

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes

Thursday, March 17, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Eber Phelps, Shaun Musil, James Meier, Lance Jones, John Bird, Toby Dougherty and Kim Rupp

Absent: Henry Schwaller IV

**1. March 3, 2016 Work Session Notes**

Commissioner Jones stated that in the last paragraph of the March 3, 2016 work session minutes it was stated that the water conference attended by the City Manager and several Commissioners was in Phoenix and it was actually in Albuquerque. Chairperson Phelps stated with this correction the minutes stand approved.

**2. USD 489 Sales Tax Petition**

USD 489 has decided to pursue a capital improvement program which will cost more than \$94 million, according to their presentation to the City Commission on January 7, 2016. They plan to attempt to finance it by use of a bond issue election on their part and asked the City Commission to put a sales tax initiative on the ballot to levy a City sales tax that would then be paid to USD 489 for defraying the cost of their improvements. The City of Hays has declined to do that.

The only other way to place the question on an election ballot is for a petition, signed by 10% of the electors of the City, to be properly filed. Ellis County has certified that the petition by USD 489 calling for a special election to consider the question of imposing a half-cent sales tax to fund USD 489 capital projects is valid. According to State law, when presented a valid petition, the City Commission shall pass a resolution setting forth the election.

Chris Dinkel and Mike Morley, both serving on the USD 489 Bond Committee, stated that there is significant community support to move this forward. They are hoping to have both the sales tax question and the bond proposal together on the same ballot on June 7, 2016

At the March 24, 2016 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to consider approving a resolution calling for a special sales tax election for USD 489 on June 7, 2016.

Chairperson Phelps moved item number four ahead of item number three on the agenda.

#### **4. Community Comments and Recommendation for 2016-2018 EAS Contract**

The current Essential Air Service (EAS) contract to provide commercial passenger service at the Hays Regional Airport expires July 31, 2016. On January 27, 2016, the US Department of Transportation solicited proposals for the 2016-2018 contract period. Proposals were submitted to serve the Hays Regional Airport by SkyWest Airlines, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., and Via Air. As part of the selection process, the Department of Transportation seeks community comment. Comments and recommendation are to be submitted no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

City Manager, Toby Dougherty, reviewed the three proposals with the Commissioners.

City staff recommends continuing service with SkyWest Airlines for the 2016-2018 EAS contract. The configuration would remain the same with 12 flights per week under the United Express brand. SkyWest Airlines offers first class service, reliability, and equipment, as well as the best value to the flying public. City staff sees no reason to recommend a change at this time.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the Mayor send a letter to the Department of Transportation recommending that SkyWest Airlines be selected for the 2016-2018 EAS contract.

Chairperson Phelps left the work session to attend the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics and Vice-Mayor Musil continued the meeting.

### **3. Airport Snow Broom Acquisition**

The 2016 budget included funds for the purchase of snow removal equipment at the Hays Regional Airport. A snow broom is eligible for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program funding, which covers 90% of eligible costs. FAA requires actual bids prior to awarding a grant to cover the costs. One bid was received on March 1, 2016 from M-B Companies, Inc. The total cost of the snow broom including administration and acquisition is \$173,354, with the City's share being \$17,336. The City's Airport Engineer, Burns & McDonnell, has prepared a grant application to be submitted to FAA to fund 90% of the cost of the snow broom. Staff requests authorization to apply for federal assistance in paying for the snow broom, and acceptance of the bid from M-B Companies, Inc. contingent on FAA grant funding.

At the March 24, 2016 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to consider authorizing staff to submit an application for federal assistance for the purchase of a snow broom for the Hays Regional Airport, and accept the low bid from M-B Companies, Inc. contingent upon an FAA grant offer. All costs to be funded from the New Equipment Reserve Fund.

### **Other Items for Discussion**

Commissioner Musil wished good luck to all the participants of the Special Olympics.

The work session was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk