

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
February 2, 2006

Present: Kent Steward, Wayne Billinger, Troy Hickman, Barbara Wasinger, Henry Schwaller IV, Randy Gustafson

Absent: John Bird

Wastewater Treatment Alternatives

City staff solicited proposals from engineering firms to evaluate the current Wastewater Treatment Plant operation and explore alternative methods of wastewater treatment. Three firms submitted proposals for a preliminary study phase and a final study phase. Staff evaluated each proposal and recommended that Burns and McDonnell be selected to perform the preliminary phase of the study at a cost of \$51,900.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally accept the proposal from Burns and McDonnell and enter into an Engineering Service Agreement for the study at the February 9, 2006 Commission meeting. The final phase of the study will be considered at a later date.

Water Plant Filter Media and Underdrain System Replacement

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve a bid from Walters-Morgan Construction, Inc. from Manhattan, Kansas, in the amount of \$232,700, to replace the filter media and underdrain system in six filters at the Water Treatment Plant at the February 9, 2006 Commission meeting.

Mandatory Solid Waste Collection

City Manager Randy Gustafson stated that staff has done a complete review of the solid waste collection system, looking at 25 different alternatives. It was determined that if the system remains the same without any changes, it would be necessary to raise the fee from \$12.00 per month to \$14.20 for each single unit. Staff also considered an automated system using polycarts, and recommended that City trash collection be made mandatory for all residential customers and eliminate any multi-family collection which the City currently does. This would result in an increase of 656 customers. With the increase of customers, it would not be necessary to raise the monthly rate. If trash collection was not made mandatory and polycarts were utilized, it would be necessary to raise the monthly fee to \$13.60.

Commissioner Schwaller stated that he does not feel that it should be mandatory for all residences. Some citizens have other means for disposing of their trash. He is not opposed to going to a polycart system. He is concerned about how this will affect private haulers that pick up trash for residences within the City.

Deron O'Connor, 118 West 35th Street, stated that he uses a private hauler for trash pick-up. He switched to a private hauler because he was unhappy with the service provided by the City. The private hauler provides a polycart and charges a monthly fee of \$15. He does agree that there is a problem with some people not paying for collection and dumping their trash in other residential and/or commercial dumpsters. He requested that citizens who can verify that they have a private hauler be exempted from the mandatory collection.

Public Works Director Brenda Herrman stated that tracking customers is a labor intensive process for personnel in the City Clerks Office and Solid Waste Division. Every time a customer moves in or out of a home, the can is picked up, and then redelivered once the new customer moves in and requests the service. Additionally, over 100 residences were identified as having City cans but not paying for the service.

The City Manager stated that an automated system lowers the cost of operation of non-recycled trash, but raises the cost for the operation of recycling because the recycling would have to be handled separately. However, between the costs of the two, the monthly fee could remain at \$12.00 if mandatory collection were implemented.

Staff will do additional research and report back at another work session.

Municipal Investments Pool

The Commission will be requested to approve a resolution to establish an account and invest funds in the Municipal Investments Pool at the February 9, 2006 Commission meeting.

Use of Budget Stabilization Reserve for Wilson Pool Repairs

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve a request to spend funds out of the Budget Stabilization Reserve for repairs to Wilson Pool. This project had previously been approved to be paid from the Pool Construction Fund. The Pool Construction Fund was closed at the end of 2005 and the funds were transferred to the Budget Stabilization Reserve. Policy dictates that any funds expended from a reserve fund must have Commission approval. Therefore, the Commissioners will be requested to approve an amount not to exceed \$90,000 to complete the project at the February 9, 2006 Commission meeting.

Other Items for Discussion

Chairperson Steward requested that the request from the Hays Public Library for reserved parking be placed on the February 9, 2006 Commission meeting agenda. This was on the January 26, 2006 Commission meeting agenda, however, Chairperson Steward was not in attendance at that meeting and no action was taken on the request.

Executive Session

City Attorney John Bird joined the meeting prior to the executive session.

Barbara Wasinger moved, Wayne Billinger seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session at 6:15 p.m. for 30 minutes to discuss water issues, union negotiations, litigation issues, and personnel issues. The executive session included the City Commissioners, the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, and the City Attorney. The justification for the executive session is that it is in the public's best interest not to reveal the City's position on the above mentioned items.

Vote: Ayes: Kent Steward
Wayne Billinger
Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Henry Schwaller IV

Chairperson Steward called the work session back to order at 6:45 p.m. He stated that no action was taken during executive session.

The work session was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____