

**Minutes**

Tape No. 653

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Special Call meeting in the Council Chambers, 4800 Town Center Drive, at 5:45 P.M., on Monday, November 14, 2005. Mayor Peggy Dunn presided.

**Councilmembers present:** Jim Rawlings, Gary Bussing, Lou Rasmussen, James E. Taylor, Sr., Scott Gullede, and Gregory Peppes (via telecommunications).

**Councilmembers absent:** Mike Gill and Debra Filla.

**Staff present:**

Scott Lambers, City Administrator  
Deb Harper, City Clerk

Patty Bennett, City Attorney

**1. ROLL CALL**

Following roll call, Mayor Dunn announced that she would like to make the following statement:

The Leawood Governing Body and City Administrator deeply regret the recent incident in which some Public Works street crewmembers established a betting pool regarding the final 2005 homicide total in Kansas City, Missouri. This type of conduct is totally unacceptable and completely inappropriate.

The Leawood City Council was both shocked and dismayed when they were informed by the City Administrator of the existence of this pool on November 7, 2005, during an Executive Session. During that session, the City Administrator stated that he had been informed late on Friday, October 21, 2005, of the possibility that the pool existed. On Monday morning, October 24, he conducted an investigation and confirmed that such a pool had been established in the middle of October in which each participant paid \$5. A total of \$30 had been collected. On Tuesday, October 25, the City Administrator decided the disciplinary action to be taken; and the affected employees were informed shortly thereafter. Seven employees were suspended for one week without pay for participating in the pool. The employee who instigated the pool was suspended for two weeks without pay. Also suspended for two weeks without pay was a field supervisor who, although not a participant, was aware of the pool and failed to report it to the Superintendent of Public Works, the Director of Public Works or the City Administrator. As part of the disciplinary process, all nine employees will also participate in sensitivity training in the near future.

While any untimely death is painful, it does not compare to the agony and tragedy of losing a loved one to a senseless act of violence. On behalf of the Governing Body, the City Administrator and all City employees, we want to express our most sincere apology for this deplorable event and the distress that this incident has likely caused for the families of the victims in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mayor Dunn stated that she and the City Administrator would be available for questions upon conclusion of the one item of business.

Telecommunications with Councilmember Peppes was interrupted.

2. Ordinance amending Article 1 of Chapter 1 of the Code of the City of Leawood, 2000, entitled 'Procedures' pertaining to procedures for City Committees, including the Planning Commission

Upon motion of Councilmember Rasmussen, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the ordinance was passed with the following unanimous roll call vote of 5-0: Yea: Councilmembers Gulledge, Taylor, Bussing, Rasmussen, and Rawlings. Nay: None. (Councilmembers Peppes, Gill, and Filla absent).

### **ADJOURN**

The Governing Body meeting was officially adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Charles Jean-Baptiste, 11824 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, Kansas, president of the NAACP Kansas office, reviewed with Mr. Lambers the punishments received by the Public Works employees. Mr. Baptiste confirmed with Mr. Lambers that an outside party will be involved in the sensitivity training.

Alonzo Washington, anti-crime activist, thanked Mayor Dunn and Mr. Lambers for the apology. He commented that he was pleased that disciplinary action had been taken, however felt the field supervisor should have been given more than two weeks without pay for failing to protect the best interests of the City. He expressed the gravity of the issue.

Mayor Dunn assured Mr. Washington that the City has taken the matter very seriously.

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Debra Harper, CMC, City Clerk

Christy Wise  
Recording Deputy City Clerk