

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
Thursday, May 19, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

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

**May 5, 2016 Work Session Notes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on May 5, 2016; the minutes stand approved as presented.

**Sale and Use of Fireworks for the 2016 Fourth of July Holiday**

According to City ordinance, the sale and use of fireworks will be governed by the laws of the State of Kansas. Sales are limited to the dates of July 2, 3, and 4 only. Consumer use of fireworks is limited to July 2, 3, and 4 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The ordinance gives the Commission the option to suspend the sale and use of fireworks at its final regular meeting in May.

In previous years, the City was experiencing severe drought conditions, and the Commission was worried about the threat of fire. At this time, those conditions are not as threatening as in past years. Therefore, aside from the fact that there are many residents that do not like fireworks, City staff does not see a reason for the Commission to suspend the sale and use of fireworks for 2016.

It was the consensus of the Commission to allow fireworks for the 2016 season so no action was taken.

**Feasibility Analysis of Downtown Restroom**

At the April 14, 2016 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Schwaller requested that City staff look into the feasibility of putting a restroom facility in downtown Hays. There are no public restroom facilities in the downtown area.

Many events are held downtown and restrooms would definitely be an asset to these events.

Parks Director, Jeff Boyle, stated that City staff reviewed several locations in Downtown Hays that would be functional and easily accessible. The City does not own the land in the proposed spot at Union Pacific Plaza, but the current lease would allow the installation of a restroom facility.

If the Commission decides to move forward with a restroom downtown, Staff recommended the use of the cost effective pre-fabricated style restrooms. The installed price at the proposed Union Pacific Park location would range from \$75,900 for a small restroom to \$152,850 for a larger facility. The prices include the restroom, pre-prepared pad, and utilities. The utilities for this location are a significant portion of the total costs. Electricity would need to be brought over from 10<sup>th</sup> and Oak while the remaining utilities, specifically sewer, are under Main Street.

Staff's opinion is that a restroom in this area would be beneficial but is a lower priority due to the current need for restrooms in several park areas. Currently, the restroom facility at Seven Hills Park is City staff's highest priority due to the deteriorating structural conditions.

Commissioner Schwaller suggested the Parks Department prioritize potential projects for future consideration.

Commissioner Musil commented that a group wants to donate \$200,000 for a Downtown Pavilion along with a public restroom, and the only cost to the City would be ongoing maintenance. He thinks we should consider this.

Commissioner Meier stated we have a group that wants to pay for a restroom downtown, so he does not know why we would consider bearing these costs ourselves.

Commissioner Schwaller stated he asked for a feasibility study and that is what we received.

No action was taken.

**Discussion of Naming Street after Santa Maria, Paraguay**

At the May 12, 2016 Commission meeting, Chairperson Phelps mentioned that our Sister City, Santa Maria, Paraguay, had named a street Hays Kansas and suggested that a discussion be held to identify a street to name in their honor.

Commissioner Schwaller suggested an honorary name be given as other cities do.

City Attorney, John Bird, stated the Commission can by resolution as a symbolic act, give a street an honorary name, or by ordinance for a binding address change.

Commissioner Jones suggested a sign be placed at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Hall where the Sister Cities Plaza is located.

At the May 26, 2016 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to approve a resolution honorarily naming 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Maria, Paraguay Street. If approved, a sign will be placed at 13th Street and Sister Cities Plaza.

Chairperson Phelps suggested any costs involved be paid by the Sister Cities Committee.

**Other Items for Discussion**

Commissioner Meier commented that the downtown market begins Saturday, May 21, 2016. He also asked everyone to check out the new website for Fly Hays.

The work session was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk