

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
January 6, 2011

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

**North Central Kansas Technical College Annual Report**

Clark Coco, president of the North Central Kansas Technical College (NCKTC), and Don Benjamin, NCKTC dean of the Big Creek Technical Center, located on south Main in the former Army Reserve facility, presented their annual report, which is a requirement of a lease agreement between the City of Hays and NCKTC for use of the facility.

The enrollment in programs housed at the Big Creek Technical Center has increased and are on target with projections. Many of the students have participated in the construction of the 1800 square foot police training building at the shooting range. NCKTC has estimated the economic impact of the expansion of the programs offered at Big Creek to be \$2,289,576. This is calculated on the four additional instructor salaries, tuition and fees, tool purchases, and modest living expenses for students. This figure does not reflect the total growth NCKTC has experienced in Hays over the past five years.

**DSNWK/ACCESS Transportation – Letters of Support**

Anna Findley, Transportation Manager of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, requested a letter of support from the City of Hays to obtain grant funding for the ACCESS Transportation Program. DSNWK provides services for individuals with disabilities in the 18 county area of northwest Kansas. An integral part of the service provided is transportation.

The Commissioners will formally approve the letter of support at the January 13, 2011 Commission meeting.

### **Relocation of the Post Office Box to the 200 Block of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

Hays Postmaster Tom Lippert requested permission to relocate a post office mail drop box currently located along the south side of the 700 block of East 13<sup>th</sup> Street to the 200 block of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street across from the Hadley Building. Installation of the drop box at this location would require the elimination of three on-street parking spaces along the south side of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The owners of the Hadley Building, High Plains Mental Health and City staff are supportive of the relocation.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve the elimination of the three on-street parking spaces in the 200 block of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street for the relocation of the post office mail drop box at the January 13, 2011 Commission meeting.

### **Economic Development – City Commission Expectations**

Commissioner Steward requested discussion of the Commissioners' expectations for the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development (ECCED) at the December 16, 2010 work session. The City has budgeted \$87,550 for economic development in 2011. Usually the funds are requested and dispersed in January and June.

Commissioner Steward feels that economic times are changing and he would like to see evidence that the Coalition is responding to the changing circumstances before any money is released for economic development.

The Executive Director position for ECCED is vacant; discussion was held about the expectations for the person selected to fill that position.

City Manager Toby Dougherty suggested the Commissioners request the ECCED board of directors attend a future work session to present a job description, a recruitment profile, and visit about their short term expectations for this person. The Commissioners could authorize the 1<sup>st</sup> half disbursement at that time and request a second appearance in six months before the 2<sup>nd</sup> half is dispersed.

The Commissioners agreed with the City Manager's recommendation.

**Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development Board – City of Hays Representatives**

Annually the City Commission selects a representative to the ECCED board of directors; Commissioner Mellick has been the City's representative the last couple of years. ECCED amended their by-laws to include two extra positions – one more City representative and one more County representative. It was decided that the City Manager would fill the second position.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve the City's two representative positions at the January 13, 2011 Commission meeting.

**Draft Letter to League of Kansas Municipalities**

The City Manager was directed to contact other cities to ascertain and compile their thoughts on the League of Kansas Municipalities. In doing so, the City Manager confirmed a sentiment that has been a concern of the Hays Commission about the perception, reputation and actions of the League in Topeka. Rather than being perceived as approachable and as a provider of information, the League is viewed as adversarial and confrontational.

At the Commission's direction, the City Manager drafted a letter to be sent to the League addressing these concerns as well as outlining the frustrations the City experienced when requesting League support of the City's water rights legislation. The process to gain support is flawed and is not conducive for use by member cities. The Commissioners reviewed the draft letter and suggested several minor changes.

The Commissioners will be requested to approve the final draft of the letter at the January 13, 2011 Commission meeting.

The work session was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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

City Clerk