



A NOTE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

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On Friday, May 12th, I held the first ever Coffee with the City Manager. Over 20 people attended the event and we had a dialogue involving economic development, current city projects, code enforcement, and the upcoming City Commission election. The plan is to have a second City Manager’s Coffee on June 26th at 5:30 pm to talk about the upcoming budget, status of projects, economic development, and the questions that are on your mind.

My goal with these sessions are two-fold; first, to see what

questions and concerns citizens have regarding issues affecting Atchison, and second, to give the public a look inside City operations and decision making. We not only want to let you know what we are doing, but also why we are doing it.

I also want to encourage people to think about running for office. The deadline to file for City Commission and School Board is June 1 at noon at the County Courthouse. Community-minded individuals in public office in Atchison are an asset to our city.

If you have any questions about the upcoming City Commission election, please feel free to contact me at trey@cityofatchison.com or 913-367-5506. If you are unable to attend the next Coffee with the City Manager, please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns.

Here’s to a great summer!

- *City Manager Trey Cocking*

2018 City Budget is Underway

The 2018 budget process is in full swing at City Hall. Two budget workshops have been held thus far, and the City is looking forward to the next workshop on June 19th, which will focus on 2018 operations budgets. Much of the meeting will focus on the general fund, as well as the utility operation funds.

City Commissioners and staff kicked off the budget season on April 17th, when the City held the first budget workshop. At this workshop, City Commissioners and staff worked to determine the specific goals of the Commission and their priorities for the upcoming year as well as the broader overall goals for the future. To get started, each Commissioner and staff member were given a series of questionnaires that would be later used to determine their goals and priorities collectively as a Commission and as a staff. The data collected will be used as a baseline in the budget process and has already proved to be very beneficial in planning for the future.

The second budget workshop of the season was held on Monday, May 15th at City Hall. This workshop addressed the City’s

infrastructure and equipment needs with discussion for the City’s 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Wastewater/Combined Sewer Overflow (WW/CSO) CIP, and Equipment Replacement Plan (ERP). City staff presented the Commission with a presentation explaining the capital projects identified for 2018-2022, the revisions made to the 2017 budget, and the CIP, WW/CSO CIP, and the ERP requests for the 2018 budget.

One of the biggest discussions at the meeting was the Police Department expansion project, a project that has been put on hold for many years due to its expected cost and lack of identified revenue to fund it. At the meeting, City

Commissioners and staff agreed that the project is long overdue and much needed, and that the City should begin the planning process by seeking out an architect for the project.

The next budget workshop will take place at City Hall on June 19th at 4:30 p.m. This workshop will address the overall City operations, with a thorough examination and discussion of the City’s General Fund and utility funds. Staff and Commissioners will discuss how to address the expenditure needs of these funds given their revenue of fund balance projections.

REMAINING FY 2018 BUDGET PROCESS	
Monday, June 19 th : 4:30 pm–8 pm City Hall	Workshop #3 Operations Budgets
Monday, July 17 th : 4:30 pm City Hall	City Manager’s Recommended Budget
Monday, August 7 th : 4:30 pm City Hall	Public Hearing on 2018 Budget Adoption
*All dates are subject to change upon approval of the City Commission	

Butler Selected to City Commission



Congratulations to Commissioner Dave Butler, who was chosen to fill Jack Bower’s remaining term on the City Commission at its meeting on May 15th. Commissioner Butler is no stranger to the serving the citizens of the City of Atchison. He served on the City Commission from 1989-1993, 1997-2003, and 2007-2015. During his time on the Commission, he was the Mayor of Atchison from 1991-1993, 2000-2002, 2009-2010, and 2013-2015.

Appointment Process

The selection process for the new City Commissioner began on April 26th, after Vice-Mayor Jack Bower was selected to serve out Jeff Schuele’s remaining term on the County Commission. Six interested persons submitted their applications for the vacant City Commission seat by the noon deadline on May 10th. The applicants included: Luke Jesnowski, George Ross, Jr., Shawn Rizza, Rita Hartman, Jay Robinson, and David Butler.

During the City Commission meeting on May 15th, the Commission voted to determine who would be the next City Commissioner. As stated in Ordinance No. 6519, the City Attorney is the chair of the portion of the Commission meeting dealing with the selection of a new commission member. City Attorney Bob Campbell called for a vote of the Commission by calling the name of each applicant, in a random order. After a name was read, each Commissioner had the opportunity to vote for that person by raise of hand. After all the names were called, the Commission’s vote was tied 2-2, with Floyd “Jay” Robinson and Dave Butler receiving 2 votes each.

In the event of a tie, as stating in the Ordinance, the City Attorney casts the breaking vote. Campbell did just that and voted in favor of David Butler. “The City Commissioners are usually elected by the citizens of Atchison”, Campbell explained. “The Commissioner filling this vacancy will not be elected by the citizens and, as the tie-breaker, I was aware that I was not elected by the citizens of Atchison either. I thought it was only fair to vote for someone who has been elected several times by the citizens of Atchison.”

After the vote, Butler was immediately sworn in by City Clerk Deb Clem and took his seat on the dais.

Commissioner Butler will serve out the remainder of Jack Bower’s term, which is set to expire in January 2020.

Election Process

With the June 1st filing deadline quickly approaching, City Commissioners and staff are encouraging individuals interested in serving Atchison’s citizens, especially those who applied for Jack Bower’s seat earlier this month, to file for the upcoming general election in November.

Atchison elections no longer take place in April. In 2015, the State Legislature passed a law that moved City elections to November of odd years. This law takes effect this year, and elections will take place on the first Tuesday in November. This will be the first election under the new election schedule.

Every two years, three City Commission terms end and are filled based on the results of the local election. All commissioners run at large for the entire city. In the election, the top two vote getters receive 4-year terms and the third-place vote getter has a 2-year term. This process repeats every two years when there is a local election.

If the number of candidates exceeds three times the number of open positions, a primary election will take place the 1st Tuesday in August before the general election on the 1st Tuesday in November. There must be more than three applicants for every position for a primary to take place. In Atchison, there must be 10 candidates for the 3 open positions to trigger a primary. The top six vote getters move on to the general election in November.

After the five Commissioners are elected, they select two Commissioners to serve one-year terms as Mayor and Vice-Mayor.

Anyone interested in running for City Commission is encouraged to file at the County Courthouse before the June 1st noon deadline. You must be a registered voter in the city of Atchison to seek an elected city office.

EVENT CALENDAR

May 29
Memorial Day
Observance
Ceremony
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
(Veterans Memorial
Park)

June 2
First Friday
6:00-9:00 pm
(Downtown)

June 3
Citywide Garage
Sales
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
(Downtown)

June 3
BMW Motorcycle
Show
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
(Farmers’ Market
Parking Lot)

June 3
Farm to Table Dinner
Fundraiser
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
(500 Block of
Commercial)

June 5
Atchison City
Commission Meeting
4:30 pm
(City Hall)

June 7
Atchison Planning
Commission/Board of
Zoning Appeals
4:30 pm
(City Hall)

June 10
Relay for Life of
Atchison County, KS
12:00 pm – 12:00 am
(Warnock Lake)

June 10
Juneteenth
Celebration
9:00 am
(LFM Park)

June 19
Atchison City
Commission Meeting
& Budget Workshop
4:30 pm
(City Hall)

June 24
Downtown Church
Carnival
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
(Downtown)



Lion’s Pool Opening Delayed



The Lions Pool opening has been delayed. Recent cool air temperatures have caused the water to remain around 60 degrees, and the water is not expected to surpass 70 degrees with the cooler temperatures over Memorial Day weekend. The ideal water temperature for recreational swimming is 80+ degrees. Once the pool water exceeds 70 degrees, the pool will open.

Since last season, additional deck furniture and umbrellas have been

purchased as well as a new PA system.

Admissions at the Lions Pool have grown from 12,400 swimmers in 2012 to 18,000 swimmers last season. Lions Pool guests can enjoy basketball, volleyball and several fun activities scheduled throughout the summer.

The pool will be open daily from 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and Twilight Swim will be from 7-9 p.m. on Thursdays.

Lap swimming is available during the first and last hours of each day. Pool Rentals are available in the evening after regular pool hours.

Admission & Fees

Age 2 & Under	FREE
Daily Admissions	\$1
Daily Lap Swim Pass	\$1
10-Day Punch Pass	\$9
Pool Rentals	\$125/hour (<125 guests) \$250/hour (>125 guests)

Request for Bartlett Grain Memorial

A memorial for the Bartlett Grain Elevator victims and emergency response personnel will find its home on the Atchison riverfront.

Since the Bartlett Grain Elevator explosion on October 29, 2011, several family members of the six men killed in the explosion have had a desire to place a memorial on the riverfront. This memorial would remember the six men lost in the explosion as well as recognize and thank the emergency personnel that responded to the scene.

Now, five years later, family members hope to finally find peace with the situation and seek approval for a memorial along the riverfront.

The request came before the Commission during the public hearing at the City

Commission meeting on February 6th and again on May 1st. Eddie Burke, whose son, John, was killed in the explosion, approached the Commission seeking approval of the memorial. Mayor Reavis suggested the family members contact the Riverfront Foundation Board to agree upon a suitable location.

After working together, the family members of the victims and the Riverfront Foundation have chosen a location on the riverfront where the memorial will be placed and the design is currently being finalized. A dedication ceremony will occur when the memorial is placed on the riverfront.

Main Street Improvements

Atchison’s Main Street, between 10th Street and 12th Street, will soon see a construction project featuring up to \$300,000 worth of concrete improvements.

“This wasn’t exactly a project that was a huge priority for the City,” said Justin Pregont, Director of Public Works & Utilities. “Even so, we appreciate that it is a priority for KDOT and we’d certainly rather see this project built with KDOT grant money than not built at all. This is a good project for making our community a little bit nicer.”

City staff had submitted the grant request following previous interactions with KDOT about the

project and receiving the blessing of the City Commission this past March.

The grant comes through KDOT’s Access Management Construction Project Program, which has the stated mission to “manage state highway access and create transportation corridors that reasonably balance safety, efficiency, and economic activity.” The grant award letter states that KDOT will reimburse the City for expenses incurred to build the project up to \$300,000. The City will be responsible for engineering design, project management, and construction inspection, which will be performed by City Staff.



2017 Tax Sale

On May 3rd, the first County Tax Sale of 2017 took place at the Atchison County Courthouse. The last tax sale took place on June 22, 2016, which was the first one since November 6, 2013. Historically, Atchison County tax sales have occurred around every 5 years. Recently, these sales have been somewhat more frequent, and County Commissioners have expressed an interest in hosting tax sales more often. Many Kansas counties hold a tax sale every year. State law requires that a property be 3 or more years delinquent on taxes before being placed on a tax sale.

At the tax sale, 51 properties in the city of Atchison were purchased for a total of almost \$200,000. These properties carried more than \$400,000 in back taxes. Two notable properties sold at the sale are the former Martin East Elementary School and West Lanes Bowling Center. A development company in Kansas City purchased Martin East and an adjacent vacant parcel for \$7,250, and West Lanes was sold to Mack Porter, owner of Porter Lumber, for \$120,000.

Six properties were purchased by the City. The City actively participates in each tax sale in hopes of acquiring vacant lots that can be redeveloped in the future. The six lots that the City purchased will be placed in the City’s land bank, which is a program that creates a vehicle for the City to redevelop portions of the community and reduce the negative impact caused by vacant and tax delinquent properties.

When the City acquires a property and brings it in the land bank, all back taxes on the property are removed. With each property, the City hopes to eclipse the short-term loss of property taxes and turn them into productive properties. With the City managing the development of the Land Bank properties, it can ensure that the properties go to the buyer with the highest and best use for long-term redevelopment.

A map of all Atchison Land Bank properties can be found at <http://www.cityofatchison.com/topic/subtopic.php?topicid=13&structureid=16>.

Jackson Park Disc-Golf Tournament

On Saturday, May 6th, seventy-four disc-golfers took to the 9-hole disc golf course at Jackson Park for the Atchison Aviatrix ’17, presented by Innova Champion Discs. This tournament was hosted by Maverick Disc Golf and was a Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) C (Pro) / B (Amateur) tier sanctioned disc golf tournament. Disc-golfers from all over the Mid-West competed in the tournament.

Be sure to check out Jackson Park’s disc-golf course for your next outdoor adventure!

