

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
January 5, 2012

Present: Barbara Wasinger, Kent Steward, Henry Schwaller IV, Ron Mellick, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

Absent: Troy Hickman

DSNWK/ACCESS Transportation – Letters of Support

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK) provides services for individuals with disabilities in the 18-county area of northwest Kansas. An integral part of the service provided is transportation. In an attempt to fund the increasing demand for transportation, DSNWK attempts to utilize the transportation assistance program via KDOT's Office of Public Transportation.

Anna Findley, Transportation Manager of DSNWK, submitted correspondence requesting letters of support from the City as part of the application process to apply for funding to replace and enhance the current fleet of vehicles.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve Ms. Findley's request at the January 12, 2012 Commission meeting.

Update from Heartland Community Foundation

Bob Muirhead and Bob Lowen, representing the Heartland Community Foundation (HCF), presented the 2011 annual report.

HCF was started in 2007 as an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation (GSCF). The funds of HCF are pooled together with all the funds held by GSCF and their affiliates. The funds are invested with Vanguard and governed by a local finance committee at GSCF. The mission of HCF is to meet charitable community needs through leadership, grants, and donor services.

Charter Ordinance: Engineer's Estimate

The City of Hays is governed by state statutes for projects that require contracts. This necessitates an engineer's estimate prior to entering a contract and received bids cannot exceed the estimate. This has the potential to increase costs and delay necessary projects. The City has the option of chartering out of this statute as it does not apply uniformly to all cities.

Staff recommended a charter ordinance which allows the City Manager to designate staff to provide estimates when necessary and grants the City Commission the ability to award bids that exceed the estimate when it is deemed expedient and necessary to do the project.

The Commissioners will be requested to approve the charter ordinance at the January 12, 2012 Commission meeting.

Discussion on Combined Dispatch

Currently, the City leases space at the law enforcement center for the Police Department. As compensation for that lease, the City provides dispatch services to Ellis County and all entities within the County. The City pays the salaries and benefits of the dispatchers and manages the day to day operations while the County is responsible for the dispatch equipment as well as the 800 mhz communications equipment used by all public safety personnel in the County. The City and County have discussed the possibility of placing the responsibility for dispatch under the control of one entity.

When talks resume in February, staff will enter discussion with the premise that either entity could manage dispatch with the ultimate goal of providing professional services to all participating entities. City Manager Toby Dougherty discussed the City managing dispatch versus the County managing dispatch. He stated he is confident that the County and the City can come to an agreement that is satisfactory to everyone and also saves the tax payers money.

Other Items for Discussion

The City Manager discussed the City becoming part of the Sunflower Golf Trail, which is composed of 11 cities. By joining this group, if you are a member of the Hays Municipal Golf Course, you can go to any of the other 10 courses and play for a reduced fee.

The work session was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk