

EL DORADO

K A N S A S

TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: April 4, 2024

Items of Note:

- The K-State Extension Office shared the results of a “first impressions” visit from a program Experience El Dorado participated in. Great Bend sent several people to visit El Dorado and provide comments on their findings. A written report prepared by K-State Extension provided some insight into how visitors might see El Dorado and identifies some things that could be improved to make the experience better for visitors. Overall, the impression of El Dorado was positive. The community received a lot of compliments on the parks, the flowers, and other amenities. Areas identified for improvement included our online experience and signage.
- Speaking of visitors, the Kansas One-Shot Turkey Hunt “shot off” yesterday. Forty hunters and guides took to the field this week with the hope of bagging a high-scoring bird. The hunt includes five or six youth hunters, one of which is from Arkansas and is a national turkey calling winner. The hunt keeps El Dorado front and center during the spring turkey season and may even lead to a business investment in El Dorado. The Kansas Department of Commerce uses the hunt as an economic development opportunity to draw prospective business executives interested in hunting and outdoor recreation to Kansas.
- The City received a proposal from a local business to acquire two lots in the business park for relocation and expansion. The City Attorney is preparing a real estate purchase agreement for this transaction.
- Parks and Recreation staff started preparing the pool for the upcoming summer season. The annual cleaning of the bowl, checking lights, and touching up paint began this week. Water will likely be added late next week to allow time for the sun to warm it before the first splash.
- The Parks Division continues ballfield preparations for the start of the season. Chemical applications, dirt work, and backstop repairs have been the primary focus.
- Graffiti season started with the commencement of warmer weather. The Parks Division has already had to mitigate “artwork” on playground equipment and sidewalks.
- Wednesday’s Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum. The board will meet again in May to begin the assignments discussed during the joint meeting with the City Commission.
- The Public Utilities Department plans to install several test automated meters this week. The department plans to capture some video to prepare a public service announcement

for this project to inform the public of the coming transition and how it may impact residential accounts.

- Grass started to grow around the Airport Driveway and Parking Lot Project except where the contractor had to return in late December to repair dirt work for proper drainage. Final seeding was completed this week. Net mulch was used to protect the re-seeded areas. We should begin to see grass coming up in these areas shortly.
- The Kansas Department of Transportation awarded a \$10,800 from its Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) for fuel system upgrades. The grant is a 90/10 split, meaning the City is responsible for 10% of the project cost. The current system is over thirty years old and has been failing. The City's 10% match will come from the airport's maintenance budget.
- The Public Works Department completed repairs at the catch basin located on the northwest corner of 3rd and Main.
- The downtown sound system, which was allocated excess sales tax funds, has been stalled because the business owner is closing the business and retiring at age 77. The City is in the process of researching other vendors.
- The internet upgrade equipment (another excess sales tax project) has been delivered and is being configured for installation. This project will improve the connectivity between water towers and the City's off-campus locations (i.e., Cemetery HQ, Fire Station No. 2, etc.)
- Staff received estimates for the annual street rehabilitation program. We anticipate doing a mix of crack sealing and reclimate this year. City staff is looking forward to using the new street assessment software to determine the best streets for major maintenance.
- Carpet installation at City Hall continues. The Parks and Recreation Department side of the building is about 90% complete.
- The Kansas Department of Agriculture conducted a re-inspection at the animal shelter to follow-up on a previously conducted inspection. It appears that the shelter completed all outstanding items needed for compliance identified in the initial inspection, although we await the written report from the agency.
- This week, the Fire Department reported twenty-four incidents: Fires – 4, Medical/Rescue – 7, Hazardous Conditions – 1, Service Call – 1, Good Intent Call – 10, and False Alarm – 1. The department also accumulated sixty-nine aggregate staff training hours and completed seven inspections.
- Utility billing staff completed sewer averaging this week. Staff checked and recalculated bills three times on Wednesday evening to (hopefully) catch any potential issues. Billing staff will contact accounts that appear to have leaks to inform them of the leak adjustment program.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** The Mural Plaza ribbon cutting has been scheduled for May 2 at 5:30 pm.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for May 14 at 7:00 pm at the Elks Club, 121 E. Pine Avenue.

City Manager's Priorities:

1. Housing Work Plan
2. Economic Development Work Plan
3. Quality of Life Work Plan

Upcoming Milestones/Deadlines:

- **May 6** – Central Avenue Project Contract Approval
- **May 20** – Constant Creek Sewer Interceptor Project Contract Approval
- **May 15** – Turf and track replacement at BG Stadium begins
- **August** – Transportation Master Plan Completion

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant, advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (6), Patrol Officers (1), Detective, Public Utilities Maintenance Worker
- Interviews have been scheduled for the following positions: Detective (April 22) and Wastewater Plant Operator interview (April 24).
- Sam Cooper started in his role as the Management Intern on April 15.

Commission Calendar: *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*

- **May 1 Work Session** – CIP Review; Stadium Financing
- **May 6 Regular Meeting-** Central Avenue Improvement Project Bids; Stadium Authorizing Resolution and Agreement
- **May 15 Work Session** – Central Avenue Project Overview; Utility Rate Proposal