping this would come up for public comment. I'm sad that Council Member Johnston is stepping out at this precise moment, but that's okay. I think as a member of the Wichita community what is frustrating is to see the controversy around this proclamation being buried under a bureaucracy. The issue was not with the process. It was not with the fact that there was an electronic signature that was or was not removed, but there was a direct proclamation made from the bench that was a refusal to read the proclamation. And if there was a desire to have another Council Member read the proclamation, that conversation could have had before the City Council meeting. There was an active political statement made from the bench by not reading that proclamation. When every other proclamation, as long as I've been watching City Council meetings, have been read by the mayor unless there was a specific request to not have it read by

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the mayor. So it's a little frustrating as a member of the community to feel like I'm being gaslit by our mayor. I don't believe that being trans is political. It's not a political statement. It's a reality that there are individuals who exist in our community that simply want to be acknowledged as individuals in our community. It's not a political statement and they're not a subset of our community who aren't making a positive impact on our community. And it is infuriating to hear a council member make that argument. We elected all of you to represent all of us regardless of whether or not you to agree with our opinions, with our agendas, with our lifestyle choices. And a proclamation is either a big deal or it's not. And the fact that you are spending more than an hour talking about proclamations, if it's not a big deal, then what are we doing here? If they don't really matter, if they're purely ceremonial, what are we doing? We're trying to bury what actually happened last Tues- or two Tuesdays ago, and that is so frustrating. Now Mayor, in your defense I do believe the proclamation was put up as a test to you, frankly, and that's frustrating as well. We live in a very divided community and we can't ignore that fact. But we are not bringing our community together any better by having this ridiculous conversation. By taking it out to DABs to talk about proclamations? I mean, these - these are ceremonial acknowledgments of organizations and human beings who are in our community. That's all that they are. They hold no bearing. They hold no weight. They are simply ceremonial. And the process maybe isn't as transparent as it could be. The solution of putting them, the votes in the agenda solves that. No need for a change in the ordinance, no need for a change in the language, no need for more time spent on this topic. Let's just keep doing proclamations the way we've been doing them. There's never been an issue until 2 weeks ago. And so let's get back to the reality of solving the problems that actually matter in this community and representing the people who exist in this community. Now Mayor, I respect your perspective. I understand that you have your view on what happened. But I tell you as a citizen, the issue wasn't that you did or did not sign the proclamation. I need to be very clear about that. And there is no frustration in the community about the process of how the signature got removed. It was the fact that you made the statement from the bench that you were not going to read that proclamation. Now you have the excuse or the reasoning that you wanted to give it to the four. That's never been done before from the bench. And so it felt, whether it was or not, like a political statement being made from the bench. And I just want to make sure that you understand that from someone who is not one of your foes but is simply a - a concerned citizen here in Wichita. So thank you, I think this is a ridiculous conversation that has taken way more time than is worth having for a process that it maybe can be refined but is not as broken as it seems like we're wanting to make it out to be. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Johnston stepped away briefly.

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A citizen stated okay, I was pretty sure you were not going to take public comment on that, but so this is not as prepared as in the past. I agree. I think that continuing to politicize this, whether that's here or in the media later, or what's been in the media the past 3 weeks, is doing a disservice to the entire community. Everyone is welcome here in Wichita. And the spin here is also really, literally making my head spin, because those votes were the worst kept secret. I was told at your mayor address before leaving what the votes were. So it just seems like we're focusing on the wrong things. I do agree it should be transparent. It also kind of sounds like it's not really a broken process, so it's - it's the misdirection for me. it's the inconsistency for me. I got to say the sponsorship idea sounds terrible. I get - I think I get the intention behind it, but I'm someone who - on City Council, I think I could talk to most of you, but for instance on like Derby City Council, County Commission, I don't think I could find a sponsor for some of the things that I would want to be said. And so that is, again, I hate to use this word, but that is actually segregating people. You're segregating people that don't have a friend or don't even feel comfortable. We already saw someone today that didn't even feel comfortable speaking because of the vibes that we put out 2 weeks ago. So I don't want to see us go more in that direction. And I - and I just - I really just have one question for you, Lily, and I'm trying so hard as a member of your political party to like not - like I really don't want to - I don't want to get involved, cause I am rooting for you. So I just want to ask one question. Let's say all of your changes take place. Like we remove your name, we sign by whatever, every s- even the sponsor thing. Let's say it all happens. This proclamation comes up next week. Do you come down here and read it or sign it or no?

Mayor Wu stated I did not vote for it. Therefore, it would still require four votes. So again, that is the process that this is going through. I will be very clear, I did not vote for it, but I did not vote against it either. And again, and to address (Todd) really quickly, I yielded the floor to four individuals who cared more deeply about an issue and had them have the opportunity to go and - go ahead and read that proclamation. And I believe that that's why the sponsor process is so important. I think that it is - it p- provides one of the council members or even the mayor to say I care deeply about a subject and I want to speak on behalf of it. I know that Council Member Tuttle was very passionate about firefighters and she wanted to read, and I - again, It was drafted by staff. If it would have been drafted by the council member and I think sponsored by the council member, it would be a great opportunity for a council member to also have the opportunity to read. And I think that that's where we want to be, where we have the opportunity

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to not just give the mayor the chance to read proclamations, but also council members who feel passionate about a specific subject.

Council Member Tuttle stated and - and I'm so sorry for the community who's watching and here with us today, but thank you for being patient and hopefully learning a little bit more about how your city operates, right? but something new was just brought up that with a proclamation for a topic that I'm very passionate about. I was at a meeting with staff and I said that I was going to draft the proclamation and staff said, no, we'll do it for you because that's our function. Had I known I couldn't read it if I didn't write it myself, then I would have written it myself. So, if that's going to be the guardrail that if a council member gets to read a proclamation for something they care about, they have to write and submit the proclamation, I'm fine with that. Just like with anything, if I know the rules, I'll follow it. Thank you.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. I know Council Member Tuttle would be fine with that. I think if it's an issue that we are working on and that is an opportunity to read it off-site or here, we should. So even if Council were to ask staff to draft something. but to your point, I've - I've actually been trying to avoid this. But it - I think the frustrating thing for me and why I wish this whole conversation would go away is we had three proclamations that day. We only had an issue on one and we're now talking about it 2 weeks later because of one proclamation. And honestly, I feel like all of these changes come from that because we have not had an issue at all up until that one proclamation. And even now you didn't get a yes or no. So a- again, that's why I keep saying I really hope this is over with today, we get some recommendations from the direction we gave staff and we can put this to bed, because the connection is going to continue to be made from we're making all these changes based on one proclamation of three that were read that day. Everyone knows what it is the name of it, and I think that connection is going to continue to be made. That's all I see on social media is that connection. It's not about a broken process. This conversation today, although I don't mind some of the changes, I'm not one to say it's just the way we've always done it, so we need to keep doing it. I'm open to - to hearing that, but what we heard today is that the process is not broken, there's several opportunities for review from staff, there's some updates that could be made, should be made. So again, like I said, the tracking sheet is a good one. It brings us into 2025, and not how the ordinance says, printing off and signing by different council members, which have been changed to emails. So the tracking sheet, those things are good. But honestly, this whole conversation continues to center around one proclamation and all of these changes is coming from that one thing. And again, I just hope that from all the conversation today we get to a point where whether it's synthesized down to

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three items, also not the biggest fan of item three from Council Member Glasscock, but if we get down to three specific changes and we look at ordinance changes or Council policy that would be good. But I hope that this is one of our final discussions, we don't go out to DAB. I don't want to see this group of Wichitans continue to be the target of what I'm continuing to see and even see on YouTube right now. That type of stuff is disgusting to me and I just really hate that Wichitans are being subject to that because we keep talking about proclamations.

Mayor Wu stated thank you Council Member Johnson. And to answer your question, I would sign if it passed by majority just like I again did not deny or abstain from signing a document.

Todd Ramsey stated yeah. And I'm clear on that, and I appreciate you like really hammering that which you have every right to. I was really just playing the hypothetical, and I appreciate your answer. Thanks, guys.

Molly Stevenson stated hello again. once again, I'm Molly Stephenson and I'm teacher and operator at a small independent school here in Wichita. I want to thank Mr. Hoheisel for your remarks earlier about inclusion and safety and proclaiming that loudly. I do think that's fundamentally important. being seen is a fundamental human right and for us as a place and as a city and a state that wants to retain people who belong here, saying out loud that we celebrate that you're present here is important. that you're welcome here is important. trans people are not a special interest group. They're people. they are people that want to be mostly just treated with human rights, you know, and not to be othered and ostracized. Visibility is the very first step in representation. Representation is what you all are here for. you all understand like the importance of representing the people in your community. Visibility has to happen before real representation can happen. So proclamations like that one should just be a celebration of I know you're in our community, I see you and I care about you. I would like you to consider that particularly going forward when you're deciding what is worthy of a proclamation or not. I think your citizenry who they are, what they need from you is probably one of the most worthy things you could celebrate. Having a group be acknowledged when they have been historically not acknowledged and when they are facing so much federally and at the state level too, about the simple existence of their life is a really really powerful thing. For you to say that Wichita is a place that acknowledges that you belong and are valuable here means a lot to a people group that really just wants to exist. You can take that same concept and apply it to any other marginalized people group. We have a culture right now that is erasing giant parts of our history our narrative. We're - we're whitewashing over things in the way that we share stories and acknowledge people's

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contributions to our society. as a teacher, I talk a lot about this with my students. How and who gets to tell the stories of our people is so important to our identity as a nation, but really also as a city, right? This whole issue is going to be a defining issue for you all about how you relate to the people in the city, right? We're talking about proclamations and I agree, Representative Johnson, this is like ridiculous to be here 2 weeks later having the same conversation, but it is kind of a catalyst, right, of what are our value systems as a city around people. Right? Who do we care about? How do we show that Wichita is a place of belonging? So I think this gives you an opportunity as a Council in your procedures to affirm or not affirm who you are as leaders going forward. Are you representatives of people who may not be very visible without something like a proclamation? thank you for hosting us today and hearing our students. We in our setting are very consistently wanting to make sure that our kids know that they belong in all the spaces. We don't want our kids to want to leave Wichita. We don't want our kids to want to leave Kansas. We want them to be valued here. We want them to be heard. Spaces like this where they're welcome definitely gives them that opportunity. But to hear - to hear things like recognizing people groups is maybe not the function of the Council sends a message that I don't know that I'm comfortable with as a teacher. And I hope as you sit with that as a Council you can also maybe not be comfortable with that as well. Because what are you saying to the people you represent? So, thank you.

Mayor Wu stated I will just address, I think, a couple of items. Council Member Johnson and many others are saying they want this to be the last time we talk about it, but I already have the agenda for April 8, which is next Tuesday and five people on the public agenda, which is all five spots are five students from Wildflower Community School to talk about transgender validation. So I know that everyone is saying that they want to move on, but I - I don't believe so given that it will come back up next week. And so if that is the case, I think that, again, we're trying to allow the community to have more public input which is why I mentioned the District Advisory Boards. But if the District Advi- a- Advisory Boards do not want to hear this we can keep it at the Council level and make decisions as Council. but again, I think Law department would like to have some clarification moving forward so it can be captured so that everyone has the same consistency. I believe the last time the process of proclamations was last revisited, City Manager, when was that?

City Manager Robert Layton stated I don't know.

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Jennifer Magana, Director of Law, stated I don't know about the process. The ordinance is 14 years old. Mayor, Council, Jennifer. I can't say when the process was last revisited. I believe it's been at least 10 years since the ordinance has been amended, but I don't know about the process.

Mayor Wu stated thank you. So a decade.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. And - and when I said that I hope this is the last time we talk about it, I know realistically that may not happen. But definitely don't want anyone who wants to come to talk to us about whatever, whenever they want to talk about, so all are welcome at your city hall. So see you next week. Thank you.

Council Member Johnson stated Thanks, Mayor. and - and my comments were mainly from us as electeds. I'm happy to hear from you all next week as well, but I think it's important to clarify, and I'm not speaking for the five young people but a lot of the continued discussion is people responding to what's being said in the media. It's not the proclamation. It's the continued attacks against our trans residents, our trans neighbors. And it - a lot of that is disgusting, And a lot of the ones who are willing and able are speaking up and speaking out. And we saw the emotions of one person today who wanted to speak, but it was just so emotional for them that they could not. And the nervousness of being up in front of the elected body. I have also long felt this - this conversation continues to come back to - and I - I don't like bringing up staff, but - but the clerical error piece of this conversation is something that people continue to talk about, which is frustrating because I know the proclamations are reviewed. They're reviewed before the weekend. They're reviewed before the Tuesday. That's not a staff thing. That's us reading it. That's me if I don't go read the proclamation that I am supposed to read on a Saturday or at some event, that's on me that I didn't do it. And I don't - I don't feel with continued reviews that that is a staff thing or a clerical thing, and when it comes to us reading these proclamations, agreeing to proclamations, while for me it's an approve, I read it, I know that every time I say approve, if the Council approves it, the group or person requesting it is going to feel great. I see how people react when I'll speak for myself, when I show up. I definitely see how people react when more of us show up at an event or to some meeting that someone's having. And while I look at the elected role as I ran to help and move issues forward and - and try to be of assistance to the community, there are just people who want their electeds to see them, to hear them, to acknowledge them. We represent everyone, even the folks we disagree with, and these proclamations are a great way to do it. If we proclaim tomorrow Purple Tie Day, people who love purple ties would be like, man, the City Council actually recognizes us. It's a big deal. And while I might think it's just approve

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and that's - that's okay, like it - these things are a big deal to the people requesting them. I remember when I met my first elected official, Carl Brewer, and I - I had a bone to pick with him. But we had a conversation about an issue with the city, and I was like, wow, an elected official cares, cares enough to come in here. I remember my first proclamation, I still have it hanging up at my non-profit office to this day, and I'm a Council Member. We give those out. Like all of those things are impactful and they mean something. And if we are considering in any way, shape, or form taking away from that, making it harder for residents to get that, I think that's the wrong direction for us to go. Again, I don't think the process is broken and it all comes down to one proclamation. If that proclamation wouldn't have happened, we wouldn't even be talking about process today. So I really hope when I say the conversation is over with it's over with from the elected body. If the community has something to say, they have every right because it's been in the media for 2 weeks and one group of our residents continues to bear the brunt of the negativity coming from that. No one else is. So, my thoughts.

Mayor Wu stated we'll continue with public comment. I see none. We'll bring it back to the bench. I think as of right now, there are several directions that we could take, and I've mentioned back to the hereby proclaimed portion of the proclamation, I still stand that it should say the Wichita City Council. I would agree with Council Member Ballard in having the opportunity to sign them physically and I think they should be signed right here in front of everyone. And so I would like to see that also happen, so that's one. On the record of votes, I still believe that you should be able to see them on the consent agenda and that should be a process question, maybe actually getting input from staff, asking what is most feasible for staff to be able to provide all those votes and all the different proclamations because there are proclamations that do not get four votes and so they automatically never come before the community, but they have been voted on, or lack thereof votes. So I'd like to see those votes weekly, but if that's not feasible, every other week. But it should be in the consent agenda, and it would be an opportunity again for media to be able to see without having to quora that information, and so that does provide transparency. And number three, I still believe that a sponsor for a proclamation would allow for someone who cares deeply about a subject to have the opportunity to read these proclamations. I know that Council Member Tuttle today came down when we talked about child abuse and she has been a big advocate for child care as well as she's on that task force. If she would have been the sponsor in this situation, she could read that proclamation itself. So I think that there are opportunities for other members of the Council to have the chance to read. And so those are the three suggestions, actually, four suggestions that I think should be carried forward.

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Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. to try to maybe answer Councilwoman Tuttle and Councilman Johnson's question about the sponsor, I do think it's good to have a member on there so we can worry about edits. Maybe it's each one of us have the opportunity to do it and then if for some reason someone doesn't want to request a sponsorship from us, it comes from the Manager's office so it's listed as from the Manager's office or from the Council office. so then we still vote on it and then they can be responsible for the editing language and working with the individual. But that way there's still the opportunity for someone if they don't know us as Olivia had said, that they can still present the proclamation. But then there's the opportunity for us if we have a special interest in whatever is being presented to also do it. So maybe it's the Mayor, Council is an option and then maybe just the City Council office is an option if they don't seek a sponsorship from one of us.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks Mayor. I like it in theory. I just - I don't think in practice that's I think it should be optional for us to want to be a sponsor of it. process thus far as outlined in the presentation is a special assistant to the mayor, and the mayor kind of do the final review of all the language and grammatical stuff. but each of us see the proclamation anyway so, I mean, if we have some changes we could do that there. I don't think there needs to be a named council sponsor unless one of us wants to and then I think that would change it. But other than that I think people should be free to submit whatever proclamations they want. Oftentimes it's something that we can learn about and, you know, maybe make a lifetime connection to this as some new information or something that we know about.

Mayor Wu stated I forgot to address one of the comments that Council Member Hoheisel had, which is we vote on proclamation language that has been submitted by the requester, but those then get edited because I remember specifically just last week I had one proclamation that had ten whereas comments, and they had to be condensed down to four whereas paragraphs. And so in that situation you guys didn't get to see the actual language that got voted on so really it - back to the sponsor idea you won't get to see the proclamation until it's presented, whereas if you have a sponsor that individual - for instance in this case it's about child child abuse. Council Member Tuttle could've taken that lead and she would've edited the proclamation and then sent it out as an actual vote. So right now we're still not having a good process I don't believe with how these proclamations come in. Council Member Hoheisel you were the one that brought up if a specific requester is asking for certain language and that language is not part of that proclamation when it's being edited especially when they're very lengthy to condense it down to four, you might take

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away maybe something that was very important to someone else so again back to the sponsorship.

Council Member Hoheisel stated well I agree but that also could be something that is - it's currently being dealt with by staff. You know, it was just more a question of when - where do we see it along the process? That's more of what it is. sponsorship, I - I mean, I like options. You know, Council Member Johnson talked about some options. Council Member Glasscock talked about options. I'm okay with options. I'm just more - again I don't want to put additional barriers there in case there is no council member that necessarily feels like they should sponsor something if it's - especially if it's not requested on behalf of the individuals. That's the concern there is where do they go if they don't feel like there is somebody that wants to sponsor, or maybe there isn't somebody who wants to sponsor but still thinks okay this is a - something I can vote for. So I suppose that's more of the concern there.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you. I like the idea of you signing them you know, at the bench or - or however you want to sign them but signing them as opposed to the electronic signature. I'm not loving the sponsorship just because as mentioned before by the speaker if someone doesn't know one of us well enough to lean on us to help them through that process or, you know, have us advocate for them or whatever I certainly don't want to discourage anyone from submitting a proclamation. So I'm okay with the rest of your suggestions minus the sponsorship.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks Mayor. Can we get a mayor's fountain tip pin for the signature?

Mayor Wu stated a ceremonial pen. Does that give enough direction for staff moving forward?

City Manager Robert Layton stated Mayor I hate to bring this up but is - I - I haven't heard consensus on the wording of pro- proclamation. I - I hear your consent you want City Council and I - just I've heard different opinions so I just - I think that's the only outstanding issue. And by the way I think we can bring the vote back to you every week. And frankly I get a little worried about trying to get it all on the consent at the end of the month, and making sure we don't drop the ball and - and actually have somebody compile it. I think if we just do it while we're on the fly so to speak it'll be easier.

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Mayor Wu stated thank you City Manager. So right now if you go back to that slide - so the only portion that does not currently have consensus is this portion of the language that removes the mayor, but allows for the Wichita City Council to remain as the body that gives a proclamation.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks Mayor. if it is weekly, okay. I was just trying to save staff work. I'm also not going to die on that hill. I don't think it should change but if that's the will of the body and I add to consensus wi- Wichita, whatever is proposed here, now there be it forward resolved that the Wichita City Council does proclaim. I'm okay with that.

Council Member Tuttle stated I'm totally fine with that.

City Manager Robert Layton stated we - we've run out of time and cut off the system, okay.

Council Member Tuttle stated yeah I know, right? That's fine. no I'm totally fine with it. And if we're going to get to start reading proclamations now for work that we're doing then it takes - you don't have to, you know, remove it yourself because I always put a little sticky note over it just to make sure I didn't say it on accident. So I'm totally fine with it being resolved that the Wichita City Council does proclaim da da da da da.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you. Just so I understand I feel like we are all okay with it, but that was already projected in the proclamations you read today, the changes.

Mayor Wu stated I asked legal first.

Council Member Ballard stated okay. I just - I don't necessarily have a problem with it. I just don't like those changes being made before we had the conversation today.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated I'm - I'm okay with the change.

Mayor Wu stated City Manager does - does that provide consensus?

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City Manager Robert Layton stated got what I need. Thank you.

XI) COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Glasscock thank you Mayor. I would like to appoint (Patricia Joseph) to my District Advisory Board.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you Mayor. I'd like to reappoint Geneva Chambers, Jessi Wigdahl, Ariel Kirk Noemi Ibarra, Mike Loop, Jerry (McGraw) and Rick Lindsey to my District Advisory Board, and appoint for the first time (Tim McQuarrie) and (John Buck) and also reappoint Amaya Williams to the youth position on the District Advisory Board.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you Mayor. I'd like to reappoint to the District Advisory Board Shawn Bauman, Lamont Anderson, Sierra Scott, Jennifer Salvo, Mary Whiteside, Wendy Carter and Dave Sanford.

Motion:

Mayor Wu moved to approve all the appointments.

Motion carried 7 to 0

Council Member Johnson stated I hereby proclaim the proclamations are over.

Council Member Hoheisel stated second. I'd just like to invite everybody out. noon on Saturday will be the season launch for Cowtown 75th anniversary so quite a - quite a perspective, quite a time. I thank everybody for all the work they've done. It's definitely an integral part of our community so hopefully we have some good weather then. Come on out. It'll be a rootin' tootin' good time.

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Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you Mayor. Councilman Johnson I thought you wanted proclamations to die. You keep bringing it up.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you. I'd just like to invite everyone out to the annual School's Out Powwow. That's on Satur- or Saturday at 2:00 pm.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks Mayor. On a serious note I've done it privately but also I just want to congratulate Reggie Davidson, our new Park and Rec Director. Glad to see him there. He does a wonderful job and looking forward to how Wichita Parks will continue to improve under his leadership.

Mayor Wu stated and I believe that there are two breakfasts this weekend in Council District 1 and Council District 4. again those are Saturday at 9:30 am. More information at both of their District 1 and District 4 Facebook pages.

Council Member Johnson stated yep. This e- this week is at Edgemoor. Normally it's at Atwater but we're over at Edgemoor to see all the new improvements, and we've got a pretty famous person as our guest. His name is Robert Layton, City Manager of the City of Wichita.

Council Member Glasscock stated District 4's is at Auburn Hill clubhouse and I think we're having Ziggy's breakfast pizza, so some of the other food. I know.

[Adjournment](#)***Motion:***

Mayor Wu moved to adjourn

Motion carried 6 to 1 (Nay: JV Johnston).

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Shinita Rice, Deputy City Clerk

ATTACHMENT 1 - CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 24

II) CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Applications for Licenses:

1) Applications for Licenses for Cereal Malt Beverages:

a.) Applications for Licenses to Retail Cereal Malt Beverages

Attachment: [CMBs for April 1, 2025.docx](#)

2) Preliminary Estimates:

a.) Preliminary Estimates

Attachment: [PEsforCC_04-01-25.pdf](#)

3) Statement of Costs:

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- a.) Statements of Cost

Attachment: [448-90886_E9012 Veranda Addition MJS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [CCAagenda_Apr 1 2025_Oct 2025 SA SOC LIST.docx](#)

- 4) Agreements/Contracts:

- a.) Memorandum of Agreement for Little Arkansas River Watershed Protection Plan 2025

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-4a.docx](#)

Attachment: [OSP_25-1408_MOA_KSU Signed.pdf](#)

- 5) Design Services Agreements:

- a.) Supplemental Design Agreement No. 3 for Water, Sewer, and Paving Improvements for Cottonwood Creek Estates (District IV)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-5a.docx](#)

Attachment: [SA#3_CottonwoodCrkEst_Staking_Signed.pdf](#)

- 6) Property Acquisitions:

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- a.) Approval of Offers for the 17th Street North from Interstate 135 to Hillside Avenue (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-6a.doc](#)

Attachment: [17th Street Tract List.xlsx](#)

- b.) Acquisition of a Utility Easement from 700 East 21st Street North for the 21st Street North-Interstate 135 to Mosley Street Improvement Project (District VI)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-6b.doc](#)

Attachment: [Attachements.pdf](#)

- c.) Approval of Offers for the Improvement of the Redbud Trail from Woodlawn Avenue to K-96 (District II)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-6c.doc](#)

Attachment: [Tract List Agenda.xlsx](#)

- d.) Acquisition of a Temporary Easement from the Property at 305 South Bleckley Drive for the Bleckley Drive Drainage Improvement Project (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-6d.doc](#)

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Attachment: [Attachments.pdf](#)

- e.) Acquisition of a Temporary Easement from the Property at 425 South Bleckley Drive for the Bleckley Drive Drainage Improvement Project (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-6e.doc](#)

Attachment: [attachments.pdf](#)

7) Minutes of Advisory Boards/Commissions:

- a.) January 2025 Library Monthly Activity Report Wichita Library Board of Directors
Minutes January 2025 Board of Electrical Appeals Minutes February 11, 2025 Bicycle and Pedestrian Board Minutes February 2025

Attachment: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Board Minutes February 2025.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Board of Electrical Appeals Minutes February 11, 2025.pdf](#)

Attachment: [January 2025 Library Monthly Activity Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Wichita Library Board of Directors January Minutes.pdf](#)

Uncategorized Items:

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- 8.) Community Event with Alcohol Consumption – Automobilia Moonlight Car Show and Street Party (Districts I and VI)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-8.docx](#)

Attachment: [Automobilia TED Map.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-143 Alcohol Consumption Automobilia Moonlight Charity Car Show and Street Party.docx](#)

- 9.) Community Event with Alcohol Consumption – Empower’s Grand Opening Celebration (District VI)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-9.docx](#)

Attachment: [Empower TED Map.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-144 Alcohol Consumption Empower’s Grand Opening Ceremony Community Event.docx](#)

- 10.) Overestimate Bid for Stormwater Drain and Sewer Improvements to Bridger Pawnee Addition (District IV)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-10.doc](#)

Attachment: [Bridger Pawnee.pdf](#)

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Attachment: [Revised bid tab.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-145 SS 016910](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-152 SWD 530 085576](#)

11.) Supplemental Agreement #1 for Greyhound Lease

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-11.docx](#)

Attachment: [SA 1 2025–Greyhound COW Lease .pdf](#)

Attachment: [Wichita, KS License Agreement GLI-Flix.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Greyhound Executed Lease.pdf](#)

12.) Notice of Intent to Use Debt Financing - Acquisition of Tract 20 - Colonel James Jabara Airport.

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-12.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-146 Issuance of GO Bonds for Improvements to City Airport Facilities.docx](#)

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13.) Settlement of Claim

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-13.docx](#)

14.) Resolution for Sewer Improvements to Serve Brookfield South Addition, Phases 6 and 7

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-14.doc](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-148 Phases 6 and 7 Sanitary Sewer Improvements - Brookfield South Addition.docx](#)

15.) Purchase Option (Main Street Living, LLC)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-5.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-151 Purchase Option Main Street Living, LLC.docx](#)

16) Second Reading Ordinances:

- a.) ORDINANCE NO. 52-636 AN ORDINANCE MAKING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO PAY FOR THE BOARDING-UP AND SECURING OF CERTAIN STRUCTURES, BEING DANGEROUS AND UNSAFE BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED A NUISANCE (BUILDING EMERGENCY BOARD-UP) UNDER THE PROVISION OF SECTIONS 18.16.010 TO 18.16.090 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS An ordinance adding special assessments for properties declared a nuisance for building emergency board-up.

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Attachment: [List of Second Read Ordinances April 1, 2025.docx](#)

II) CONSENT PLANNING AGENDA ITEMS

- 17.) DED2025-00004 - Dedication of Utility Easement on Property Located at the Southeast Corner of Harvard Avenue and East 17th Street North (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-16.docx](#)

Attachment: [Easement-Utility - Evergy-recorded.PDF](#)

- 18.) A25-02: ROJO Farms, LLC and BM Colter Ridge, LLC Request the Annexation of Land; Generally Located on the East Side of South Meridian Avenue and on the South Side of West 55th Street South. (District IV)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-17.docx](#)

Attachment: [A25-02 Map Sheet.doc](#)

Attachment: [Ordinance No. 52-637 A25-02](#)

- 19.) ZON2024-00017– Consideration of a Corrected Ordinance; Generally Located on the West Side of North Joann Street and Within One-Quarter Mile South of West Saint Louis Avenue (339 North Joann Street). (District VI)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-18.docx](#)

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Attachment: [ZON2024-00017 WCC Supporting Documents.docx](#)

Attachment: [ZON2024-00017 MAPC Minutes Excerpt.docx](#)

Attachment: [2024-05-13 District Advisory Board 6 ZON2024-00017 Memo.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Ordinance No. 52-638 ZON2024-00017.docx](#)

- 20.) A25-01: Rocky Ford, LLC Requests the Island Annexation of Land; Generally Located on the East Side of South Rock Road and on the North Side of East 39th Street South. (District II)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-19.doc](#)

Attachment: [A25-01 Mapsheet.doc](#)

Attachment: [A25-01 Wichita Utilities Map.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-147 A25-01 Request for Annexation of 3802 South Rock Road.doc](#)

II) CONSENT HOUSING AGENDA ITEMS

- 21.) Sale of 12 Public Housing Authority Properties to the City of Wichita (District I)

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Attachment: [Agenda Report II-20.doc](#)

Attachment: [CH10HS450-SW-03-13-2025-09-48-48.pdf](#)

22.) Sale of 2819 East Ellen Street (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-21.doc](#)

Attachment: [Real estate agreement - 2819 E Ellen St.pdf](#)

II) CONSENT AIRPORT AGENDA ITEMS

23.) 2025 Federal Seized & Forfeited Property Budget

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-22.docx](#)

24.) Acquisition of Tract 20 - Colonel James Jabara Airport.

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-23.doc](#)

Attachment: [20241001 3000 Greenwich RE Purchase Agreement - fully executed.pdf](#)