MINUTES OF THE
FEBRUARY 25, 2025
LENEXA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W 87th STREET PARKWAY
LENEXA, KS 66219

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sayers called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Handley, Charlton, Nicks, Arroyo, Williamson, Denny, and Herron were present with Mayor Sayers presiding. Councilmember Eiterich was absent.

Staff present included Beccy Yocham, City Manager; Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager; Mike Nolan, Assistant City Manager; Scott McCullough, Community Development Director; Sean McLaughlin, City Attorney; Jennifer Martin, City Clerk; and other City staff.

APPROVE MINUTES

Councilmember Denny made a motion to approve the January 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting draft minutes and Councilmember Herron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

1. Stormwater Master Plan update

   Scott McCullough, Community Development Director, introduced Tom Jacobs, Stormwater Division Manager, and Matthew Scott, Black Veatch, who would be presenting on the Stormwater Master Plan covering its history, funding, and future direction. He praised Lenexa's stormwater management efforts over the decades, highlighting stream corridor protections, central green spaces, and well-maintained paths and trails. He described Lenexa as a pioneer in stormwater management, contrasting it with challenges faced in Lawrence, where floodplain regulations only dictate how to build in flood-prone areas rather than avoiding them.

   Mr. Jacobs said the stormwater management program (“Program”), known as Rain to Recreation, began in 2001 in response to significant flooding, public demand for open spaces, and compliance requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Program was designed to address flood control, environmental preservation, and recreational opportunities comprehensively. Over the years, Lenexa has implemented various initiatives, including public education efforts such as using goats for natural vegetation management and interpretive signage to raise awareness about stormwater impacts and water quality.

Mr. Jacobs talked about how Lenexa has several ordinances for regulatory compliance and minimizing pollution, including an illicit discharge ordinance to prevent non-stormwater substances from entering storm drains and stream setback regulations to reduce flood risks. He said regular inspections of construction sites are also conducted to control pollution. Additionally, he said the City emphasizes green infrastructure by integrating rain gardens, native vegetation, and open spaces to naturally filter stormwater before it leaves development sites.

Funding for the Program primarily comes from stormwater utility fees, which are assessed based on impervious surface areas, also known as the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU), for residential and commercial properties, according to Mr. Jacobs. He said that Lenexa has also successfully secured grants from county, state, and federal sources to fund major projects, including Lake Lenexa, Clear Creek Wetlands, and various stream restoration efforts that combined flood control with environmental benefits.

Mr. Jacobs said the maintenance of stormwater infrastructure has been a significant focus, particularly addressing the deterioration of corrugated metal pipes in older neighborhoods. Adopting a comprehensive approach, he said the City is replacing all of these pipes in targeted neighborhoods to avoid repeated disruptions and ongoing projects. For longer-term sustainability, he said sediment and water quality is monitored to plan timely maintenance, such as dredging, and the City actively manages green infrastructure and open spaces through native plant propagation and prescribed burns.

Mr. Jacobs talked about transitioning to an Adaptive Stormwater Master Plan that will replace the previous static plan with a dynamic, database-driven approach. He said this new plan aims to provide real-time monitoring through a dashboard system, enabling the City to proactively address infrastructure and water quality needs. Key goals for the future include maintaining projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), ensuring regulatory compliance, preserving natural assets, and strategically leveraging county and federal funding. He concluded saying Lenexa’s stormwater management program reflects a forward-thinking approach that balances flood control, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, making it a model of sustainable urban stormwater management.

Discussion followed regarding the assessment of EDUs, sales tax, replacement of corrugated metal pipes, invasive species, and the Clear Creek Watershed.

Mr. Scott with Black and Veatch talked about the Adaptive Stormwater Master Plan, highlighting its advantages over traditional stormwater planning methods. Unlike traditional plans, which provide a static snapshot of data to address flooding and water quality issues, he said the adaptive plan uses business intelligence tools and digital dashboards to continuously update and analyze new data. This approach ensures that the stormwater management plan evolves dynamically with changing conditions and provides real-time insights into emerging issues.

Mr. Scott explained that traditional master plans require revisiting large reports to extract information for capital improvement planning, which is cumbersome and

inefficient. In contrast, he said, the adaptive master plan streamlines this process by integrating all relevant data into a centralized, user-friendly dashboard that prioritizes projects and associated costs, reducing the administrative burden on the stormwater program. The dashboards also allow for effective management of maintenance activities by consolidating diverse data sets collected by municipal services and county stormwater programs into a single platform.

Mr. Scott presented two examples of dashboards, one for tracking water quality in a large watershed and another for asset management of stormwater infrastructure, such as pipes, based on risk levels. He showed how these dashboards enable decision-makers to quickly assess risks, financial needs, and operational priorities. Additionally, Mr. Scott talked about the importance of key performance indicators (KPIs), such as tracking expenditures, water quality compliance, floodplain management, and resident satisfaction, to guide stormwater management efforts effectively.

Mr. Scott said that the focus for this project's next steps will be on consolidating existing data from various sources, formatting it for dashboard integration, and prioritizing which dashboards to develop first to provide the most immediate benefits. He said the goal is to build a comprehensive, adaptive stormwater management plan that not only preserves past achievements in stormwater management but also addresses future challenges efficiently.

Discussion followed regarding the use of AI, selection and funding of dashboards, the Four Colonies private storm system, a resident interface to this system, flooding, and the Johnson County StormWatch website.

ADJOURN

Mayor Sayers adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.

/s/ Jennifer Martin
City Clerk