

Land Bank Meeting**THE LEAWOOD CITY COUNCIL****January 18, 2022****Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Land Bank meeting in the Council Chambers, 4800 Town Center Drive, immediately following the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Mayor Peggy Dunn presided.

Councilmembers Present: Julie Cain, Chuck Sipple, Andrew Osman, James Azeltine, Lisa Harrison, and Mary Larson

Councilmembers Present via Zoom: Jim Rawlings

Councilmembers Absent: Debra Filla

Staff Present: Scott Lambers, City Administrator
Stacie Stromberg, Interim City Clerk
Mark Tepesch, Info. Services Specialist

Patty Bennett, City Attorney
Ross Kurz, Info. Services Director

Others Present via Zoom: Ashlee Tomasic, Assistant City Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 p.m. by Mayor Peggy Dunn.

1. ROLL CALL**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilmember Cain and seconded by Councilmember Larson. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS**A. Appointment of 2022 Board Officers**

Patty Bennett, City Attorney, stated that the Governing Body had approved the creation of the Land Bank at a City Council meeting earlier this year to give the City certain options in certain situations. The statute requires an annual meeting of the Land Bank members. She stated that the Chair is typically the Mayor, and the Vice-Chair and Treasurer would be selected by the Councilmembers. Ms. Bennett stated that the annual budget is currently zero because there has been no funds budgeted to the Land Bank from the City Council. She stated that the Board of Trustees Annual Report that was provided in the packet outlines the requirements by statute and City Code.

Mayor Dunn accepted the position of Chairperson and asked for a volunteer for the Vice-Chair. Councilmember Azeltine agreed to accept the position of Vice-Chair. Mayor Dunn called for a volunteer to be the Treasurer. Councilmember Osman agreed to accept the position of Treasurer.

A motion to approve the slate of officers was made by Councilmember Larson and seconded by Councilmember Sipple. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

B. Approval of 2022 Annual Budget

A motion to approve the Annual Budget was made by Councilmember Cain and seconded by Councilmember Sipple. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

C. Approve 2021 Board of Trustees Annual Report

A motion to approve the 2021 Board of Trustees Annual Report was made by Councilmember Larson and seconded by Councilmember Azeltine. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Mayor Dunn inquired about the next meeting. Ms. Bennett confirmed that the Land Bank must meet annually and the next meeting will be incorporated into a regular meeting as an agenda item.

Councilmember Harrison inquired about the intention of the Land Bank. Scott Lambers, City Administrator, replied that the purpose of the Act is to allow cities to establish Land Bank Commissions throughout Kansas in order to acquire abandoned properties. He stated that in rural areas of the State the intention is to clean up blight and to create affordable housing in their communities. Mr. Lambers stated that sometimes a property can become so burdened with taxation that a city can relieve the taxes, corner the property and either sell or develop it. He stated that the Land Bank can work as a vehicle, but also a threat to move forward to a property owner who has abandoned their property.

Councilmember Osman gave examples of the Land Banks in Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that they are common in larger municipalities. He echoed Mr. Lambers that a Land Bank can be a vehicle but not necessarily active on a routine basis.

Councilmember Sipple asked if there is a legal description of what is considered an abandoned property. Ms. Bennett stated that there are several ways to determine if a property is behind in its taxes. Mr. Lambers stated that typically the land value is not worth the value with the taxes, so no one will purchase the property. He stated that the only entity available to remedy the situation is a city that can remove the ad valorem taxing entities.

Councilmember Rawlings asked if the annual meeting will take place every January. Mr. Lambers confirmed it will.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.