

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON APRIL 24, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Barbara Wasinger
Ron Mellick
Christopher Channell
Allan Lytton
Troy Hickman

Chairperson Wasinger 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 April 10, 2008; the minutes stand approved as presented.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Finance Director Kim Rupp reported that investments for March 31, 2008 totaled \$39,400,000.00, which is an increase of \$3,750,000.00 when compared to March 2007. Interest due at maturity on current investments totals \$920,655.00, which is a decrease of \$856,033.00 compared to March 2007. In March, the Finance/City Clerk's Office invested \$10,750,000.00 of maturing certificates of deposit with a weighted average interest rate of 2.38%. Sales tax collected for the General Fund, in March, totaled \$735,602.00, which was an increase of \$79,107.00 when compared to March 2007. To date, sales tax collections are up 13.1% compared to 2007.

Ron Mellick moved, Allan Lytton seconded, that the Financial Statement for the month of March 2008 be approved.

Vote: Ayes: Barbara Wasinger
Ron Mellick
Christopher Channell
Allan Lytton
Troy Hickman

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS: Vernon Befort, 1404 West 44th St., inquired about the low water pressure in Hays.

Public Works Director Brenda Herrman stated that she will have City personnel check out the water lines at his house.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: A. Chairperson Wasinger presented the following proposed mayoral appointments to be voted on at the May 8, 2008 Commission meeting:

Airport Advisory Committee

Errol Wuertz – 3-year term to expire April 30, 2011

Hays Housing Authority Board

Debra Staab – unexpired term to expire on February 14, 2010

B. Mayor Wasinger presented Resolution No. AR-02 to Tyce Bonjorno. The Resolution expresses appreciation for establishing a new business, 1904 Clothing, in the City of Hays.

NEW BUSINESS

7. HIDDEN HEROES PRESENTATION: Cathie Klein, director, and Sarah Melia, representing the Kansas Youth Leadership Academy, presented a program about Hidden Heroes.

Hidden Heroes is a Kansas Youth Leadership program paying particular attention to students who have yet to discover their leadership skills due to a lack of opportunities, family environment, and/or lack of financial resources. Through a partnership with local community members and with funding from the City of Hays Special Alcohol Tax Fund, the Hidden Heroes program provides

opportunities for these students to develop the underlying leadership skills that they are unaware of possessing.

7. WIND TOWER GENERATOR MORATORIUM: At the March 17, 2008 meeting of the Hays Area Planning Commission, the Commissioners discussed the concept of wind generators within the city limits of Hays. The discussion was due to a verbal proposal by a local developer to install several wind tower generators within the city limits for a senior living complex. Currently, there is nothing in City Ordinances that specifically permits or prohibits these types of structures in the City. The Planning Commission discussed the issue and decided that there needs to be more time in order to research the placement of these structures within the City. Therefore, a moratorium against the placement of wind generators within the city and three-mile jurisdiction area was proposed by the Planning Commission.

Allan Lytton moved, Ron Mellick seconded, that Ordinance No. 3746, being an ordinance providing for the suspension of certain types of improvements on any lands within the City of Hays, Kansas and its three mile environs; and directing that land development regulations for the City of Hays be developed that will provide an improved method of management of wind towers, be approved.

Commissioner Hickman expressed concern about the length of the moratorium, which shall be in effect until December 31, 2008. He feels this is too long to hold up a development issue.

Chairperson Wasinger commented that if a decision is made earlier than the December 31st date, the Commission could rescind the ordinance to stop the moratorium.

Commissioner Lytton stated the Planning Commission recommended the moratorium by a vote of 9-0. He feels the City Commission needs to take the Planning Commission's recommendation to allow plenty of time to research the issue.

Commissioner Channell also felt that eight months is too long; he would prefer a shorter time period initially. The moratorium could be extended if necessary.

Commissioner Mellick stated that if the Planning Commission feels they need until the end of the year to study the issue, the City Commission should give them that much time. The people on the Planning Commission are intelligent and capable and will come up with a full set of regulations regarding wind tower generators. They should not be rushed into making any decisions. If they have made a decision earlier than the end of year, the ordinance can be rescinded.

Christa Gordon, representing Iberdola Renewable Energy USA and a developer of the Hays Wind Project, commented that planning for wind generators has to be done way in advance. There is considerable lead time necessary for major equipment purchases. She appreciates the desire for a set of regulations that meets the needs of the City of Hays and the need for sufficient time to come up with those regulations.

Dana Kraus, one of the landowners involved with the Hays Wind Project, commented on the benefits of wind energy.

Commissioners Channell and Hickman stated they would vote for the ordinance, but requested that the Planning Commission address this issue as soon as possible.

Vote: Ayes: Barbara Wasinger
Ron Mellick
Christopher Channell
Allan Lytton
Troy Hickman

8. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER: Assistant City Manager Mark Loughry mentioned that the recent issue of the League of Kansas Municipalities journal listed the tax rates of the cities in Kansas. Hays once again has the lowest mill levy for cities of either the 1st or 2nd class outside of Johnson County.

Fire Chief Gary Brown presented a report on the tornado drill that was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. The drill was coordinated with Ellis County Emergency Manager Addie Homburg and the various agencies of county and state government as well as Midwest Energy, Hays Medical Center, and the Red Cross.

9. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Hickman requested that information be sent to the media about the watering schedule on the front nine holes of the Hays Municipal Golf Course now that the new irrigation system has been installed.

Chairperson Wasinger reported on the group of City employees who recently traveled to Washington D. C. The purpose of the trip was to meet with Kansas senators and representatives and their staff to discuss immigration, essential air service, transportation issues, water issues, as well as other issues that affect western Kansas.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk