

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
January 4, 2007

Oktoberfest/FHSU Homecoming Weekend Activities Report

Police Chief Jim Braun reported that the Oktoberfest itself presented very few problems. Officers are rarely called onto the Oktoberfest grounds. Over the years, any suggestions made by law enforcement have been considered and implemented.

The associated Fort Hays State University (FHSU) Homecoming activities are an altogether different situation. Few activities are scheduled for students after Oktoberfest grounds close. Homecoming revelers want to continue to celebrate Homecoming, but with little or nothing organized, they improvise with house parties. A significant number of people are from out-of-town and come to Hays to celebrate Homecoming.

Law enforcement's priority is maintaining a calming attitude among revelers. Trouble makers and verbally loud and aggressive individuals are quickly identified and removed. The intent is to have an overwhelming presence of uniformed officers in marked cars to help protect the public as well as enforce the laws.

Observations made concerning the most recent Oktoberfest/FHSU Homecoming weekend are as follows:

- Severity of accidents has lessened
- Hit & run accidents have decreased
- Numbers of large out-of-control parties have been reduced
- Aggravated battery calls and their severity have decreased
- Arrest numbers are dependent upon amount of emphasis and priority of enforcement
- The "intensity" of this weekend has been diminishing every year
- Intoxication levels seem to be on the increase

- The number of people found passed out / EMS calls have increased

Police Chief Braun stated the Police Department does the best job they can with the resources available. He suggested that the community redirect some of the focus away from activities involving alcohol in an attempt to reduce the amount of alcohol ingested by the public during this weekend. It would be beneficial to identify and develop FHSU Homecoming activities that involve students and the community which provide an alternative to the current house parties where the majority of the drinking is taking place. More University involvement with students this weekend during the hours of 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., when many of these parties are taking place, may have a positive effect. The Police Chief recommended that the Police Department be allowed to continue with what they have done in the past. The Police Department's proactive, positive police presence is providing a significant deterrence to many of the problems and large parties of the past years.

The Commissioners agreed with the Police Chief's recommendation.

Sale of Hangar F-8 at the Hays Regional Airport

Jim Hinkhouse wishes to sell Hangar F-8 to Glen Teel for the amount of \$37,500. The Airport Advisory Committee and the Airport Manager recommended that the sale be approved, as well as a lease agreement with Glen Teel effective February 1, 2007.

The Commissioners will formally consider approving the sale of the hangar at the January 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Brick Streets Policy

Revisions have been made to the Brick Streets Policy allowing the sale of surplus bricks. The Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of the Policy at the January 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Used Paving Brick Purchasing Procedure

Public Works staff has prepared a procedure for the sale of used paving brick. The Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of the procedure at the January 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Bids for 2007 Street Maintenance

At the January 11, 2006 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve bids for the 2007 Street Maintenance program.

Bids for 2007 Concrete Alley and Curb Repair

At the January 11, 2006 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve bids for the 2007 Concrete Alley and Curb Repair program.

Water and Sewer Fund Projections

During the 2005 audit, the City auditors, Adams, Brown, Beran, and Ball, identified inadequate funding to cover expenses in the Water and Sewer fund. The area of concern is the lack of funding for depreciation in the amount of approximately \$1,100,000 per year. In the 2006 and 2007 budget, staff has addressed this issue by budgeting for capital projects in approximately the same amount as depreciation.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approving an ordinance at the January 11, 2007 Commission meeting, and a resolution at the January 25, 2006 Commission meeting raising the water rate to address this issue.

Western Kansas Congressional Staff Reception Attendees

The Assistant City Manager and the Airport Manager will represent Hays at the Congressional Staff Reception in Washington D. C. March 24, 25, and 26, 2007. It has not yet been decided which Commissioners will attend the Reception.

City Hall/Army Reserve Center

City Manager Randy Gustafson discussed utilizing the former Army Reserve Center, 101 Main, as office space for City Hall. The City owns the property and in a property transfer transaction received the building, which formerly housed the Army Reserve headquarters.

The City Manager stated that the current facility lacks meeting rooms as well as adequate parking. The Army Reserve building is large enough to accommodate future growth and has plentiful parking.

At the direction of the Commissioners, the City Manager was authorized to pursue preliminary planning for the facility. It was also suggested that Mayor Billinger start discussion with the Ellis County Chairman about the possibility of County offices utilizing some of the office space in the present City Hall.

The work session was adjourned.

Submitted by : _____

City Clerk