

November 24, 2020
Volume 1, Issue 9



DUNCAN

City Council
SERVING DISTRICT 8 & TOPEKA

UPDATES & INFO



I will not tell you how you and your family should spend Thanksgiving. Everyone must make the decision right for them and those around them. I can tell you my family has decided not to gather this year. I will deliver food to a few, some of us will visit on Zoom and other we will call. For us, staying home and celebrating in other ways, leaning on technology, is what works best for us.

Please just make sure whatever your plans, take precautions to keep everyone safe. Curbing the spread of Covid-19 should be everyone's priority right now so we can move forward, protect lives and get "back to normal."

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

DISTRICT 8 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The citywide half-cent sales tax will be used throughout Topeka for the next decade. Securing the funds needed for District 8 is important to me as your council member. I am happy to report that working with Council members reviewing these project, I have helped ensure that nearly \$5 million will be spent in and around District 8 in the coming year. Those projects include:

- \$2 million: crack seal/micro-surface residential/collectors roadways
- \$945,000: Westport Drive repair
- \$250,000: Concrete patch replacement on 29th and Fairlawn
- \$1.75 million: road repair and water line replacement in designated areas.

This list is not comprehensive but provides a snapshot of some of the work you can expect to see in District 8 in the next year. I will continue to work to see that our infrastructure needs are addressed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Police & Community
Special Committee**
November 30 3 p.m.
Holiday Building

Governing Body Meeting
December 1 6 p.m.
Zoom

Governing Body Meeting
December 8 6 p.m.
Zoom

JEDO Board Meeting
December 9 6 p.m.
TBD

Governing Body Meeting
December 15 6 p.m.
Council Chambers
Final meeting of 2020

**Contact me with
comments &
questions. Your
input matters!**



sduncan@topeka.org



[@SpencerLDuncan](https://twitter.com/SpencerLDuncan)



[duncanfortopeka](https://www.facebook.com/duncanfortopeka)



785-207-8985



[@SpencerLDuncan](https://www.instagram.com/SpencerLDuncan)

November 24, 2020
Volume 1, Issue 9

DUNCAN

City Council

SERVING DISTRICT 8 & TOPEKA

HOUSING STUDY WORK GROUP RESULTS

The Governing Body adopted a Citywide Housing Study in August. Since then, a working group, on which I serve, has prioritized the recommendations and created an action plan. The group consists of citizens, city staff and housing professionals. The report will be presented to the Governing Body on December 1.

We must guarantee these efforts bring forth tangible results in an area of great need - housing. Working with so many citizens has been a wonderful experience. The work these individuals have put forward is nothing short of phenomenal. It shows when we pool resources and work together we can move closer to workable solutions. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard on this effort and I look forward to continuing this work.

CONSULTING CONTRACT APPROVAL ORDINANCE

I will be introducing an ordinance that would require approval by the Governing Body of any consulting contract that exceeds \$50,000. We enter into numerous consulting contracts as a city and each uses tax dollars. The Governing Body should understand what these consulting contracts aim to accomplish, have an opportunity to examine them and vote to approve these expenditures. It would also provide more public input into these contracts.

I expect this to come before the Governing Body early in 2021.

TGT Committee

The Transient Guest Tax Committee, of which I am Chair, met for the final time in 2020. Our work this year was challenging, as the revenue has seen significant reduction due to Covid-19. We are working with the groups who receive TGT dollars to ensure their organizations continue to operate during this time. Their work attracts tourism and creates economic development. Our efforts have been focused on ensuring they also can begin 2021 on solid footing.

We also passed an ordinance, which now goes to the Governing Body, which would put city code in-line with current state law regarding bed tax collection for room rentals. It had not been updated for several years.

I have asked to serve again on the TGT Committee in 2021.



sduncan@topeka.org



[@SpencerLDuncan](https://twitter.com/SpencerLDuncan)



[duncanfortopeka](https://www.facebook.com/duncanfortopeka)



785-207-8985



[@SpencerLDuncan](https://www.instagram.com/SpencerLDuncan)

