

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
January 3, 2013  
5:00 P.M.

Present: Troy Hickman, Kent Steward, Henry Schwaller, Ron Mellick, Eber Phelps, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

**Swearing In of Commissioner**

Eber Phelps was sworn in as City Commissioner. He was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Barbara Wasinger who has been elected to the Ellis County Commission.

**27<sup>th</sup> & Indian Trail Intersection Signalization**

At the request of Commissioner Schwaller, signalization of the intersection at 27<sup>th</sup> & Indian Trail was discussed. This issue was previously discussed in 2006.

27<sup>th</sup> Street between Vine and Canterbury is a four-lane street that has periodic times of high traffic flow. There are no dedicated turning lanes. The only break in flow along this stretch of 27<sup>th</sup> is a four-way stop at Indian Trail, which was installed many years ago to provide controlled access across 27<sup>th</sup> Street for north and south bound traffic.

City Manager Toby Dougherty reported that while traffic counts are slightly higher than in past years, they are nowhere near the volume that would necessitate the installation of a traffic signal. It would cost about \$180,000 to install a traffic signal. Another option for consideration would be the installation of a roundabout at this intersection, with an estimated cost of \$900,000 to \$1,200,000. At this time, the current four-way stop sign arrangement is functioning adequately, and the City Manager feels that a traffic signal is not warranted.

### **Term Limits and Possible Disbandment of Advisory Committees**

There are several committees that are currently serving the City of Hays. Some of these committees are required by State Statute and the City appoints members to the committee. Some of the committees are the creation of the City Commission. All committees are eligible for the imposition of term limits. At this time, there are only two committees that have term limits, the Building Trades Board and the Hays Public Library Board. This is a restriction placed by State Statute.

City Manager Toby Dougherty presented information about the following existing committees/boards and the usefulness/need for these committees: Airport Advisory Committee, Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course Advisory Board, Building Trades Board, CARE Council, Hays Beautification Board, Sister Cities Advisory Board and the Neighborhood Revitalization/Downtown Development Review Board.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commissioners to disband the Neighborhood Revitalization/Downtown Development Review Board. It was determined that due to the many vacancies on the board and the difficulty in finding qualified, or any, members to serve on the board, the procedural details of the board could be reviewed by staff with input from the City Commission. A resolution will be prepared authorizing the Commission to disband the committee and will be presented for approval at the January 10, 2013 Commission meeting. The Sister Cities Advisory Board will be invited to appear before the Commission at a future work session before any decision is made to disband that committee.

Term limits were discussed but no decision was reached. Commissioner Mellick suggested that a discussion be held at a future work session about City Commission term limits.

## **City Commission Term on Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development**

Barbara Wasinger was the representative for the City of Hays on the Ellis County Coalition Board of Directors. Due to her election as an Ellis County Commissioner, it is necessary to appoint a different representative. Commissioner Steward volunteered to be appointed to the board. The Commissioners will be requested to approve the appointment at the January 10, 2013 Commission meeting.

## **Configuration of 27<sup>th</sup> Street Between Fort & Hall**

At the October 18, 2012 work session, staff was asked to consider the issues regarding a proposal to eliminate on-street parking and restripe 27<sup>th</sup> Street to a 3-lane configuration from Hall to Plum. This change was recommended by the 2004 City Wide Traffic Study and considered by the City Commission in 2008; however, the proposed change was not approved. Staff has updated traffic counts, reviewed crash data, and contacted adjacent property owners. The recommendation is to proceed with eliminating on-street parking and restriping 27<sup>th</sup> Street to 3-lanes.

City Manager Toby Dougherty reported that there have been 50 accidents on this stretch of 27<sup>th</sup> since 2007 with indications that 40% of the accidents could have been prevented if on-street parking had been eliminated and a center opposing left turn lane added. Parking on the north side of the street is prohibited; only the south side has parking.

Public Works Director I. D. Creech presented a visual showing the current configuration of 27<sup>th</sup> Street. The street starts as a 5-lane at Vine, turns into a 4-lane, then a 3-lane, then a 2-lane and again to a 4-lane west of Hall. Traffic counts taken in August 2012 show the peak hour is between 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. with nearly 1,000 vehicles during that time. 85% of the vehicles traveling on this

stretch of 27<sup>th</sup> were traveling at or below 34 mph. The speed limit along this section is 30 mph.

The following residents spoke against re-striping: Dominic Pinalto, Dale Haselhorst, Megan Skeen, Donna Hansen, Lawrence Younger, Lana Hardman, Janae Kraus, and Gary Simon. It is felt that parking is needed since there is no parking on the north side of the street, property values will go down, it would be expensive for residents to install off-street parking, traffic speeds most likely will increase, and there will be a higher danger to pedestrians since sidewalks are right next to the street.

This issue will be on the January 17, 2013 work session agenda for further discussion.

The work session was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Doris Wing – City Clerk