

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
January 17, 2013

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

Request from Ellis County – Support for Sales Tax Legislation

Ellis County Administrator Greg Sund appeared before the City Commission to request support for the County's efforts to achieve a dedicated one-half percent sales tax. Funds generated by the sales tax would be used to pay debt service on two building projects that the County has planned. In order to get authority to seek a dedicated sales tax, a bill must be passed by the Legislature amending K.S.A. 12-187 b (2). Current law requires counties to share sales tax monies with the cities within the county, leaving only 42 percent of the total revenue for county projects.

Commissioner Steward supports the planned projects but expressed some concern about how changing state law would affect future projects. Would counties always get all the proceeds for any future projects?

Mr. Sund stated that these two projects are fairly large and are not projects that will be done again very soon. Every future project would be looked at on the individual merits of that project.

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a letter of support at the January 24, 2013 Commission meeting.

Restriping of 27th Street Between Plum & Hall

Discussion on re-striping 27th Street between Plum and Hall to a 3-lane configuration and eliminating on-street parking on the south side of the street was held at the January 3, 2013 work session.

Public Works Director I. D. Creech and Police Chief Don Scheibler presented more in-depth information about traffic flow and accidents along this section of 27th Street.

Dominic Pianalto, Dawn Gabel, and Gabe Hardman, who live along that stretch of 27th Street, spoke against re-striping to a 3-lane. They do not feel re-striping and eliminating parking on the south side will cut down on the number of accidents, especially around the Dillons area.

Commissioner Steward stated he feels the Commissioners should take the advice of the professional staffers and make the change to 3-lanes to try to increase safety for the overall benefit of the community. He would like the City to offer some type of assistance to the residents along that stretch for providing additional off-street parking.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider giving their approval to re-stripe 27th Street between Plum and Hall at the January 24, 2013 Commission meeting.

Bike Hays Master Plan

In 2012, the Commission requested further study of bike lanes. The Hays Bike Master Plan was developed by RDG through the 2012 Comprehensive Plan process. The system connects key community attributes providing a convenient and accessible means of mobility for various purposes. The 1st phase of the plan, (1a), is estimated to cost \$272,900. Adequate funds have been budgeted in 2013 for this project through the Special Parks fund. This fund receives revenue through special alcohol tax and is to be utilized for quality of life amenities. State funding is available through the Transportation Enhancement Program for the 2nd phase (1b), which is estimated to cost \$538,770. City staff requested permission to submit an application utilizing budgeted funds as a match to maximize the system's potential.

Preliminary data from the Big Creek assessment indicates a need for a concrete cap to secure the levee. This section of the levee is used by many citizens and students as a natural walking trail. Therefore, \$100,000 of

stormwater funds are being requested as a match to attain offsetting funds from KDOT.

Assistant City Manager Paul Briseno presented information about the two phases of the Bike Master Plan. The complete cost of phase 1a and 1b is estimated to cost \$811,670 and will consist of 26 miles of bike pathways. If matching funds are received through the Transportation Enhancement Program, the City will pay \$400,000 for a \$811,670 system. Should state funding be denied, staff will implement phase 1a if approved by the Commission.

Commissioners Schwaller and Steward expressed concern about the cost of this plan in light of all the other projects that are being brought forth by the City, Ellis County and USD489.

This item will be on the January 24, 2013 Commission meeting agenda for further discussion and vote.

Transportation Enhancement Grant Application – Hike and Bike

At the January 24, 2013 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of a resolution applying for Transportation Enhancement Program funds as part of the Bike Hays Master Plan and authorizing the use of \$100,000 from the Stormwater budget as a match for the Big Creek levee cap.

Developer Agreement – Wheatland Lots

At the January 24, 2013 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Darrell Dreher for the construction of sanitary sewer and street improvements to serve six lots along the east side of Wheatland Avenue just south of 22nd Street.

Engineering Agreement – Waterline Design

The Capital Improvement Program includes the replacement of various waterlines in older sections of the City, which have had a disproportionately high frequency of waterline breaks. Staff solicited engineering services for the design

of waterline upgrades and replacements in ten locations throughout the City. Kaw Valley Engineering of Junction City submitted the lowest cost proposal in the amount of \$46,904 for engineering services.

Director of Utilities Bernie Kitten reviewed the ten locations where the upgrades and replacements will take place.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Kaw Valley for engineering services for the waterline upgrades.

City Commission Term Limits

Commissioner Mellick requested that term limits on the City Commission be discussed. The Commissioners had discussed term limits on other City committees earlier and he felt that the same discussion should take place for City Commission positions.

Commissioner Mellick stated that often it is hard to get a potential candidate to run for office because they feel that they cannot get more votes than an incumbent who has been on the Commission for several terms of office. He feels that new people can bring a fresh perspective.

Commissioner Schwaller stated that the electors make the decision every two years as to who should be on the Commission and it should be left that way.

The work session adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Doris Wing – City Clerk