

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON MAY 11, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, May 11, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

Kent Steward

Absent: Henry Schwaller IV

Chairperson Billinger 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 27, 2006; the minutes stand approved as written.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: There were no items on the consent agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

5. HAYS HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT: Harlan Murphy, Chairman of the Hays Housing Authority Board, presented the Hays Housing Authority 2005 Annual Report.

The Hays Housing Authority of the City of Hays received funding in 1979 for the development of a 30-unit public housing project known as Sunrise Apartments. The Housing Authority is responsible for the operation and management of the 30 units and also the administration of approximately 60 to

66 Section 8 vouchers, which are available to assist tenants with rental payments to private landlords within the city limits of Hays.

6. EMS JOINT RESPONSE PROGRAM: Since the early 1970's fire departments have been responding to medical emergencies to assist the ambulance service and facilitate the delivery of "state-of-the-art" emergency care. Currently the City of Hays Fire Department only responds to medical emergencies to assist Ellis County EMS when requested. This service level is typically provided by volunteer fire departments. The Fire Department is proposing to enhance this service by entering into an automatic EMS joint response program with Ellis County EMS.

Fire Chief Gary Brown presented a PowerPoint presentation showing how the Hays Fire Department will assist EMS when there is a joint response program in effect.

Barbara Wasinger moved, Kent Steward seconded, that staff be authorized to initiate an EMS joint response program between the City of Hays Fire Department and Ellis County EMS.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

Kent Steward

7. WAYFINDING SIGNAGE STUDY: City staff solicited proposals for a Wayfinding Signage Study. The Study would include a review of the City's existing signage, solicit public input, produce design options and a plan for appropriate tourist attractions and community interest items to be signed. Construction documents would also be produced. The proposal review committee recommends accepting the proposal from Guidance Pathway Systems at a cost of \$32,190.

Troy Hickman moved, Barbara Wasinger seconded, that the proposal from Guidance Pathway Systems, Inc. to conduct a Wayfinding Signage Study for the City of Hays, at a cost of \$32,190, be accepted.

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

8. AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD: Asphalt millings were put down on the Airport access road four 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. The access road is part of the Airport Layout Plan and the cost will be paid out of the Airport contingency fund. This project will be added to the Chip & Seal contract that has already been approved for other street repairs.

Troy Hickman moved, Kent Steward seconded, that repairs to the Airport access road be approved.

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

9. AMENDMENT TO 8TH STREET PROJECT AUTHORIZATION: It is necessary to pass a resolution amending Resolution No. 418, the original project authorization for 8th Street, which was passed in 2002. Since that time, the scope of the project has changed and construction costs have gone up. The original estimate for project costs was \$1,800,000, with the City share not to exceed \$600,000. The new estimate is a total project cost of \$3,500,000, with the City share not to exceed \$900,000.

Troy Hickman moved, Kent Steward seconded, that Resolution No. 2006-008, being a resolution amending Resolution No. 418 initiating proceedings by the Governing Body for improvement of a portion of Eighth Street in the City of Hays, Kansas, be approved.

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

10. SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2006-A: This resolution authorizes the sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006-A, in a principal amount not to exceed \$6,250,000. The City intends to sell these bonds in order to reimburse itself for various projects that are in progress or already completed.

Barbara Wasinger moved, Troy Hickman seconded, that Resolution No. 2006-009, being a resolution authorizing the offering for public sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006-A of the City of Hays, Kansas, be approved.

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

11. CITY COMMISSION QUORUM: At the April 6th and April 20th work sessions, the Commission discussed changing the quorum requirements to four for a five-member Commission. By doing this, it would allow two members of a governing body to discuss City business outside of an open meeting.

Kent Steward moved, Barbara Wasinger seconded, that Charter Ordinance No. 23 exempting the City of Hays from provisions of K.S.A. 14-1308 and providing substitute and additional provisions relating to the quorum of the City Commission be approved.

Commissioner Steward stated he does not see a down side to passing this charter ordinance. Changing the quorum requirements to four would allow members of this Commission to meet one-on-one outside of Commission meetings. He believes it would improve the quality of the discussion being held during a Commission meeting. School board members can discuss an

issue outside of a meeting, but cities and counties cannot. Changing the quorum, in his opinion, would lead to better government.

Commissioner Wasinger agreed with Commissioner Steward. She stated that each Commissioner has to vote in public and answer for their votes. Additionally, by allowing the City Manager to be the only one that can meet with a Commissioner individually gives the City Manager a lot of power in regards to relaying information to other Commissioners. She would rather be able to contact a Commissioner individually to discuss an issue or to gain more information.

Commissioner Hickman stated that he has felt the same way many times; however, the public's perception of the level of trust would be impaired. Whether it is reality or perception, it is the perception the public has of governing bodies that is important.

Chairperson Billinger stated he agrees with Commissioner Hickman. Although he does not think that it would cause a problem with the present Commission, it could be a problem with future Commissions.

Vote: Ayes: Barbara Wasinger

Kent Steward

No: Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

12. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER: The City Manager requested the City Attorney speak to the Commissioners about water issues.

City Attorney John Bird briefed the Commissioners about the hearings that will be conducted by the Division of Water Resources that will be held in Hays May 15th through the 19th. The hearings will be on the request from the City of Hays to re-space the City wells on the Smoky Hill River.

13. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Chairperson Billinger stated that a joint meeting with the Ellis County Commission is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

Commissioner Steward commented that even though he was disappointed that the vote on increasing the quorum to four did not pass, he wanted to let the Commissioners know that it is a pleasure to work with them. The Commissioners are a talented and dedicated bunch of people. The Commission gets a lot done under the current system and he is optimistic that will continue.

Chairperson Billinger recommend that Lynn Haggard and Jake Glover be appointed to the Hays Library Board. The Commissioners will formally approve the recommendations at the May 25, 2006 Commission meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk