

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
May 4, 2006

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

Hays Recreation Commission / City of Hays Joint Meeting

The Hays Recreation Commission (HRC) met with the Hays City Commission to discuss the joint operation of the Hays Aquatic Park, Wilson Pool and the ball fields. Roger Bixenman, HRC Superintendent, Joe Spangler, HRC Aquatics and Wellness Director, and Parks Director Jeff Boyle updated the Commissioners on the municipal pools and ball fields.

Mr. Boyle stated that repairs to Wilson Pool will not be completed until June 16th at the earliest and the pool will not be able to be opened until that time. That means the pool will only be open for 57 days this summer and Mr. Boyle asked the Commissioners if they still wanted to open the pool at that late date.

The consensus of the Commissioners was to open Wilson Pool when the repairs are completed.

Mr. Boyle stated that it will cost approximately \$6,750 to replace the sand area at the Hays Aquatic Park with concrete. The area will then be used for additional lounge chairs. The sand area was not well used and there is a shortage of lounge chairs at the pool.

Mr. Boyle stated that the Optimist Club is interested in doing additional work at Aubel-Bickle Park to include dugouts and extending the fence line on some of the ball fields.

First Presbyterian Church Carillon

The Police Department has received a noise complaint about the First Presbyterian Church playing their carillon throughout the day. The Church has been doing this for over 30 years and it has never generated a complaint before.

City Attorney John Bird stated he reviewed the complaint and city ordinances. His conclusion is that the Presbyterian Church needs to have a permit to play their carillon. The permit would have to be approved by the Commissioners.

A discussion was held about the ordinances addressing noise complaints.

The City Manager stated that the ordinances are confusing and suggested the City Attorney do further research on the possibility of exempting churches.

Wayfinding Signage Study

City staff solicited proposals from professional firms to conduct a Wayfinding Signage study for the City of Hays for the installation of 50-60 signs. Two proposals were received. Staff recommended that the proposal submitted by Guidance Pathway Systems, Inc., with an estimated cost of \$32,190, be accepted.

The Commissioners will be requested to take formal action on this issue at the May 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Airport Access Road Repairs

Asphalt millings were put down on the Airport access road several years ago with the intent to eventually chip and seal the road and/or make more permanent improvements. Public Works staff recommended that the road be improved with a double chip seal estimated to cost \$23,600. This will be paid out of the Airport contingency fund.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve the repair at the May 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

EMS Joint Response Program

Fire Chief Gary Brown presented a PowerPoint presentation in regards to implementing a medical emergency joint response program to enhance the service provided by Ellis County EMS.

The City Manager stated that it is a policy decision that the Commissioners need to make whether or not to implement this program. If approved, it is anticipated that the program could be underway by July 1, 2006. Mr. Gustafson stated that this in no way indicates that the City wants to be in the ambulance business or emergency medical transportation business. The City is simply trying to provide a service to the citizens in our community in conjunction with EMS.

The Commissioners will consider granting approval of the program at the May 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Business Incubator with Ellis County

Commissioner Schwaller stated that several years ago, the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development began researching the possibility of establishing a small business incubator for the City of Hays. The Hadley Center has offered to the Coalition or whoever wants to operate the incubator flexible office space. No building would have to be purchased; no office would have to be rented until a business wanted to occupy the incubator. The Coalition Board has given its approval to pursue this. Commissioner Schwaller asked if the Commissioners were interested in discussing this further with Ellis County.

The Commissioners were supportive of continuing discussion on this topic.

General Obligation Bond Resolution

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve a resolution authorizing the offering for public sale of General Obligation Bonds at the May 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Washing Machine Rebate Program

At the direction of the City Commission, staff researched implementing a washing machine rebate program for high efficiency washing machines. The recommendation brought forth is that \$100 rebates be given for the purchase of any high efficiency washer that has a maximum water factor rating of 8.5 and is purchased after January 1, 2007. It is anticipated that funds, in the amount of \$10,000 to pay for the rebates, will be budgeted in the 2007 Budget.

City Commission Quorum

At the direction of the City Commission, the City Attorney prepared two draft charter ordinances regarding the establishment of a quorum. The Commissioners can choose whether they want the language to say that the quorum is either three or four members or only four members. If the Commissioners choose to say the quorum is either three or four members in a charter ordinance, an ordinary ordinance can set the quorum at either three or four. This could be voted on annually and could be reversed, if so desired.

The Commissioners will be requested to vote on this issue at the May 11, 2006 Commission meeting.

Other Items for Discussion

Commissioner Steward discussed the possibility of having work sessions televised. He suggested that any Commissioner wanting to televise work sessions contact Gary Shorman at Eagle Communications.

Commissioner Steward requested staff schedule a tour of the Kansas State Agricultural Center.

Commissioner Schwaller stated he would like to revisit the safety and traffic light issue on East 27th Street and Indian Trail.

Commissioner Wasinger stated that she feels the City Commissioners should visit with the Ellis County Commissioners about bird flu. She stated that the federal government expects any costs associated with bird flu to be locally funded.

Chairperson Billinger commented that he is still trying to find a date for a joint meeting with the Ellis County Commissioners.

Executive Session

Barbara Wasinger moved, Kent Steward seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session at 6:55 p.m. for 30 minutes to discuss union negotiations and water issues that are covered by attorney-client privilege. 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 during negotiations.

Commissioner Schwaller was out of the room during the vote.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger
Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Kent Steward

Chairperson Billinger called the work session back to order at 7:25 p.m. He stated no action was taken during executive session.

The work session adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk

