

OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 16, 2025

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

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

Also present were: Mrs. Lori Curtis Luther, City Manager; Ms. Kristy Stallings, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Kate Gunja, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Jack Messer, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Bryan Dehner, Assistant City Manager; Ms. Lorraine Basalo, Public Works Director; Mr. Alan Long, Fire Chief; Mr. Simon Happer, Deputy Police Chief; Ms. Leslie Karr, Planning and Development Services Director; Ms. Gena McDonald, Finance and Budget Director; Mr. Mark Barksdale, IT Support Specialist; and Ms. Jesica Pierce, Recording Secretary. Approximately 15 people were in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Curt Skoog opened the public comment period.

Mr. Doug Polson, 13319 W. 103rd Terrace, Lenexa, stated he is concerned about the bicycle lane on 107th Street in front of Shawnee Mission High School, which is a marked bike lane from Nall to Roe. There is a steep hill that can cause a cyclist to go up to 25 miles-per-hour, during which time cars are driving faster. This lane is clearly marked as a no-parking zone for its length. He asked how this can be enforced because there are always cars parked in this lane, which forces bicycles to ride into traffic and defeats the purpose of a bike lane. There is an apartment complex nearby and he believes these cars belong to some of those residents. He asked if the Council has control over parking. He noted he brought up this issue last year at a City Council meeting and he asked where he can get answers for this issue. He would appreciate assistance on this matter because if a car causes an accident with a bicycle, the Council may feel guilty that there was no action taken. He would be open to suggestions.

Mr. Paul Young, 5405 W. 79th Street, Prairie Village, stated he is a cyclist who rides a lot of streets in Overland Park. For a long time cyclists have been second-class citizens, as they are not allowed on the sidewalks or the roads. They appreciate when cities help out cyclists; however, when the City installs a bike lane and vehicles are allowed to park in them, issues arise. He noted he has been hit by a car before and he would appreciate a safer place to ride his bike. There are blind spots and bikes can accelerate to high speeds. He would like to have on the record that there is more than one person mentioning this issue. He appreciates what the City has done with Nall

between 67th Street and 75th Street, and he would like this to be expanded upon because this area is the safest he has felt on roadways in the Kansas City area. Traffic on Nall is considerably slower than it was previously. The road diet is amazing. He noted he likes to visit the Brew Lab near the Farmer's Market area in Overland Park, and when Clocktower Landing is completed, this will be a prime location for cyclists, and he is worried that the businesses will have to shut down before construction is finished.

Ms. Kristy Uenishi, 8403 W. 150th Street stated she visits City Council meetings every quarter to provide updates. On September 9, 2024, the City Council supported a Special Use Permit, which she also supported because she did not believe it could get worse. Stipulation o of the Special Use Permit included that the agreement shall expire within one year if a building permit is not approved, and if one is approved the applicant must diligently pursue construction and maintain continuous progress. Stipulation p states the property shall be maintained in compliance with the Overland Park Municipal Code and current property maintenance violations shall be brought into confirmation prior to the issuance of a building permit for the event center. The property owner has never been in compliance completely. His field is technically a separate property, so he moves things back and forth between his properties. He attained a permit in February; however, he has not pursued construction. In February, he took apart the awning and scattered trash around the property and no action has been taken to clean it. In late May before his hearing on the first three criminal municipal charges he has on that building, the property was mowed for the first time in the field, which has to be done with a string trimmer due to the construction debris. The grass was trimmed again on June 10 because the next hearing was June 11, which was continued to August. The first three criminal municipal charges were issued November 26, 2024, and has now been continued to August 13, 2025, and if it is resolved at this meeting, it will have been 260 days. He received new charges on June 9, 2025, and if this also takes 260 days to be resolved, it will be resolved on February 24, 2026. He is taking on more charges. He spray-painted the sign, and there was going to be a notice of violation last month and a notice to appear was going to be issued before June. She noted if she committed a crime and was allowed to keep committing crimes, it does not seem fair that she would keep her license until the courts were done processing the issue. There is a gravel pile behind the field that has been there for over two years, and he said he will use it when he does construction on the field. This development was issued in February 2023; therefore, she believes he has no intention of building there. Illegal storage has been the most recent charge he received. She noted in September, Councilmember Mosher stated that he would not be able to tolerate living near the building in its current state and it was in better condition in September. She needs the Council's help and she appreciates their replies to her emails and calls. She is not the only person they are helping, as she provides updates to her neighborhood. She has a mailing list of her neighbors and she sends them the same emails the Council receives. They are all concerned with this. Since the first time this property owner began these issues in 2020, the neighborhood has become 44 percent rental properties and two homes have been placed on the market. If this cannot be resolved, she will put her house up for sale because the issue is becoming worse and decreasing her property value. She should not be losing money because of his bad behavior. This is beautiful part of Overland Park, but he has made this neighborhood an eyesore.

With no further comments being made, Mayor Skoog closed the public comment period.

MAYOR CURT SKOOG

PROCLAMATION – Proclaiming June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth in Overland Park.

Mr. Drew Mitrisin stated Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. Juneteenth serves as a reminder of the long struggle for freedom, equality, and justice for all Americans, and highlights the resilience, courage, and contributions of African Americans to our nation's history and culture. Juneteenth provides an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the legacy of slavery, to promote racial reconciliation, and to commit to combating systemic racism and injustice in all its forms. The City of Overland Park recognizes the impact and legacy of the African American community and is committed to building a stronger and more inclusive community today and tomorrow. Mayor Skoog proclaimed June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth in Overland Park and urged all residents to honor this day and continue to cultivate an inclusive world and community for all.

Mayor Skoog stated this past Saturday, there were two Juneteenth celebrations in Overland Park, both of which he attended. It is important to the community that they celebrate and welcome differences and diversity.

Mr. Angelo Phillips stated it is an honor to accept these proclamations on the behalf of the City of Overland Park. Both hold great significance in the nation's history. He thanked the City for this recognition.

PROCLAMATION – Proclaiming June 2025, as Pride Month in Overland Park.

Mr. Richard Borlaza stated June marks the celebration of Pride Month, a time to honor the LGBTQ+, their achievements, struggles, and ongoing fight for equality and acceptance. Pride Month serves as an opportunity for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity to come together in solidarity to support and celebrate diversity, acceptance, and love. It is essential to recognize and affirm the contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals to every facet of society, enriching the cultural tapestry of our nation, the world, and the City of Overland Park. The City of Overland Park values the principals of equality, justice, and human dignity, and continues to advocate for the rights and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring they can live authentically, free from discrimination and prejudice. Mayor Skoog proclaimed June 2025 as Pride Month in Overland Park and called upon the community to honor this month and continue to create an inclusive world they can be proud of and celebrate, done the 16th Day of June, 2025.

Mayor Skoog stated every time they work with the community to set goals and objectives, being a welcoming community is always at the top of the list. Both of these proclamations are continued efforts as a City and community to ensure everyone feels welcome in Overland Park.

Mayor Skoog stated his younger brother Ed Skoog is in attendance with his son Oscar from Portland, Oregon, and he was a model for him in this work. He appreciates him being in attendance and visiting to celebrate his birthday on Wednesday.

REAPPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD FOR RACIAL PROFILING AND NON-BIASED POLICING:

Michael Abrams – Term 5-02-2025 to 5-5-2029

Mrs. Holly Grummert moved to approve the reappointment to the Independent Citizen Advisory Board for Racial Profiling and Non-Biased Policing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Logan Heley, which passed by a vote of 12 to 0.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT HOLLY GRUMMERT

Mrs. Grummert stated there is a lot to celebrate from this past weekend. There was a little bit of rain, but it did not stop the Back Alley Brass Band performing for the car show on Thursday night at Thompson Park, which was also the beginning of the Art Fair, which continued into Saturday and was a great time. There were more than 200 people riding the shuttle from City Hall to downtown on Saturday for the Farmers' Market parking satellite program that started, and this will continue through July 26. She encouraged residents to park at City Hall and take the shuttle to downtown to avoid the parking congestion in that area.

The deadline to license pets in Overland Park is coming up. Residents can apply online or in-person at City Hall at the City Clerk's office. License fees are normally \$5 for spayed, neutered, and microchipped pets. These fees support the program that helps ensure Overland Park pets are vaccinated and return home if they are missing. She encouraged residents to apply or renew pet licenses by June 30.

CITY MANAGER LORI CURTIS LUTHER

City Manager Lori Curtis Luther stated several City facilities will be closed Thursday, June 19, for the observed holiday of Juneteenth, which includes City Hall, Sanders Justice Center, and the Overland Park Recycling Center. Many City services will still be available online and the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, the Overland Park Arboretum, community centers, pools, and parks will remain open with regular hours.

RESOLUTION NO. 5049 – Providing for City Sponsorship of the Kansas City Kickoff Event of Jun 22, 2025, in Overland Park.

Assistant City Manager Kate Gunja stated the Kansas City Kickoff Event celebrates the region's role as one of 16 World Cup cities in 2026. This is a free event open to the public at the Aspiria campus in Overland Park on Sunday, June 22, 2025, from noon to 5:00 p.m. The City has adopted Resolution No. 3865, which establishes standards for the Governing Body to use to determine that a public event is a unique event warranting City sponsorship and support, and to establish those standards for the nature and scope of City resources available. This request meets two of the public objectives for City sponsorship. Resolution No. 5049 designates the Kansas City Kickoff Event in Overland Park as a City-sponsored public event authorizing the City to support the event in the form of publicity and promotion on the City's communication channels. This resolution is limited to that support. Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 5049. She noted this request is specifically for this event, but staff anticipates bringing forward a future resolution to address other events and activities related to World Cup.

Mayor Skoog stated last week they had the kickoff for the One-Year To Go Event at Union Station. It feels that this announcement came to Kansas City many years ago, and they are now one year away. This is one of the first steps in the process to build excitement and educate the public on what the World Cup is, and how locals and small businesses can participate.

Mrs. Grummert moved to adopt Resolution No. 5049. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heley, which passed by a vote of 12 to 0.

Mayor Skoog encouraged residents to visit the Aspiria campus, namely on the soccer field on the east side of the building. There is lots of parking.

CONSENT AGENDA:

PUBLIC SAFETY – Committee Report

ORDINANCE NO. DAC-3486 – Relating to licensing, permitting, and fostering of animals in the City.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – STAFF REPORT

CONFIRMATION OF INVESTMENTS

EXPENDITURE ORDINANCE NO. 5B – Outlining the expenditures from the General Operating Fund and the Capital Project Fund for May 23 through June 5, 2025.

Mrs. Grummert moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heley, which passed by a roll-call vote of 12 to 0.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Committee Report:

Logan Heley, Chair

No report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – Staff Report:

No report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – PARKS AND RECREATION – Staff Report:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Committee Report:

Melissa Cheatham, Chair

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE DEPARTMENT - Staff Report:

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE DEPARTMENT – Staff Report:

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS – Committee Report:

Jim Kite, Chair

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS – Staff Report:

No report.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Committee Report:

Chris Newlin, Chair

Mr. Chris Newlin stated there will be a Finance, Administration, and Economic Development meeting this Wednesday in Conference Room No. 1. He reminded Committee members to bring their budget books.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Staff Report:

No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS – REGULAR AGENDA:

No report.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

PLANNING COMMISSION - REGULAR AGENDA:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To conduct preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public facility, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(6).

Mrs. Grummert moved that the Governing Body recess into Executive Session for a period of 45 minutes for the purpose of conducting preliminary discussions of the acquisition of real property for a public facility pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(6), and that the open meeting be resumed in the Council Chambers at 8:40 p.m. No binding action will be taken in the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heley, which passed by a vote of 12 to 0.

At 8:40 p.m., the Council returned to the Council Chambers.

NEW BUSINESS:

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 p.m., Mayor Skoog declared the meeting adjourned. Minutes transcribed by Jessica Pierce.

Curt Skoog, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Kelley, City Clerk