

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON MARCH 9, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Kent Steward
Wayne Billinger
Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Henry Schwaller IV

Chairperson Steward declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

2. MINUTES: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular session held on February 23, 2006; the minutes stand approved as written.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: Chairperson Steward presented a list of proposed appointments to various City boards/committees. These appointments will be presented for approval at the March 23, 2006 Commission meeting. The proposed appointments are:

Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee:	Lorraine Howerton Sabrina Symns
Northwest Kansas Community Corrections Board:	Greg Schwartz
Sister Cities Advisory Board:	James Forsythe

NEW BUSINESS

5. EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT: First Call for Help, in collaboration with the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance, is requesting that an application be submitted through the City of Hays to the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation for an Emergency Shelter Grant in the amount of \$28,000. This grant would be used for homeless prevention, including conditional payment to prevent evictions and utility shut-offs.

Troy Hickman moved, Henry Schwaller IV seconded, that a grant application to the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation for an Emergency Shelter Grant be approved.

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

6. TRANSIENT GUEST TAX CHARTER ORDINANCE: The implementation of additional transient guest tax would be used to pay for the lease-purchase of the Hays Convention & Visitors Bureau building. The percentage and effective date of such tax shall be determined by the City Commission and shall be specified in an ordinance authorizing the same. A charter ordinance requires a super majority to pass, or four (4) yes votes.

Wayne Billinger moved, Troy Hickman seconded, that Charter Ordinance No. 23, being a charter ordinance exempting the City of Hays, Kansas, from the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1696 and K.S.A. 12-16.101, inclusive, amending City Charter Ordinance No. 19 as passed on February 12, 1998, and providing substitute and additional provisions of the same subject, relating to the levy of a transient guest tax for tourism and conventions be approved.

City Manager Randy Gustafson stated that passage of Charter Ordinance No. 23 would exempt the City from the statutory limit. It would be

effective 60 days after its passage and publication. At some future date, the Commission would need to pass an ordinance setting the transient guest tax rate. The passage of the charter ordinance would start the process; the architect would then be authorized to finish the working drawings so that an accurate cost of the building could be determined.

It has been projected that a one-percent (1%) transient guest tax increase would raise an additional \$114,000 per year. The Convention & Visitors Bureau has a cash carry-over of \$250,000 from 2005 to 2006. These carry-over funds, plus \$100,000 by agreement from the Chamber of Commerce, will be used to start the process. Final costs will not be determined until the final design has been approved.

Commissioner Schwaller stated he supports the construction of the CVB building; however, he does not support this ordinance. He feels the design process should be completed, final costs determined, and then an ordinance should be passed to pay for it.

Vote: Ayes: Kent Steward

Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

No: Barbara Wasinger

Henry Schwaller IV

The motion failed.

Henry Schwaller IV moved, Troy Hickman seconded, that City staff be authorized to finalize the design of the building with the architect.

Vote: Ayes: Kent Steward

Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

Henry Schwaller IV

7. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER: The City Manager commented that enplanements at the Hays Regional Airport continue to improve.

Enplanements are 38% higher for February 2006 compared to the same timeframe in 2005.

8. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Schwaller requested that the policy relating to green space improvements be discussed at a future work session.

Commissioner Schwaller stated he would like to discuss the creation of a business incubator with the Ellis County Commission. Currently, Ellis County has record employment; now is the time to talk seriously about working together on a joint venture.

Commissioner Billinger had some concerns about the placement of welcome signs around Hays.

The City Manager stated that the Public Works Department and the Conventions & Visitors Bureau are preparing a Request for Proposal for a consultant to design all of the signage in and around Hays. He will pass Commissioner Billinger's concerns on to them.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Wayne Billinger moved, Troy Hickman seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session at 7:58 p.m. for five minutes to discuss negotiations and an inter-governmental agreement. 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 the public's best interest not to reveal the City's position during negotiations and in discussions involving inter-governmental agreements with the City Attorney.

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

Chairperson Steward called the meeting back to order at 8:03 p.m. He stated no action was taken during executive session.

Thereupon the Governing Body adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk