



**MINUTES OF THE  
APRIL 14, 2026  
LENEXA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W 87<sup>th</sup> STREET PARKWAY  
LENEXA, KS 66219**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sayers called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Handley, Eiterich, Charlton, Nicks, Bell, Williamson, and Denny were present with Mayor Sayers presiding. Councilmember Herron 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 March 24, 2026 City Council meeting draft minutes and Councilmember Williamson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**DISCUSSION**

1. Fire Station 6 Project Update

*Fire Station 6 will function as both an emergency response facility and the new Fire Department headquarters. The station will include residential quarters and parking for eight firefighters, offices for command and prevention staff, and space for the City's Information Technology (IT) department. The facility will also provide shared collaborative workspaces for emergency management operations.*

Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager, presented a progress update on the proposed Fire Station 6 Project ("Project"), which would house both Fire Department administration and the Information Technology Services Department. He talked about the design process being guided by operational needs, civic identity, and cost coordination with the construction manager at risk team, Newkirk Novak.

Ellen Foster, Finkel+Williams Architecture, reviewed the Project's guiding principles, which include occupant wellbeing, resiliency, durability, civic pride, and prioritizing emergency response operations. She summarized the site analysis process, explaining that the proposed building location on the existing old City Hall property was selected to optimize emergency response access to Monrovia Street, preserve mature landscaping, maintain emergency communications infrastructure, and allow

flexibility for future development on the west portion of the property. She reviewed the proposed site plan, including public access and parking from Monrovia Street, separate circulation for emergency vehicles and visitors, preservation of existing stormwater infrastructure and tree lines, and the arrangement of administrative offices, training areas, apparatus bays, and residential firefighter quarters.

Ms. Foster also reviewed the architectural design process, including precedent studies, collaborative design workshops, and iterative massing studies completed with input from Fire Department staff, IT staff, and City staff. She described the Project vision as an “approachable civic beacon of readiness” that reflects Lenexa’s architectural character while clearly identifying the facility as a fire station. Architectural features include Kansas limestone-inspired panels, dark brick accents, clerestory windows for natural light, and a prominent entry and tower element featuring the Maltese cross. She presented multiple exterior renderings showing the building from various viewpoints along Monrovia Street and 87th Street Parkway and discussed how the residential wing was intentionally designed at a smaller scale adjacent to the nearby neighborhood.

Ms. Foster reviewed the Project schedule, stating that the Project is advancing from schematic design into design development. She noted that a preliminary plan application would be submitted later this month, with City Council consideration anticipated in June. Final construction documents are expected to be completed by the end of the summer, with guaranteed maximum price (GMP) approval anticipated in October 2026. Construction is expected to begin in November 2026 with an estimated 14-month construction schedule and completion anticipated in the first quarter of 2028.

Councilmember Denny asked whether the facility has a basement and inquired about hardened shelter areas within the building. Ms. Foster explained that the building would not have a basement and that the Project includes ICC 500-rated storm shelter areas for fire station personnel, along with additional hardened spaces within the facility.

Councilmember Nicks requested additional renderings from other angles and asked whether emergency traffic signals would be installed at the apparatus exit onto Monrovia Street. Travis Vaughn, Fire Chief, explained that signalized warning systems were not anticipated due to the traffic conditions on Monrovia Street. He said he was proud of what the design team has developed. Councilmember Nicks commented that the building would serve as an important gateway feature and praised the design’s civic presence.

Councilmember Handley said that he appreciated the explanation of how the design evolved.

Councilmember Williamson said the final design exceeded expectations and thanked the team for explaining the design process.

Councilmember Eiterich thanked the team for preserving the mature landscaping adjacent to the neighborhood and asked about future wayfinding and signage for the

administrative functions within the building. Ms. Foster explained that monument and directional signage concepts were still being developed.

Councilmember Charlton asked about the massing and roofline along the west side of the building, and Ms. Foster explained that the design maintains a cohesive appearance while stepping down in scale near the residential components of the facility.

Councilmember Bell asked about the appearance of the west elevation and inquired about a small structure shown near the northwest corner of the site plan, which Ms. Foster identified as a screened trash enclosure.

Mayor Sayers commented that residents have consistently expressed a desire for the site to remain an important civic presence since City Hall relocated in 2017. She praised the design team for creating architecture that reflects Lenexa's civic identity while introducing a contemporary design language that reinforces community pride and trust.

Mr. Pelham concluded by reviewing upcoming Project milestones and noting that demolition and construction activities are expected to begin promptly following GMP approval in October, so the community will see continuous progress on the site.

## 2. Discussion of Council Meeting Recording and Livestreaming Options

*The City Council will discuss current practices for recording and posting council meetings and review options for broadcasting meetings, including livestreaming.*

Beccy Yocham, City Manager, presented on the City's current practices for recording City Council meetings and discussed potential changes related to livestreaming meetings and recording Planning Commission meetings. She explained that the City began video recording City Council meetings in January 2023, with recordings posted online the following day, including closed captioning and agenda indexing that allows viewers to navigate directly to specific agenda items. She noted that public comment and business from the floor are currently excluded from recordings pursuant to the Governing Body Rules of Procedure.

Ms. Yocham reviewed meeting viewership data from the previous 18 months, noting that City Council meeting recordings average approximately 72 views and 51 unique users per meeting, with viewers watching an average of 80 seconds per session. She stated that the most-viewed meeting during that period involved the Clear Creek Subdivision item. She said staff also researched practices in neighboring cities, including Overland Park, Olathe, Shawnee, and Leawood, and found that all currently livestream their meetings, with varying approaches to public comment timing, speaker sign-up requirements, and overall public comment time limits.

Ms. Yocham explained that converting from recorded meetings to livestreamed meetings could be accomplished with no additional equipment or production costs under the City's existing contract with Swagit. She added that staff also explored the possibility of recording or livestreaming Planning Commission meetings, which residents have requested on multiple occasions. The estimated annual cost to add

Planning Commission meetings would be approximately \$7,400 in addition to the City's current annual cost of approximately \$23,000 for City Council meeting recordings.

Ms. Yocham said staff also reviewed procedural and legal considerations associated with livestreaming meetings. She said that Kansas law requires any livestreamed meeting to be broadcast in its entirety, including public comment and business from the floor. She confirmed that closed captioning and agenda indexing would still be available, although indexing would occur after the meeting and be added to the archived recording the following day. She said staff recommended transitioning from recorded meetings to livestreaming, adding livestreaming of Planning Commission meetings, keeping public comment near the end of the agenda, maintaining existing individual speaker time limits, and considering additional procedures such as advance speaker sign-up or an overall time limit for public comment. She noted that staff recommended implementation beginning in 2027 to coincide with scheduled equipment upgrades and updates to Governing Body procedures.

Councilmember Handley asked how livestreaming would be hosted and said he is in support of adding Planning Commission recordings. Ms. Yocham explained that meetings would continue to be hosted through the City's website using the existing Swagit platform rather than through social media or YouTube. Councilmember Handley shared his concern about livestreaming becoming a platform for grandstanding or viral content and questioned whether livestreamed public comment could create challenges.

Councilmember Eiterich said she is in support of recording Planning Commission meetings, noting that the meetings often contain important public testimony and discussion that is valuable to councilmembers prior to later City Council consideration. She asked whether livestreaming would occur in real time and raised concerns about how the City would handle unexpected emergencies or inappropriate incidents occurring during a live broadcast. She also discussed balancing public participation opportunities with maintaining efficient meetings and avoiding excessively long public comment periods.

Mayor Sayers talked about public comment generally being intended for non-agenda items and emphasized the importance of residents communicating their concerns to councilmembers and staff before meetings so councilmembers can review issues in advance.

Councilmember Charlton asked about the existing public comment time limits and noted that shorter speaking times had been used during unusually large public hearings such as the Clear Creek Subdivision meeting. Ms. Yocham discussed the practical need to shorten speaking times in very lengthy meetings to avoid excessively late adjournments. Councilmember Charlton said he supports recording Planning Commission meetings.

Councilmember Nicks talked about significant discussion that had previously occurred when the City first implemented meeting recordings and said he is in support of livestreaming meetings. He questioned whether advance speaker sign-up

requirements were necessary and expressed appreciation that livestreaming could be implemented at relatively low cost.

Councilmember Charlton asked about the advance sign-ups that have been done. Ms. Yocham and Mayor Sayers confirmed those were done for meeting efficiency where a large number of speakers were anticipated.

Councilmember Bell said he regularly uses the meeting recordings and supports recording or livestreaming Planning Commission meetings. He agreed with keeping public comment at the end of meetings to preserve efficiency and consistency for applicants and residents attending for agenda items. He also talked about concern about livestreaming emergencies or inappropriate conduct during meetings and suggested the City explore procedures for shutting down a livestream in emergency situations or handling inappropriate language. Ms. Yocham and Mayor Sayers agreed staff would review emergency shutoff procedures and legal considerations related to First Amendment protections.

Councilmember Williamson said she supports livestreaming Planning Commission meetings and noted that recordings would help councilmembers better understand public testimony and the tone of discussions that may not be fully reflected in written transcripts. She also supported keeping public comment at the end of meetings and maintaining flexibility for advance sign-up procedures and adjusted speaking times when unusually large meetings are anticipated.

Councilmember Denny said he supports livestreaming both City Council and Planning Commission meetings. He also supports retaining public comment at the end of meetings. He indicated he was comfortable with implementation timing extending into early 2027, if needed to accommodate equipment upgrades and procedural amendments.

Councilmember Charlton said that some neighborhood organizations allow public comment earlier in meetings, so attendees do not need to stay for lengthy business discussions. Ms. Yocham said that residents have many methods to communicate concerns to councilmembers and staff outside City Council meetings and reiterated staff's recommendation that conducting official city business efficiently should remain the primary focus of meetings.

Councilmember Bell added that moving public comment to the beginning of meetings could create unpredictability and delays for applicants waiting to appear on scheduled agenda items.

Councilmember Williamson shared her concern with livestreaming an emergency event and Ms. Yocham said staff would talk to the production company about how to stop streaming in case of an emergency.

Councilmember Bell asked about public comment including expletives and Ms. Yocham said there would be limitations on what could be done. She said staff would work on the amended rules and there would be more detail at the next discussion.

Councilmember Handley talked about meeting predictability being why he is against moving public comment to the beginning of meetings.

Mayor Sayers summarized the discussion, noting apparent consensus in support of adding Planning Commission recordings or livestreams, retaining public comment at the end of meetings, limiting advance sign-up requirements to unusually large meetings, and further researching emergency livestream shutoff procedures.

Sean McLaughlin, City Attorney, explained that amendments to the Governing Body Rules of Procedure would require introduction at one meeting and formal adoption at a subsequent meeting unless consensus direction was otherwise provided.

### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Sayers adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.

/s/ Jennifer Martin  
City Clerk