

Meeting called to order on March 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM:

Prior to the start of the meeting Joni Curl was sworn in as Planning Commissioner

Roll Call: Mary Benton Lloyd Colston Joni Curl Karla Gallegos Paisley Howerton Charles Jennings
Ian Kuhn Andy Paton Cody Richardson

Colston, Gallegos and Howerton joined the meeting via GoToMeeting.

Staff present at the meeting included Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson, Principal Planner Josh White and City Manager Randy Frazer.

Also present at the meeting or via GoToMeeting were Shawn McGrew representing Strother Field, Kerri Falletti representing Cowley First, Mark Paton representing Arkansas City Industries, Dennis Rittle representing Cowley College, Kartikeya Saboo representing Wichita State University, Renee Lippincott representing the Kansas Department of Commerce, Yazmin Wood representing Legacy Foundation, and one member of the public.

1. Public Comments:

No public comments were made.

2. Consent Agenda:

Colston made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as written. Jennings seconded the motion. Voice vote carried the motion.

3. Comprehensive Plan

White reviewed what was previously discussed on housing. He continued by talking about the incentives available for housing. Lippincott shared some information on programs available from the state. She noted that with housing, you need to focus on needs not wants and not to just use programs as a wish list. Housing studies can tell you exactly what you need. Frazer noted that we were working on the Housing Assessment Tool as part of our application for CDBG Housing funding. After discussion wrapped on housing, White shifted the focus to Economic Development. He did a brief overview on economic development efforts in the City. Falletti also briefly talked about the state of economic development and helped to answer questions. He also talked about income and poverty and how that can affect the workforce. Wood talked about some of the work done on homelessness and dealing with poverty in the county. Jennings noted an organization he works with had served the homeless during the recent cold by provided 80 hotel room nights. Planning Commissioners were surprised to learn how many people were experiencing homelessness. Planning Commissioners had general discussion of economic development. He stated that the next meeting would focus on past surveys and possible goals.

4. Other Items:

Lawson and White discussed the recent FlashVote results regarding Quality of Life in the Community. Planning Commissioners discussed the results. Howerton noted that it seems interesting that people want more businesses but don't always seem to want to support the local businesses. Staff said we could fold that topic into a future survey.

5. Adjournment:

Jennings made a motion to adjourn. Benton seconded the motion. Voice vote carried the motion. Meeting adjourned.