

Land

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of land in Industrial Park No. 4 is not a dead deal.

During some discussion, the council expressed a desire to be kept abreast of situations involving the city.

"We need to empower the mayor to act on our behalf, but I would like to see more proactive communication between mayor and council," said council member Lewis Lenard. "I think we need to be more intentional."

Scothorn recalled a school board policy from when he was a Burlington High School administrator. "No surprises," he said. "Just so we know it is coming."

Mayor Luke said the coronavirus is making it necessary to make quick decisions. He requested the council's permission to allow the mayor or city clerk to close city hall to the public, if necessary.

City Clerk Regina Kewley said city hall staff would continue to work in the building, even if public access was restricted.

The city council agreed to allow Luke or Kewley to make decisions about public access to city hall, based on recommendations from Coffey County Health Officer Dr. John Shell, Coffey County Health Department or Coffey County Emergency Management.

"If the courthouse closes

down, I have no problem," Curtiss added.

Mayor Luke informed the council about a plan to shut off water to a portion of downtown Burlington on Saturday, March 28, for the installation of a new water line and replacement of a fire hydrant in front of the former city hall building at Third and Neosho streets. The shut-off will affect water users on both sides of Neosho Street, from Second to Fourth Streets, and the 100 block of North Third Street. Water provided by the 10-inch water line will be off nearly all day. Once the work is done, an old water line south of the building will be abandoned.

The council learned the water disruption will affect four businesses normally open on Saturdays as well as apartments. Curtiss requested Mayor Luke check to see if the work can be done on Sunday, March 29, so the businesses will not be affected.

The council also approved the following motions:

- ✓ Claims Ordinance No. 2020-05 in the amount of \$112,040.12.
- ✓ Payroll Ordinance No. 2020-06 in the amount of \$87,810.33.
- ✓ To purchase flowers through Arnold's Greenhouse, not to exceed \$2,500.
- ✓ Personnel evaluation pay increases, as presented.

Department Reports

Highlights of written reports submitted by department heads included:

Electric: Superintendent Alan Schneider said the city's

electric plant generated electricity for city electric customers for about seven hours on March 10 while Evergy changed a 69kv transmission pole. Schneider said everything went well and the city tied back into Evergy's 69kv line about 3:30 p.m. Schneider submitted a \$13,452.07 bill to the Kansas Power Pool for reimbursement of the city's cost to generate electricity, including fuel, labor, operation and maintenance costs. Schneider said the intercoolers on Generator No. 4 were removed for cleaning lime build up in the cooling tubes. This is being done to improve the operating efficiency and engine performance. Schneider said a squirrel caused an electrical outage March 7, which was isolated to one block for about an hour. On March 8, a tree limb fell on an electric service causing an electric service interruption to one customer for about two hours.

Water and Wastewater: Superintendent Danny Hawkins said they are preparing for the coronavirus outbreak by taking precautions to keep staff protected and isolated from human contact. The city should have its river bank permit the first part of April. At the water plant, the west reactor and clarifier were cleaned out.

Street: Superintendent Mark Davidson attended the county bridge opening at the courthouse; he will have results for Bridge 1 after B&G Engineering reviews the bids.

In addition to normal activities, street employees helped clean out the old city hall building.

Police: Police Chief Doug Jones said police are working an alleged rape of a juvenile female. Computer upgrades in the police department appear to be complete. The animal shelter passed an impromptu state inspection on March 12. Jones said the police department continues to do vehicle inspections, even during the pandemic.

Parks: In addition to building and equipment maintenance, Superintendent Kevin Boyce said parks department employees tilled the area where pine trees were removed at Jones Park. They also are getting seasonal restrooms ready for use.

Planning and Zoning: Zoning Clerk Jimmy Hugunin thanked all department employees and superintendents who were able to help clean out the former city hall building.

City Hall: City Clerk Regina Kewley said municipal court clerk Laura Riccobono attended the KACM Spring Conference March 6 in Wichita. Kewley and Deputy City Clerk Anne Brown worked on the annual renewal of the city's EMC insurance policy through TrustPoint Insurance. The city will have an 8 percent increase in overall premiums, although workers compensation had a decrease.

The Burlington City Council will meet next at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1.

County

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discretion about how their office conducts business.

During discussion, District Administrative Judge Taylor Wine provided an update on court services (see related story). District court is strictly emergency operations. Half of the normal staff continues to work, but the office is closed to the public.

County Health Administrator Lindsay Payer updated commissioners on the state's COVID-19 response (see related stories). Health department staff has been responding to COVID-19 concerns from the public and business owners. At this point, County Health Officer Dr. John Shell has not made any orders; he is only making recommendations, which many have followed. Nursing hours have been changed and all immunizations and blood draws have been stopped because they take more than 10 minutes. Immunizations are still being given.

County Treasurer Karen Maley said her office had 181 transactions last week, including 34 title transactions. Her office is requiring appointments. She wants to keep the treasurer's office going, while also keeping employees safe.

Sheriff Rogers said the sheriff's office lobby is closed to the public. No visitors are allowed in the jail; however, inmates are being provided calling cards in order to communicate with family. Rogers said a number of precautions are being observed because losing just one jailer, dispatcher or deputy will have an impact on the operation of the sheriff's office. He said additional supplies, such as alcohol pads, are on back-order until the end of May.

Noxious Weed Director and Recycling Coordinator Todd Bemis said his greatest concern at this time is curbside recycling. They pick up recyclable items from 800 residents. Bemis said the coronavirus can live on plastics up to 72 hours.

Payer said any office doing business by appointment should limit the contact to 10 minutes as well as maintain a distance of six feet or more.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn said one road was approved last week, for pipeline maintenance on an existing pipeline owned by Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co., on Emmer Road, 300 feet south of 23rd Road.

Commissioners approved a \$1.13 per gallon bid for a 30 percent magnesium chloride solution submitted by Scotwood Industries, Inc. Approximately 33,000 gallons will be used for a total approximate cost of \$37,290. Property owners are charged \$1.50 per running foot, which will likely be increased next year.

Commissioners approved the purchase of asphalt cold mix patching material, as needed for 2020 projects, from Killough Construction at \$59.50 per ton.

Three bids were received March 16 for bridge deck repairs and resurfacing of six county bridges: Nos. 24, 35, 244, 106, 116 and 165. Based on Blackburn's recommendation, commissioners approved a \$1,129,491 bid submitted by Pbx Corporation, Tulsa, Okla., which was the low bid using the polymer concrete patching option. The bid was more than \$400,000 below the engineer's estimate.

Commissioners allowed Blackburn to implement going to a four 10-hour days schedule beginning next week, which will keep 50-plus road and bridge workers away from the office for three days, in-

stead of two. Implementing the schedule is one week earlier than normal.

Blackbourn also updated commissioners about plans to use traffic control lights for the guard rail replacement project on the Plant Road (17th Road). Also, Oxen Lane, from Eighth to Ninth roads, has been closed due to the Neosho River "eating away" at the embankment and undermining the road. Blackbourn said the only fix will be to secure additional road right of way and move the road to the east while stabilizing the river bank.

Miscellaneous

Sheibmeir informed commissioners the Coffey County Fiber Board has talked about possibly adding a WiFi hotspot at the Joint Services Building (JSB) as another option for students to do online schoolwork. No final decision has been made, yet.

Sheriff Rogers also informed commissioners the JSB, because of its living quarters, may need to be utilized at some point in the future as a worst case scenario in a continuity plan.

Commissioners approved a request made by Norman Stohs, representing the St. John Lutheran Church Cemetery Board, to place three inches of gravel on approximately 800 feet of drive at the cemetery, with funds to be taken from Community Improvement Fund. Adding gravel will help build up the drive and provide some drainage. The estimated cost of materials is about \$810.

Undersheriff Mike Roney told commissioners that the janitorial staff has done an "outstanding job" of keeping the courthouse building clean.

Commissioners also took the following action:

• Reappointed Don Voorhees (Dist. 3) as a member of the Coffey County Airport Board to a three-year term, effective May 18 and ending May 17, 2023.

• Reappointed Loal Wood (Dist. 1) as a member of the Coffey County Airport Board to a three-year term, effective May 18 and ending May 17, 2023.

• Appointed Craig Nickel (Dist. 2) as a member of the Coffey County Planning Board, effective immediately and ending April 30, 2021.

• Authorized the chairman to sign a county payroll notice for Robin Beyer, part-time Register of Deeds office position CA-5, wage \$18, effective April 1.

• Authorized the chairman to sign a letter of support to BCBS Pathways for the grant application of the Coffey County Wellness Coalition, as recommended by the health department administrator.

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Executive Sessions

At the request of County Counselor Wade Bowie II, commissioners recessed into a 15-minute executive session with Bowie to discuss matters deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship exception to Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Commissioners granted a request by County Appraiser Connie Lawrence for a 10-minute executive session to protect the privacy rights of non-elected personnel with Bowie and Lawrence present. No action was taken upon return to open session.

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m. The next regular meeting will be 9 a.m. Monday, March 30, in the basement meeting rooms of the Coffey County Courthouse. As of press time, the only agenda item was the county engineer's weekly report at 9:05 a.m. Following the business meeting, commissioners will review and sign March checks and vouchers. They will also hold a salary work session.

Updates

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closed to the public until further notice. All city services will be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, but the community is asked to handle those by phone or email.

Several options are available to pay utility bills. Payments can be made online at www.burlingtonkansas.gov (under the online payments drop-down button), with a KanPay service fee of 2.5 percent; by autodraft from a checking account (City Hall staff can email the form to set it up); by calling City Hall and making the payment over the phone with a credit or debit card, with a KanPay service fee of 2.5 percent; or by dropping off payment at the outside drop box at City Hall or mailing it to P.O. Box 207.

Email mmader@burlingtonkansas.gov for general questions, kweltha@burlingtonkansas.gov for utility questions or lriccobono@burlingtonkansas.gov for court questions. City Clerk Regina Kewley is also available by the city hall phone or email at rkewley@burlingtonkansas.gov.

gov.

Hoover's Thriftway changed their hours to be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the earlier closing to allow for deep cleaning and disinfecting. Sunday hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., deli lunch hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the salad bar is closed. Additionally, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. will be for seniors and people who have health conditions. These hours are in effect until further notice.

There will be no Hoover's Thriftway inserts in The Republican for several weeks due to the warehouse not being able to guarantee supplies.

The store has also set up a curbside and delivery program that began March 24. Delivery is an added option for elderly customers ages 65 and older and people with health conditions, while curbside is for the elderly, people with health conditions, the disabled and families, in order to eliminate traffic and large groups inside the store.

For both options, there is a limit of 20 items. Any order with more than 20 items will have the first 20 items filled, while the rest will not be filled. If an item is limited to one per person in the store, that limit also applies for curbside and delivery.

To submit an order, email all items in one list to Hoover-shelp@gmail.com, along with your name, address, phone number and if you need delivery or curbside. Payment with a credit or debit card is preferred. Specify products and size and whether items can be substituted if what you're needing is unavailable. Do not send more than one email for a single order. If the store contacts you with questions on your order, additions can be made at that time. Otherwise, additions to orders will not be made, especially after payment is authorized and completed. For those without internet, orders may be submitted by calling (620) 364-5666, but emails will be filled first. The store will contact you when your order is filled and take payment at that time.

As of now Hoover's does not have a limit on how many customers can shop inside the store at the same time. However, shoppers are requested to come prepared, with a shopping list handy if possible, and to shop as promptly as possible and avoid long conversations in the aisles at all costs, in order to best meet the social distancing recommendations of local and state health officials.

The Prescription Centre is

not changing its hours at this time but asks those bringing in old bottle to refill to call in prescription requests in advance and do not bring in old bottles. For those uncomfortable with or unable to come into the store, curbside delivery, home delivery within Burlington city limits and mail options are available.

Auburn Pharmacy has made the decision to discontinue all walk-in patient access to its pharmacies. Prescription pick-up will be by drive-thru, parking lot pick-up and delivery only. To ensure your prescription is ready when you arrive, request refills in advance and call when en route to the pharmacy.

For parking lot pick-up, call in with your name and date of birth when you arrive, and an associate will deliver your medications to your vehicle. For those needing over the counter medications or item, phone in the order and staff will prepare those items for pick-up.

For more information on the coronavirus pandemic, visit the Kansas Department of Health's COVID-19 Resource Center or call (866) 534-3463 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. See related article on Page 3.

KPRC at 1-800-922-5330. They also can report allegations online at <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/KIPS/KIPWebIntake.aspx>.

Social Security

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, said Social Security will continue to pay benefits. "Be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping your Social Security payments but that is not true. Don't be fooled," Saul said.

Social Security offices are closed to the public; however, there are other ways to get help. Many services are available online at www.socialsecurity.gov or staff will help you over the phone.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ to find out what services are being continued and which ones are being suspended, contact information, and important information about extended deadlines to ease the burden on you and medical providers.

Safety of Tap Water

Water provided by public water supply systems is free of viruses and other pathogens.

According to KDHE, the state's public water supply systems remain a safe and affordable way to access the water needed for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Kansans can and should continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual as COVID-19 is not present in drinking water supplies. Disinfection processes like those practiced by public water systems provide protection that includes filtration and disinfection of our raw water supplies. These treatments are effective in removing and/or inactivating viruses.

prohibits certain foreclosures and evictions. The EO explicitly requires that a financial hardship indirectly or directly caused by COVID-19 be the reason a homeowner or renter can't make payments. In addition, no landlords can evict a residential tenant when all defaults or violations of the rental agreement are caused by financial hardships due to COVID-19. These measures are especially important because housing disruption inhibits the ability of the state and local communities to effectively respond to COVID-19 and the public health dangers it presents.

#20-11 - Prevents all Kansas waste removal providers, trash and recycling, from cancelling or suspending commercial or residential waste or recycling removal services for Kansas residences and businesses as a result of non-payment due to significant loss of income or increase in expenses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring that waste and recycling services continue is essential to maintaining public health, especially when personal hygiene and staying at home are the primary methods for slowing the spread of COVID-19.

#20-12 - Extends deadlines for driver's licenses and vehicle registration renewals and regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic. All driver's license renewals and vehicle registrations extended by this Executive Order must be completed within 60 days of the expiration of Executive Order #20-12. Many Kansans may be unable to renew their driver's license or vehicle registration during this time, but delivery drivers and other critical employees must be able to continue critical operations and drive without fear of licensing or registration issues.

#20-13 - Extends tax filing deadlines to July 15, 2020, and waives any interest and penalties for returns and payments made on or before July 15, 2020. In the event the State of Disaster Emergency originally proclaimed on March 12, 2020, is lifted or expires prior to July 15, 2020, the Department of Revenue shall continue to exercise appropriate discretion to make effective the waivers of penalties and interest for payments made up to July 15, 2020. This order is intended to bring Kansas' tax filing procedures in line with federal IRS measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vital Statistics Services

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) said its Vital Statistics Office functions will continue online and via telephone during the two-week closure of state offices that began March 23. Walk-in service will not be available during this time. Those needing vital records can visit the KDHE website at www.kdheks.gov/vital to order via online, phone or mobile app.

DCF Service Centers

Beginning Monday, March 23, all Department for Children and Families (DCF) service centers closed to the public, until further notice. While the public won't be able to access buildings, the agency's core services will continue.

Kansans also can expect no interruption in child support operations. While DCF child support workers will be on administrative leave, agency contractors will continue their work.

There are several ways for Kansans to connect with DCF during the next two weeks. If someone suspects abuse or neglect, they should call the

Orders

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teraction while providing for the continuation of essential infrastructure and businesses. If a local authority has issued a stay-home or similar order, businesses or organizations that fit a KEFF exemption for essential functions should contact that local authority.

With the vast majority of Kansas counties without a confirmed case as of Tuesday, the Governor does not plan to issue a statewide stay-at-home order at this time.

Following are other executive orders signed by Gov. Kelly since last week.

#20-08 - Temporarily expands capacity in the health-care system by: Allowing doctors to prescribe medication after an appropriate telemedicine consultation; Authorizing out-of-state doctors to provide telemedicine services to Kansans, provided they are licensed in another state; Permitting temporary emergency licenses for healthcare professionals regulated by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts.

#20-09 - Provides conditional and temporary relief from certain motor carrier rules and regulations to allow for quick and efficient delivery of resources needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The order specifically lifts certain weight restrictions and permitting requirements to allow needed supplies to get to Kansans or move through Kansas as quickly as possible. These exceptions apply only to motor carriers actively participating in COVID-19 response efforts.

#20-10 - Kelly rescinded Executive Order #20-06 and replaced it with Executive Order #20-10, which temporarily

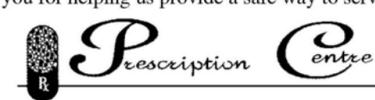
COVID-19 Coronavirus

Due to the COVID-19 Precautions beginning March 23, the Prescription Centre will offer the following services to help provide the community with prescriptions safely and in a timely manner. Please be sure to call ahead to minimize your wait time. Now available:

- Curbside pick-up
- Home delivery to residents in Burlington city limits
- Prescription by mail

Please do not bring old prescription bottles into the pharmacy. We appreciate your calling ahead and providing us with name of patient and prescription numbers only.

Thank you for helping us provide a safe way to serve you!



(620) 364-5523 or (800) 281-9063

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.