



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ron R. Fehr was raised in Herington, Kansas; graduated from University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry on May 9, 1981, and Kansas State University with a Master's in Public Administration on December 5, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Ron R. Fehr began his career with the City of Manhattan on January 11, 1982, in the newly formed Parks and Recreation Department as the Forestry and Parks Supervisor; was promoted to Administrative Superintendent from January 13, 1985 – January 12, 1986; and then promoted to Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation from January 12, 1986 – December 6, 1992; was promoted to Assistant City Manager on December 6, 1992, and served in various capacities, including as Acting Zoo Director, Acting Director of Human Resources, and Acting Director of Utilities (twice); served as Interim City Manager from April 26, 1995 – November 22, 1995, and again from December 24, 1999 – April 18, 2000, when he was appointed Manhattan's eighth City Manager; and

WHEREAS, over the course of Ron's career, he has served as an Ex-Officio member on the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; served on the local Economic Development Boards and Committees; served on the Board of Directors for Innovation Partners (2019-2021); served as a member of the Board of Directors for Knowledge-Based Economic Development (KBED); served as past President and Charter member of the Manhattan Konza Rotary Club and was the 2010 Rotarian of the Year; served on the Board of Governors for the Fort Riley Chapter of the Association for the United States Army; was a former member and former Chair of the Board of Directors for Flint Hills Breadbasket; partnered with Fort Riley and Kansas State University; and served on the Manhattan Area Recovery Task Force during COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Ron's involvement as a founding representative of the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program where he currently serves on the Board of Trustees and was a 1995 graduate of the program, highlights his commitment to professional development and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2024, Ron received the 2023 Lud Fiser Citizen of the Year award at the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting; and was a 1997 graduate of Leadership Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Ron has been a member and served on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM); and a member of the National League of Cities (NLC), International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and a member of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KPR) from 1982-1993; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to public management, Ron was honored with the prestigious Buford M. Watson Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management in 2014. This award, the highest offered by the Kansas Association of City/County Management, underscored his commitment to excellence and innovation in public service; and



WHEREAS, Ron received the Career Recognition Award at the 2023 KACM annual conference. This award is intended to recognize those professional local government managers and administrators who are retiring from the profession; and

WHEREAS, during Ron's tenure as City Manager, several highlights include being part of the team in the recruitment of the National Bio-Agro Defense Facility (NBAF) to Manhattan, Kansas; initial downsizing and then regrowth of Fort Riley and the return of the 1st Infantry Division; enhancement of air service, the expansion of the Airport Terminal, and the reconstruction of the Airport runway; development of the North and South End Redevelopment and the STAR Bond project; building of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, three (3) recreation centers, the Robert K. Ott Joint Maintenance Facility, and the Aggieville and Downtown Parking Garages; significant infrastructure projects including the North Campus Corridor; expanded parks; replacement of three (3) City pools; his leadership responding to flood issues and making improvements of the city's levee system; the adoption of the City's first Strategic Plan in 2021; initiated the City Commission and Mayor Orientations; and lead the City through the 2011, 2013, 2018, and 2019 floods, Y2K, and COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as City Manager, Ron has attended approximately 730 Legislative Commission Meetings, 730 Commission Work Sessions, 31 Commission Retreats, 305 Intergovernmental Luncheons, 22 Legislative Breakfasts/Luncheons, 122 Joint City of Manhattan/Riley County/Pottawatomie County Meetings, and numerous other joint meetings with community and regional partners; and worked with 31 Commissioners and 27 Mayors since 1992.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wynn Butler, Mayor of the city of Manhattan, Kansas, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2024, as

RON R. FEHR DAY

in Manhattan, Kansas, in recognition of his many achievements, and on behalf of the City Commission, the City employees, and the citizens of Manhattan in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for his many years of loyal and exemplary service to the community and wish him continued success and happiness as he retires.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Manhattan, Kansas, to be affixed this 16th day of April, 2024.

Wynn Butler, Mayor