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# Press Release

## Commission declares nine structures as unsafe and dangerous

*City Commission of Arkansas City also amends five funds in 2015 budget*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (December 16, 2015) — The City Commission of Arkansas City voted 5-0 in two motions on Tuesday night to approve a resolution declaring nine properties as dangerous structures and an ordinance amending the 2015 budget during its final regular meeting of the year at City Hall.

Public hearings were held regarding properties at 203 E. Madison Ave., 1818 N. Sixth St., 310 North C St., 1221 S. Third St., 1011 South A St., 703 N. Third St., 1313 South J St. and 716 S. Seventh St.

The only person to speak on any of the properties was Aaron Schroeder, a representative of Scharck Investment Group, LLC, which owns the structure at 203 E. Madison Ave. and has no plans to fix it.

A hearing also was held regarding a large commercial building with a failing roof located at 606 S. Summit St., the second such hearing held for that property in the last three years. The most recent bid for a teardown was around \$85,000. Mayor Chad Giles directed City staff to expedite its safe demolition.

After the dangerous structure hearings, Finance Director Kathy Cornwell outlined five changes that needed to be made to the 2015 budget in order to ensure sufficient cash was available for expenditures:

- The Tourism Fund was amended to include appropriations to the Arkansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau and to Best Western Plus Patterson Park Inn for funds received in excess of what originally was budgeted.
- The Special Alcohol Fund was adjusted to account for payments for the Arkansas City Police Department's DARE Camp and graduation ceremonies, plus its annual New Year's Eve lockup party at Arkansas City High School. Those events previously were paid from the General Fund.
- The Hospital Improvement Fund was amended due to the timing of when funds are received and then submitted to South Central Kansas Medical Center. Cornwell said she wanted to ensure sufficient funds were available if SCKMC requests reimbursement at the end of the year.

**For immediate release**

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- The Community Improvement District (CID) Fund accounts for CID sales taxes received by the City from the Summit Plaza CID, which did not yet exist when the 2015 budget was approved.
- The Street Improvement Fund was amended to account for the Skyline reconstruction project.

A public hearing, during which no one spoke, also was opened and closed for the budget revisions.

**In other business Tuesday, the City Commission:**

- Voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda items: the Dec. 1 regular meeting minutes as written; the renewal of cereal malt beverage licenses for 2016; and a resolution authorizing the City to execute a GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) waiver for the 2016 fiscal year.
- Heard a second reading of and voted unanimously to approve an ordinance approving a conditional-use permit for a self-storage facility in a C-2 (restricted commercial) district at 1125 W. Skyline Road. The commissioners also directed City staff to draft proposed changes to the subdivision regulations that would remove restrictions on which way self-storage unit doors could face. Those changes likely will be discussed at the Jan. 5, 2016, commission meeting.
- Heard a first reading of and voted 4-1 to approve an ordinance fixing the compensation of City employees and repealing Ordinance No. 2014-12-4376. Commissioner Brandon Every cast the dissenting vote and said he would have preferred to give larger raises to the City's lowest-paid employees, rather than a 2-percent cost-of-living adjustment across the board.
- Heard a first reading of and voted unanimously to approve an ordinance modifying Municipal Code Section 6-2 to remove references to Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum. The section of code governing alcohol consumption at the museum no longer applies now that the museum is a private building in the county owned by its board of directors, rather than a City building.
- Voted 2-3 not to table until next month a resolution approving the purchase of a 2015 Ford 1-ton truck with a flat bed and hoist from Reedy Ford, for an amount not to exceed \$31,360. Mayor Giles, Commissioner Duane Oestmann and Commissioner Jay Warren cast the dissenting votes. The commissioners then voted 4-1 to approve the resolution, with Commissioner Brandon Every dissenting. Commissioner Dan Jurkovich said he only voted for the tabling to allow Every more time to consider the bid, but added he himself was fine with the purchase.
- Heard updates from Hernandez on the 2016 City holiday schedule and Skyline Road, which could be reopened as early as Christmas.