

the OUTLOOK

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, KANSAS | SEPTEMBER 2020

what's inside?

- 1 BUDGET APPROVED
- 2 MAYOR'S TREE FUND
- 3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

notices + reminders

TRASH SERVICE DELAYED + CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Trash service will be one day late due to the Labor Day holiday. Pickup will be Saturday, Sept. 12. | All City offices will be closed for the holiday. We will reopen 8 a.m. Sept. 8. If you have a utility emergency, please call (913) 247-3521.

FALL FESTIVAL CANCELED

In late July, the Fall Festival Committee underneath the Spring Hill Fall Festival corporation made the difficult decision to cancel the annual festival and parade. Read more on the cancellation on their website: www.springhillfallfestival.com

2020 CENSUS DEADLINE THIS MONTH

If you haven't completed your 2020 Census yet, the deadline is Sept. 30. Responding to the Census is a civic duty for all Americans, laid out in the U.S. Constitution. Census data helps fund new roads, schools, clinics, public safety and determines congressional districts. Respond today at www.2020Census.gov

Surveys provide valuable feedback

Collecting ideas and input from the people who live and work in Spring Hill is essential for City leaders in planning our community's future. This spring, we received a wealth of valuable feedback through two successful surveys:

- A **community survey** was mailed to a random sample of households, and 325 surveys were returned. The results, which have a 95% level of confidence, were compared to the City's results from 2005, 2013 and 2016 as well as regional and national averages.

- A **business survey** was completed by 45 local businesses. The results were compared to the City's first business survey conducted in 2013 as well as 2016 results. Both this survey and the community survey were administered by ETC Institute, a national leader in community-based market research.

The information gathered from each survey will help City leaders establish budget priorities and refine policy decisions over the next three years.

Find more significant findings from the community and business surveys on page 3.

After a Sept. 10 City Council presentation, full results will be available on our website

top projects

In this spring's community survey, residents were asked to select the three projects they'd most like to see the City prioritize over the next five years. Here are your top picks

- 63% Walking trails
- 38% New purpose for former pool
- 35% New phase for Aquatic Center
- 33% Bike trails
- 29% Downtown streetscape
- 26% Railroad quiet zones
- 23% More small neighborhood parks
- 8% Basketball courts

71%

of respondents said The Outlook is their primary source of information about the City

contact us

CITY HALL

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday
401 N. Madison St. | P.O. Box 424
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Main Phone: (913) 592-3664
Community Development:
(913) 592-3657
Municipal Court: (913) 592-3624
Utility Billing: (913) 592-3626

POLICE DEPARTMENT

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday
418 E. Nichols St.
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Phone: (913) 592-2700

PUBLIC WORKS

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
502 E. Nichols St.
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Public Works: (913) 592-3317
After-hours emergencies:
(913) 247-3521

Online

www.springhillks.gov
[/springhillks](https://www.facebook.com/springhillks) + SpringHillKSPD
[@springhillks](https://twitter.com/springhillks) + SpringHillKSPD
[@springhillks](https://www.instagram.com/springhillks)
 City of Spring Hill, Kansas
 City of Spring Hill, Kansas

Governing Body

Mayor Steven M. Ellis
steven.ellis@springhillks.gov
Council President Steve Owen
steve.owen@springhillks.gov

Chris Leaton
chris.leaton@springhillks.gov

Andrea Hughes
andrea.hughes@springhillks.gov

Chad Eckert
chad.eckert@springhillks.gov

Tyler Graves
tyler.graves@springhillks.gov

THE CITY OF
Spring Hill
KANSAS

City adopts 2021 budget, utility rates

The City's annual financial plan was presented and approved last month.

The Governing Body voted 4-1-0 to formally adopt the City Administrator's recommended 2021 budget at the City Council meeting Aug. 13. The Governing Body also conditionally approved the 2022 budget at the same meeting. The State of Kansas only allows cities to formally approve one year's budget at time.

In early March, City staff began the process of planning for a biennial budget, a first in Spring Hill history. Instead of making financial plans for one year, staff planned for both 2021 and 2022. But in the middle of those plans, staff had to switch gears due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reprioritize needs. To keep Spring Hill moving, City leaders made important, strategic decisions regarding this year's budget.

Some of the highlights in the 2021 budget include:

- Near level mill levy
- New police officer and three temporary Streets positions
- Maintenance and improvements for water and sewer utilities as well as streets

The 2022 budget only supports continuing service and operational expenditures as a result of COVID-19. As financial projections become clearer over the coming months, re-evaluation of 2022 will be presented to Council for their consideration.

To view the 2021-2022 budget, visit our website at www.springhillks.gov/432/Budget

RATES ADJUSTED FOR 2021

Water and wastewater rates were adopted as part of the 2021 budget process resulting in new rates beginning with the January 2021 utility bill.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can make a charitable pledge to help utility customers in need by filling out a form and submitting it to City Hall! Find the form on our website: www.springhillks.gov/143/Utility-Rates-and-Billing

An annual internal rate study was presented to City Council July 9. The rate study's focus is to review utility operation and infrastructure needs over the upcoming ten years and determine whether current rates will adequately support the cost of those planned expenditures. When rate increases are necessary, the approach has been to implement small incremental changes.

The Spring Hill Water District — which includes about 2/3 of all households in Spring Hill — water rate minimum will increase 25 cents to \$8.80 per 1,000 gallons. The monthly service charge will also increase to \$13.33.

The Spring Hill wastewater rate for those in the Spring Hill city limits will increase to \$17.43 for the first 2,000 gallons and to \$8.87 for each additional 1,000 gallons. The service charge remains the same. Use for wastewater is billed as an amount for the first 2,000 gallons and then a rate per each 1,000 gallons beyond the first 2,000.

The most recent utility rate increase occurred in January 2019 and no rate increases were implemented in 2020. Rate changes were approved at the Aug. 13 City Council meeting. You can watch the meeting online at the City's YouTube channel.



Mayor's Tree Fund benefits 100+ children

The BackSnack program through the Spring Hill Rotary Club was able to assist 108 children in our community, thanks to your donations. The BackSnack program provides a weekly backpack of food for children in need to take home over the weekend. It is one of four organizations the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund benefits each year. Read more on the annual Tree Fund program: www.springhillks.gov/495/Mayors-Christmas-Tree-Fund

Results are in: Here's what you think of our community

City services that should receive the most emphasis over the next two years

The 2020 community survey asked respondents to select their top three choices for City services that should receive the most emphasis over the next two years.



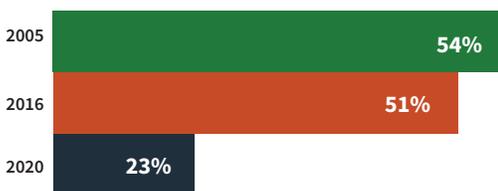
Why Spring Hill?

Spring Hill businesses rated the importance of various reasons for locating their business in Spring Hill.

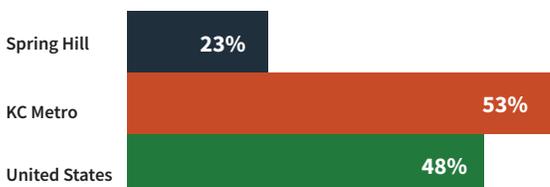
- 90%** Low crime rate
- 87%** Availability of telecom/utilities/infrastructure
- 80%** Access to highways
- 77%** Quality of local schools
- 74%** Attitude of local government toward business
- 74%** Level of taxation
- 74%** Overall image of the city
- 71%** Availability of quality housing and other amenities
- 51%** Proximity of businesses
- 49%** Availability of trained employees

Where can we improve? You said street maintenance

Satisfaction with maintenance of City streets 2005-2020



Satisfaction with maintenance of City streets Spring Hill vs. KC Metro vs. United States



Better streets

Maintenance of City streets was the City service residents agreed needed the most emphasis.

The good news — City leaders approved three temporary Streets Division positions and increased street maintenance materials in the 2021 budget to help our limited staff catch up on street repairs and maintenance. An additional three temporary positions would double our Streets Division's size for seasonal projects!

Several major road projects are also in the works including a roundabout at 199th Street and Ridgeview Road to ease congestion (slated to begin this year!), Lincoln Street continuation and Webster Street. Other street projects will be added as funding comes available.

upcoming events

september

- 1** Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. | Civic Center
tues Cemetery Board meeting | 7 p.m. | Civic Center
- 2** Large Item Day — Miami County
wed *Call (913) 631-3300 at least 48 hours in advance to schedule pickup.*
- 3** Planning Commission meeting | 7 p.m. | Civic
thurs Center | View on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/COSHYouTube>
- 7** Happy Labor Day | All City offices closed for the
mon holiday. Utility emergencies: (913) 247-3521
- 10** City Council meeting | 7 p.m. | Civic Center | View
thurs on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/COSHYouTube>
- 15** Municipal Court | 8:30 a.m. | Civic Center
tues
- 21** Parks Advisory Board meeting | 7 p.m. | Civic Center
mon
- 23** Large Item Day — Johnson County
wed *Call (913) 631-3300 at least 48 hours in advance to schedule pickup.*
- 24** City Council meeting | 7 p.m. | Civic Center | View
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Note: Civic Center address is 401 N. Madison St., Spring Hill, KS 66083

october

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