

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY CITY OF GARDNER, KANSAS

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June 17, 2024

The City Council of the City of Gardner, Kansas met in regular session on June 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Gardner City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Gardner, Kansas, with Council President Mark Baldwin presiding. Present were Councilmembers Kacy Deaton, Mark Wiehn, Steve Shute and Steve McNeer. City staff present were City Administrator Jim Pruetting; Finance Director Matt Wolff; Police Chief Pam Waldeck; Utilities Director Gonz Garcia; Parks Director Jason Bruce; Community Development Director Dave Knopick; Public Works Director Kellen Headlee; City Attorney Ryan Denk; City Clerk Renee Rich. Others present included those listed on the sign-in sheet and others who did not sign in. Mayor Todd Winters was absent.

There being a quorum of Councilmembers present, Council President Baldwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Baldwin led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. 2023 Audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

Finance Director Matt Wolff said this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year the city has prepared an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The previous nineteen annual financial reports were award winners. In our continued pursuit of excellence, this report will be submitted for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting with the Government Finance Officers Association. The city's independent auditing firm, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C. completed the audit of the 2023 financial records. Brian Holst, Allen Gibbs & Houlik, shared the results of the 2023 Audit. There were three letters of required communication sent to the governing body summarized in his presentation. The financial statement of opinion was that of an unmodified opinion. Mr. Holst thanked the city's finance staff for their hard work on the audit. The full presentation can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHzdP47cQPE>

### **2. Revised 2025 Budget Presentation**

Finance Director Matt Wolff said the budget process started in March when he presented the preliminary results on the year end financial report for 2023, then in April we discussed the Outside Agency budget requests and Capital Improvement Program. Tonight, we will be focusing on the budget policy and what is driving the overall budget and the tax levy funds. July 1<sup>st</sup> is for the consideration of a resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate and setting a public hearing. A new addition to the budget calendar is a July 15<sup>th</sup> budget discussion on Enterprise Funds. The public hearings and approval process will vary depending on what council decides to do with the revenue neutral rate (RNR), those will be in August or September. In 2023, overall revenues have been pretty flat, so 2023 revenues were basically the same as 2022. We had to revise our projections down for 2024 and 2025. The revenue growth is about 3.2% over the three-year period. The forecast shows a revenue deficit in 2024, so this has revised our revenue projections downward for future years. Multiple budget cuts have already happened to cut around \$1.5M. These budget cuts along with the recent changes in health insurance will help correct the structural budget deficit in future years. The city has a large fund balance of 30% which started at 45% at the end of 2023 and is projected to spend down to 25% by 2029. The majority of the first five months of 2024 had sales tax revenue less than last year. MPR is no longer providing property and liability insurance for our electric assets, so we had to go out for coverage that came in higher than what was anticipated. Taking into account the increase in our general property liability insurance this year and increasing the budget to cover this and the coverage for the electric assets, the overall increase to these line items is about 25%. The combined line items for property and liability insurance total \$1.38M and premiums for 2025 have an increase of \$285,000 over the prior year. The total cost for these line items is only \$679,000 in 2023. We are the fastest growing city in the metro for cities with a population over 20,000 which puts a bigger strain on City staff to maintain current service levels. There were thirteen new position requests and after multiple meetings, we have narrowed this down to seven recommended positions. Of the seven, only four are in the general fund. Salaries are estimated and the cost of benefits and taxes will vary per position. We are requesting a merit increase of 3% and a 2.5% market adjustment in line with other jurisdictions around the area. Market adjustments affect vacant positions and new employees. Only employees hired prior to June 30 will be eligible for merit increases. Equipment upgrades and replacements include \$130,000 for a new generator for City Hall and a comprehensive package for the Police Department for body cameras, car camera systems, data storage, tasers, and facility recording system upgrades on a multi-year payment plan. The valuation estimates we got from

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the county indicated an 8.9% increase. There are some pending tax appeals that could lower the estimated assessed value. Keeping a flat mill rate and capturing the valuation increase would increase property taxes on an average single-family home by about \$3.51 a month assuming the average home appraisal to be about \$325,000. RNR would decrease the mill rate by 1.494 mills and a mill is worth approximately \$344,000. The RNR would limit property taxes to the same dollar amount as the prior year and would also lower allocations of motor vehicle tax and county sales tax in future budgets. Several mill rate scenarios were shared for mill consideration. There are two tax levy funds: the general fund and the bond and interest fund (B&I). Essentially, the general fund is where it needs to be, so if we roll back mills, the focus would be on the B&I fund. We are seeking council direction on budget feedback and more importantly what mill levy scenario you would like to consider for July 1<sup>st</sup> and then we will set the public hearing. On July 15<sup>th</sup> we'll follow up with a budget discussion focused on the Enterprise Funds.

Councilmember Shute looks at the flat mill levy and compares to the ½ mill reduction and shows we would lose \$1.5M. Wolff said that reduction would restrict our bonding capacity. Shute says RNR does not work with high inflation and stagnate growth and won't work in a growing community. I believe we can live with the ½ mill reduction and the \$9M fiscal capacity. This would help with the problems our citizens are seeing with incomes being constrained and costs continuing to rise. Councilmember McNeer said if we give a ½ mill reduction, this would not increase the individual property taxes as much. Shute says RNR is not possible because we can't stop spending in a fast-growing community. This reduction may make us have to slow down or delay some of our projects so we can balance. Councilmember Wiehn says we were able to maintain last year and we still have some big projects to do at the major interchanges. Shute says if we look at ½ mill, we are erroring on the side of caution and trying to maintain while we are heading into a recession.

McNeer says we are going to have tighten the belt and live within our means. Shute says we may have to defer some of our capital projects until we know what the end of the year will look like. Deaton asks if we have to make the decision tonight or just give an idea of whether or not we are going to exceed RNR. Wiehn said when you look at mill levies across the state, we are by far the lowest. Shute said we are primarily residential and our housing valuations are lower than most of Johnson County. It's going to be a struggle when we don't have a high percentage of commercial. Wiehn just wants to caution of cutting and then having to raise later. Shute says if we have to make an adjustment, we go back to the community and put it on the ballot if we need to rather than trying to hold onto mills now. McNeer said we need to aggressively entice retail to come to town. Wiehn says we have to be above RNR. Baldwin says we have consensus on going above RNR. As a city, we can't make a product to sell and raise the price to make more money. So, you have to grow and try to grow at the same rate as everything else is going. What would have to be the projection if at the end of 2029, we want the projection to stay at 30%? Don't want to raise and hold onto money just in case, but if we could do something to stay at the 30%. Can we support a reduction this year or are we forcing a stair step later? Shute asked about the current bond rates. Wolff said he would have to look at what rate would have to be to stay at 30%. Wolff said when we are issuing bonds now, we are looking at 4-4.5% versus 2-2.5% we were seeing.

Administer Pruetting said to keep in mind when thinking about Capital Improvements that the driving force for G.O. Bonds is road improvements. We do not have an arterial road maintenance program and we are trying to fund that to a certain degree this year in this next process. If we have to do a break in access or significant improvements to 175<sup>th</sup>/Clare, excise tax is not designed to cover that and we are trying to find alternative methods of getting developers involved. But the \$10M we are discussing is for improvements and it will fall short of what we need to make arterial bridge road improvements. We currently have three bridges and all of them are in design. 175<sup>th</sup> is going to have to change, Clare is going to change, and those things will test our capacity to issue G.O. Bond debt to cover those needs and if go down to \$9M, we are lowering what we have right now. Deaton asks if the \$10M worked this year or if we fell short. And when does the special sales tax for roads expire? Pruetting said that has been a discussion, but we could put it in the election in November which would be free, but we are working through the best time to take it to citizens. Deaton said when we think about roads, we have to consider worst case scenario if doesn't get approved by our citizens. Pruetting said it is similar to when the sales tax was created, there was no budgeted maintenance for our roads. And it is about \$500k short on an annual basis. Shute asked if we could model since we have a rough idea of what the total costs of the projects will be for the three interchanges. Pruetting said for the Moonlight bridge, we will have to determine whether or not we want that to be an interchange. At some point we will have to issue debt. McNeer said maybe people will have an easier time with a special sales tax if they know

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what the money is going to bring. Baldwin said we first have to fix what is behind us even if there is a carrot ahead. The full presentation can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM6TJNCmB9M>

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- 1. Hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments to a request for a Waiver of the Distance Limitation to allow for the sale and consumption of Cereal Malt Beverages for consumption within 200 feet of a school, church or library during the Santa Fe Disco Y Rodeo event at the Johnson County Fairground.**

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to open a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments to a request for a Waiver of the Distance Limitation to allow for the sale and consumption of Cereal Malt Beverages for consumption within 200 feet of a school, church or library during the Santa Fe Disco Y Rodeo event on June 30, 2024, at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, 136 E. Washington St.

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

No members of the public came forward

Councilmember McNeer made a motion to close the public hearing.

Councilmember Deaton Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tim Brady, 235 W Colleen Dr, thanks the council for being public officials. He has been a Gardner resident for 42 years as well as a youth coach, helped spearhead the sales tax for the aquatic center, served on various committees and most recently served on Planning Commission. He is currently the Executive Director of the Gardner Edgerton Schools Foundation. Prior to that, he was a staff member of USD 231. We are a non-profit foundation that supports the district. I am not an employee of the district, but do work with school officials to provide support in a wide variety of ways to students and staff. As a 501c3, all of our funding comes from business, organizations, individuals, retirees, alumni and sometimes grants. Last week, I emailed you asking for help to offset expenses for a new initiative. We are establishing an Alumni Hall of Fame with our inaugural class coming in on September 7<sup>th</sup>. You will be invited to the event. We have three individuals being inducted, two of which are Gardner High School graduates and still reside in our community, they are: Shirley Bruce Brown, Class of 1965 and Dr. Roy Jensen, Class of 1976. I am asking you to approve \$1000 to go to the foundation so we can honor alumni. The City of Gardner will be formally recognized at the induction ceremony. The third inductee is an Edgerton Rural High School graduate, Ray Braun.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Standing approval of the minutes as written for the regular meeting on June 3, 2024.**
- 2. Standing approval of City expenditures prepared May 30, 2024 in the amount of \$467,971.68 and June 6, 2024 for \$1,079,989.79.**
- 3. Consider authorizing an agreement with JEO Consulting Group for design of the Gardner Traffic Signal Interconnect Project.**

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember McNeer Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**PLANNING & ZONING CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Consider accepting the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Cypress Creek 3<sup>rd</sup> Plat.**

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- 2. Consider accepting the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Cypress Creek 4<sup>th</sup> Plat**
- 3. Consider accepting the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Villas on Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Plat.**
- 4. Consider accepting the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Grand Mission Estates 1<sup>st</sup> Plat.**

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to approve the Planning and Zoning Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Consider approving a conditional use permit for Nice Ice Baby at 312 W. Main St.**

Community Development Director Dave Knopick said this property is zoned C1 and is approximately .4 acres. This property used to be a restaurant site and it is surrounded by residential. We recently had a conditional use permit here regarding a hibachi food truck. The difference is that was a year-round establishment and was tied to full service public utilities. In this case, Nice Ice Baby is proposing a seasonal use through the summer months. This is a vendor that is located across the street by Transport Brewery and has been sold to the current owner. At the public hearing, one neighbor did come and speak in support of the item. It was indicated that this vendor did go around to the citizens and talk to them in advance, so as a result of the evaluation by staff and the Planning Commission hearing on May 22, 2024, the Planning Commission is recommending approval of the proposed conditional use permit with thirteen conditions.

Justin Smith, 18525 Juniper St, I am the new owner of Nice Ice Baby. There is one item that was confusing in the communication with the planner regarding the length of the season. We requested the time frame to be April to September and everything has said May to August, so I would like to request that modification.

Deaton said the issues with the hibachi were around parking. Knopick said one of the conditions includes traffic and parking and if there are issues, we may have to bring the vendor back and re-evaluate. The exchange for the longer permit is the shorter season. Deaton asks if we would have to send this back to Planning Commission if we want to approve through September. Knopick said the council can make the adjustment to condition number four where it's indicated May through August. Technically council will be going against the recommendation of the Planning Commission, so you would need the two-third majority. McNeer asks what utilities would be needed. The applicant said they need water and electric. McNeer then asks if this would be subject to administrative review at the end of the first year. Knopick said they would do an evaluation, but not a formal administrative review. McNeer appreciates that the applicant had circulated through the neighborhood prior to submitting the application.

Shute asks about condition two stating applicant would need to submit a temporary use permit. The application would be reviewed and approved on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Knopick said the temporary use permit is because it is a food vendor. When the application is brought in, there would be an evaluation of the previous season, so if there are necessary changes, the applicant has plenty of time to modify the conditional use permit. Shute also mirrors Deaton's concerns about the markings for parking. Knopick said the property owner and the applicant are working to get that corrected. Baldwin asked about the hours being from 1 pm to 8 pm. The applicant said he had originally wanted to be open later, but there is some concern about lot lighting.

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2803 approving conditional use permit 24-305-01 as recommended by the Planning Commission as amended with condition four to read between the months of April and September.

Councilmember McNeer Seconded.

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With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the Ordinance passed and was assigned number 2803.

Wiehn: Yes

Shute: Yes

McNeer: Yes

Baldwin: Yes

Deaton: Yes

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consider an ordinance of the City of Gardner, Kansas amending Section 114.2 of the “Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities: Edition of 2023” relating to the operation of work-site utility vehicles, golf carts or micro utility trucks on city streets.**

City Administrator Jim Pruetting said in May there was discussion about golf carts on city streets and we agreed to bring back options. This ordinance only addresses section 114.2, work site utility vehicles, golf carts and micro utility trucks which are in the same class under the STO and state statute. The first decision is whether or not we want to allow golf carts on city street and if so, the criteria would be: only on streets with a 25 mph or less speed limit; they are equipped with lights as required by state and local law; have a valid driver’s license; the owner must maintain insurance; and the number of occupants is limited to the number of seats factory installed. There is a map included that shows the streets that are 25 mph or less.

Steven Greti, 408 E. Shawnee St., disagrees with having golf carts on the street. There are too many kids and there will be a lot of kids getting hurt.

Councilmember Wiehn wants to know what the enforcement is going to be if there are kids driving? Does it go to the kid or back on the parents. Chief Waldeck said we would have to call the parents to come get them. If they are driving underage, they would be ticketed and their parents would have to come get them. Councilmember McNeer asks what would happen to the golf cart. Waldeck said they would not be able to leave with the golf cart, if we were not able to reach a parent or had to take the child into custody or take them home, we would have to impound the golf cart.

Deaton said if we make these legal, it will increase the number that are purchased and they will show up on the greenway trails and we don’t have the staff to patrol all of these. McNeer said the concern is the kids out there operating them and someone else’s kid gets hit. Baldwin said kids can already do these same things on their bikes and doesn’t feel like there will be an influx of new golf carts purchased. Kids should be monitored by their parents. Shute says we know kids are using them and it may be better if we had an area which included a golf course and areas around it to drive on. McNeer says maybe we need to take some more time to review this. Shute said if this is a solution looking for a problem, then we don’t want to do it. Deaton and Wiehn say our community is not laid out right and too broken up to make this safe. Wiehn feels we are too far apart and should review it later if we get additional information or requests. McNeer said if we decide to consider this, we need to be absolutely sure there is liability insurance, there should be a city registration, and a slow moving vehicle emblem requirement.

Councilmember McNeer made a motion to continue this item until the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in August.

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

Discussion continues and Deaton says she doesn’t understand the timeframe of this motion. Shute said it is to give the public more time to weigh in. reason for moving. Baldwin suggests we vote on it and then bring it back when someone pushes for it.

Councilmember Mcneer withdraws his motion.

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to deny Ordinance No. 2804, an ordinance amending Section 114.2 of the “Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities: Edition of 2023”.

Councilmember McNeer Seconded.

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With a majority of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion (4-1), the motion carried.

Shute: Yes  
McNeer: Yes  
Baldwin: No  
Deaton: Yes  
Wiehn: Yes

**2. Consider approving adjustments to the city’s contribution strategy for health insurance.**

Finance Director Matt Wolff said in April, a worksession was held to discuss the medical marketing results. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the council authorized the City Administrator to execute an agreement with Gravie and the city’s contribution to the Health Reimbursement Account, Health Savings Account, vision, dental and life insurance programs. CBIZ and the city worked together to develop the contribution strategy assuming employees elected gold qualifying high deductible health plans and enroll the same amount of dependents that are currently enrolled. During the onset of enrollment, it was brought to our attention that unknown variables may result in employees moving from family to employee plus spouse coverage. The approved contribution for employee plus spouse under the age of 49 creates and significant and unreasonable financial strain. Employees are also seeing increases in deductibles and out of pocket maximums. Increasing the city’s contribution to health savings accounts will help provide additional assistance. The total estimated costs for all recommended changes is \$17,991.

Councilmember Deaton asked if these HSA contributions would go into effect in July. Wolff confirmed. Councilmember Baldwin asked if this would be an ongoing expense unless there are improvements in the marketplace. Wolff confirmed. Shute said this would be something we would need to review every year to see what the market looks like. Wolff said they estimate an 8% increase in most plans.

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to approve adjustments to the city’s contributions to the health insurance program.

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**3. Consider awarding the Progressive Design Build Phase II construction services contract to the Crossland Heavy Contractors, Inc. for the Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Expansion, CIP Project No WW8012.**

Utilities Manager LeMire said we are completing phase I and we are moving into phase II. The history of the project was shared. Now we present the guaranteed maximum price for the construction of the project and move into phase II. An overview of the project is a new treatment train will mirror the existing treatment plant. This is a design build project and we will need to procure everything as quickly as costs continue to escalate. We continue to see rising costs of up to \$1M per item. We have to do the final design modifications and get that approved through KDHE. We have received our permit from KDHE for the next five years. Finance Director Wolff discussed financing. In May, council authorized both the use of general obligations bonds and to submit for a KDHE Revolving Loan application. The application has been submitted and will be evaluated for inclusion in the state’s 2025 fiscal year Intended Use Plan and their fiscal year begins in July. The full application review process could take up to three months. After the meeting, we talked to the design build team and asked them to continue to evaluate the cost of the project using both approaches. The cost of following the KDHE requirements is considerably higher than we initially anticipated. The cost of some of the components would increase up to 37%. The overall impact was estimated to be around \$6M to \$7M. This increase in project cost negated any potential savings we anticipated from the lower interest rate associated with the loan. Another concern with the KDHE Loan approach is the timing on the project. The long review and approval process could delay ordering of components and the start of the project. The project is already on a very tight timeline to be operational by spring 2026. Taking these things into account, I’m recommending that we proceed with using general obligation bonds for this project. The intention is to only use wastewater revenues.

Councilmember McNeer says KDHE has dictated this all the way, so he wonders what other surprises might we have along the way.

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Councilmember Deaton made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to execute the Progressive Design Build Phase II construction services contract to the Crossland Heavy Contractors, Inc. for the Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Expansion, CIP Project No WW8012, in the amount of \$39,450,000.

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

**4. Consider a request for a Waiver of the Distance Limitation and a Temporary Permit to allow for the sale of cereal malt beverages for consumption within 200 feet of a school, church, or library during an event at the Johnson County Fairground.**

City Clerk Rich said this is a request for a Waiver of the Distance as well as a temporary permit to allow for the sale of cereal malt beverages for consumption within 200 feet of a school, church, or library during an event at the Johnson County Fairground. This is an individual requesting the waiver and permit for the Santa Fe Disco Y Rodeo being held at the fairground on June 30, 2024. They have hired a private security company as well as contact with the Gardner Police Department for additional security. Upon approval of the council, this individual can send the application to Alcoholic Beverage Control for approval of a state temporary alcohol permit. Upon approval of the state, the city will then issue the temporary permit for the event to be held on June 30, 2024, from 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Councilmember Wiehn asked if there were any issues during the rodeo held last weekend. Chief Waldeck said there was only one disturbance.

Councilmember Shute made a motion to approve a request for a Waiver of the Distance Limitation and a General Retailer Special Event temporary permit to allow for the sale and consumption of Cereal Malt Beverages within 200 feet of a school, church or library during the Santa Fe Disco Y Rodeo to be held June 30, 2024, at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, 136 E. Washington St.

Councilmember McNeer Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**COUNCIL UPDATES**

Community Development Director Knopick said there is a Planning Commission next Monday night.

Chief Waldeck said they are holding the Teen Police Academy with 9 kids from the Gardner area this week. All are eager to learn and it is going well.

Finance Director Wolff wants to thank staff for all their hard work on the audit. Thank you to Nancy, Jackie and Stephanie for all their work.

Administrator Pruetting said they are still doing debriefs on health insurance enrollment. It did not go as anticipated. We were told through the process there were going to be multiple companies to choose from and you could reduce the number through filters. The end result was we had one company to choose from for a gold plan. So what it meant was that company had a limited doctor and hospital network. If your docket or hospital was not on the plan, you had to go to a silver or bronze plan and when you do, the premium goes down and the deductible and maximum out of pocket goes up and goes way up. We had people with maximum out of pocket at \$19,200 versus \$3,200 on the gold plan. It did not go well in that regard, and we have about 90% enrolled that are in the same company. We are going to have to do this again in five or six months. Hopefully there will be additional alternatives to choose from. You could choose to go to healthcare.gov, but it would not be pre-tax. The other issue is that Children's Mercy is not on the gold plan. There are people that are not happy. The challenge will not only be retention, but recruiting. The sign-up process was not bad considering we had carpet being installed at the same time. We also need direction on the Gardner Edgerton Schools Foundation request.

Baldwin asks if we were oversold, is this an issue with Gravie or the third party that's helping up? Pruetting said our consultant was good at making it clear to Gravie that this is not what was expected. Everyone could have gone on the gold plan if they wanted to change doctors and prescriptions. A lot of people who had specific doctors not on the plan ended up taking silver or bronze plans and gambled that the additional out of pocket would not come to bear, which is a huge gamble. \$19,000 out of pocket is basically not having insurance unless something catastrophic happens. Hopefully as we work through this and we continue debrief meetings, we're able to better communicate what's available in six months. There is still a possibility that this one company may not be available in

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six months if they choose to get out of the market. Shute said his concern has been that the market is very fluid and there are companies that enter and leave the market, but lately it's more companies leaving. Ambetter is the primary carrier for Kansas and if you want to have any kind of flexibility of costs savings, you are on Ambetter. Pruetting said the consultant advised that the companies dictate whether or not they will offer pre-tax premium. Deaton said the complaints she received was that there was not enough time since it was originally sold that the deadline would be June 30. But, most plans required you to sign up by June 13<sup>th</sup>, which gave families less than two weeks to do the math and make those decisions and these were shocking numbers. When we do this again in January, is there any way we can start this process earlier. McNeer and Shute discussed that a lot of companies are getting out of the insurance business due to the costs involved. Companies would rather have the massive pool employer plans to spread the risk out over a ton of people. Baldwin would like to evaluate what benefit Gravie brings to the table and what other options are out there. Pruetting said their primary benefit is administering payments.

Consensus is to donate \$1000 to Gardner Edgerton Schools Foundation.

Councilmember McNeer wants to give a shout out to Matt and Finance for all the work on the audit and budget, as well as all city staff.

Councilmember Wiehn said he has had questions about the items we have previously been able to hand out for 4<sup>th</sup> of July to pets, etc. It is believed those items were donated in the past. It is believed those items were grants or donations in the past.

Councilmember Shute wants everyone to know that those around the dais are doing the best they can and all feedback is welcomed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. Consider entering into executive session to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege related to a proposed development project.**

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss matters of attorney/client privilege pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) beginning at 8:46 pm; returning to regular session at 9:06 pm

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilmember Deaton made a motion to resume regular session at 9:06 pm

Councilmember Shute Seconded.

With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion duly made by Councilmember McNeer and seconded by Councilmember Deaton the meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

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City Clerk



# City of Gardner, KS

## Council Actions

June 17, 2024

The City Council took the following actions at the June 17, 2024, meeting:

1. Heard a presentation of the 2023 Audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
2. Heard a presentation of the Revised 2025 Budget Presentation.
3. Held a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments to a request for a Waiver of the Distance Limitation to allow for the sale and consumption of Cereal Malt Beverages for consumption within 200 feet of a school, church or library during the Santa Fe Disco Y Rodeo event at the Johnson County Fairground.
4. Approved the minutes as written for the regular meeting on June 3, 2024. (Passed unanimously)
5. Approved City expenditures prepared May 30, 2024 in the amount of \$467,971.68 and June 6, 2024 for \$1,079,989.79. (Passed unanimously)
6. Authorized an agreement with JEO Consulting Group for design of the Gardner Traffic Signal Interconnect Project. (Passed unanimously)
7. Accepted the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Cypress Creek 3<sup>rd</sup> Plat. (Passed unanimously)
8. Accepted the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Cypress Creek 4<sup>th</sup> Plat (Passed unanimously)
9. Accepted the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Villas on Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Plat. (Passed unanimously)
10. Accepted the dedication of right-of-way and easements on the final plat for Grand Mission Estates 1<sup>st</sup> Plat. (Passed unanimously)
11. Approved a conditional use permit for Nice Ice Baby at 312 W. Main St. (Passed unanimously)
12. Denied an ordinance of the City of Gardner, Kansas amending Section 114.2 of the "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities: Edition of 2023" relating to the operation of work-site utility vehicles, golf carts or micro utility trucks on city streets. (Passed 4-1)
13. Approved adjustments to the city's contribution strategy for health insurance. (Passed unanimously)
14. Awarded the Progressive Design Build Phase II construction services contract to the Crossland Heavy Contractors, Inc. for the Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Expansion, CIP Project No WW8012. (Passed unanimously)
15. Approved a request for a Waiver of the Distance Limitation and a Temporary Permit to allow for the sale of cereal malt beverages for consumption within 200 feet of a school, church, or library during an event at the Johnson County Fairground. (Passed unanimously)