



CITY OF LEAVENWORTH
100 N. 5th Street
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

City Commission Regular Meeting
Commission Chambers
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - The Governing Body met for a regular meeting and the following commission members were present in the commission chambers: Mayor Holly Pittman, Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Bauder, Commissioners Griff Martin, Jermaine Wilson and Edd Hingula (arrived at 6:10 p.m.).

Staff members present: City Manager Scott Peterson, Assistant City Manager Penny Holler, Parks & Recreation Director Steve Grant, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director Brian Bailey, Public Works Director Brian Faust, Leavenworth Housing Authority Section Eight Coordinator Patrick Tooley, City Attorney David E. Waters and City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner.

Mayor Pittman asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance followed by silent meditation.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day – Mayor Pittman read the proclamation. The proclamation was accepted by Lynn Rolf and Vietnam Veterans in attendance were recognized.

Barbershop Harmony Month – Mayor Pittman read the proclamation. The proclamation was accepted by The Cody Choraliers who then performed a song.

Fair Housing Month – Mayor Pittman read the proclamation. The proclamation was accepted by Leavenworth Housing Authority Section Eight Coordinator Patrick Tooley.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Wilson moved to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2025 regular meeting and March 18, 2025 special meeting. Commissioner Hingula seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Comment: *(Public comment on non-agenda items or receipt of petitions- limited to 2-3 minutes)*

Jimbo Gillcrist, 6152 Locust St., KCMO:

- Opposes ICE Detention Center in Leavenworth
- Urges City to pursue legal action against CoreCivic

Marcia Levering, 2008 S. Broadway St.:

- Worked at CoreCivic for 10 months
- Mentioned inadequacies and deficiencies within the facility
- Stated she was assaulted while working at the facility
- Continues to heal from injuries sustained

- Doesn't feel CoreCivic should be allowed to re-open

Jake Seurer, 600 E 8th St, KCMO:

- Urges City to pursue legal action against CoreCivic if CoreCivic ignores City Ordinances

Doug Kinney, 555 Main St., Lansing, KS:

- Uses airport in Leavenworth
- Mentioned lack of credit card machine at airport for fueling

Kat Barrow, 5216 Neiman Rd., Shawnee, KS:

- Stated opposition of ICE Detention Center and CoreCivic
- Urges City to oppose CoreCivic and pursue legal action against CoreCivic if they circumvent the law

Rick Hammett, 220 Fawn Valley, Lansing, KS:

- Mentioned CoreCivic bypassing the Special Use Permit process
- Trusts this action will not go unanswered by the City

Ashley Hernandez, 1127 Metropolitan Ave.:

- Asks the City to stop CoreCivic and the ICE Detention Center
- Feel the facility will hurt our city
- As a private company, CoreCivic wouldn't be held to the same standards and could sweep issues under the rug

Sister Jean Anne Panisko, 4200 S 4th St.:

- AIR stands opposed to any and all ICE Detention Centers
- Urges City to pursue legal action against CoreCivic if they don't get the Special Use Permit
- A for-profit prison is against our core values in this community
- 1,567 people across the region oppose any CoreCivic and ICE Detention Center

Louis Klemp Jr., 1816 Pine Ridge Dr.:

- Discussed safety on our roadways
- Too much speeding
- Needs to see our laws enforced, we have good laws

William Rogers, 7362 Yecker Ave., KCKS:

- Discussed a police report in a packet of documents he provided the Commission
- Mentioned police reports from 2017 to 2021 he received from a KORA request
- Discussed greed in relation to CoreCivic

Esmie Tseng, 30025 W 86th St, DeSoto, KS:

- Is the Communications Director at the ACLU of Kansas
- CoreCivic has been a site of concern
- In 2021, ALCU was flooded with complaints
- CoreCivic speaks of partnership but circumvents the Special Use Permit process with the City
- Urges City declares to CoreCivic that we are not disposable

Sherry Brune, 2106 S 5th St.:

- Opposes CoreCivic and wants the City to stop it

Corliss Jacobs, 20745 College, Olathe, KS:

- Many good points have been made this evening
- The community has stated they don't want this
- Feels for-profit prisons are against our values
- Opposes private prisons and ICE Detention Centers

Judy Ancel, 4014 Metropolitan, KCKS:

- Actions of this commission impacts other cities and states
- Feels the ICE Detention Center is a political issue
- Discussed immigration issues and illegal entry/re-entry
- ICE isn't only rounding up criminals, they are rounding up anyone
- Don't permit this human rights violation, don't be complicit

Bids, Contracts and Agreements:

Consider Approval of KDOT Agreement for the Downtown ADA Intersection Ramp Project – Public Works Director Brian Faust presented for consideration approval of the agreement with KDOT for the Downtown ADA Ramp Project that is funded through the KDOT Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. The City submitted our project to KDOT for the Fiscal Year 2026 TA Program. In October 2024, the City was notified that the project was awarded \$629,750 in funding. While the City will be paying for the design, construction costs are covered at 100%, no matching funds required. The City received the official agreement from KDOT for this funding that needs to be signed by the Mayor.

Commissioner Martin moved to authorize the Mayor to sign KDOT Agreement No. 117-25 for the ADA Downtown Intersection Ramp Project. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

Consider Award of Bid for Riverfront Community Center Elevator Modernization Project – Parks & Recreation Director Steve Grant presented for consideration approval of the bid for the modernization of the elevator at the Riverfront Community Center. The Riverfront Community Center was renovated and opened in 1988. At that time an elevator was installed as part of the renovations. Most of the mechanical equipment associated with the elevator is the original equipment and is in need of upgrading and replacement. Replacement parts have become difficult to locate due to the age of the elevator. Additionally the electronic controller that is the brains of the operation is unable to be replaced should it fail. A bid package was developed for the modernization of the elevator. There is \$168,720.00 allocated in the 2025 CIP for this project.

Commissioner Hingula moved to approve the bid for modernization of the elevator at the Riverfront Community Center with TK Elevator Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$168,720.00. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

Consider Approval of Purchase of a New Truck for the Leavenworth Housing Authority – Leavenworth Housing Authority Section Eight Coordinator Patrick Tooley presented for approval the purchase of a new truck for the Leavenworth Housing Authority. The City of Leavenworth is consolidating its Enterprise Fleet of vehicles in order to save money. The Leavenworth Housing Authority has volunteered to return their vehicle to Enterprise and will purchase a vehicle instead. Proposals were received by the Housing Manager for a new 2024 Ford F-150 truck. Procedure was performed in accordance with HUD's procurement policy. There are sufficient funds in the Public Housing and Section Eight Programs for the purchase.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-150 from Victory Ford, in an amount not to exceed \$53,190.00. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Martin moved to approve claims for March 7, 2025, through March 20, 2025, in the amount of \$2,028,446.19; Net amount for Payroll #5 effective March 7, 2025, in the amount of \$425,590.46 (No Police & Fire Pension). Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session – Consultation with the City Attorney on zoning matters that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, with possible action by the City Commission in open session to follow – Mayor Pittman moved to recess into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the purpose of *discussing zoning matters in consultation with an attorney which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)2*. The City Commission, City Manager and City Attorney will be present. The open meeting will resume in the City Commission Chambers at 7:27 p.m. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

The City Commission returned to open session at 7:27 p.m.

Attorney Waters presented Resolution No. B-2394, which affirms the City's rights and obligations to protect the public health, safety and welfare through its zoning powers, and to formally confirm the City's position that the reopening of the CoreCivic facility is no longer a legal non-conforming use or a special use, due to its closure and abandonment of operations for over 36 months. Any such reopening does require the issuance of a special use permit under the City's Development Regulations, and CoreCivic must go through the proper processes required under Kansas and City law.

Commissioner Hingula moved the Governing Body adopt Resolution No. B-2394. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Pittman declared the motion carried 5-0.

Other:

City Manager Scott Peterson:

- County has reached out about a joint meeting between the City and County

Commissioner Hingula:

- Have a good week

Commissioner Wilson:

- Have a good week, God bless

Mayor Pittman:

- Thanked everyone for coming out this evening
- Really enjoyed the barbershop quartet

Adjournment:

Commissioner Hingula moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Time Meeting Adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner, CMC