

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
Thursday, May 21, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

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

May 7, 2015 Work Session Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on May 7, 2015; the minutes stand approved as presented.

Contract Sewer Main Cleaning

The Utilities Department initiated a multi-year program to clean sewer mains in 2013. Bids were solicited with a contract document that had a provision for contract annual renewal. Mayer Specialty Service, LLC was chosen in 2013 at \$1.19 per linear foot. In the summer of 2013 they cleaned and videoed 19 miles of sewer mains. Staff was very pleased with the work. Mayer Specialty agreed to continue the contract with a 1.5% increase from \$1.19 to \$1.21 per foot for 2014. Mayer Specialty cleaned and videoed 18 miles of sewer mains in the summer of 2014 and again staff was very pleased with the work. Mayer Specialty has agreed to continue the contract with a 2% increase from \$1.21 to \$1.23 per foot for 2015.

At the May 28, 2015 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be requested to extend the contract for sewer cleaning and videoing in 2015 by Mayer Specialty Services, LLC at \$1.23 per linear foot not to exceed \$120,000, to be funded from Wastewater Other Contractual Services.

Sale and Use of Fireworks for 2015 Fourth of July Holiday

According to City ordinance, the Commission is required to determine whether to suspend the sale and use of fireworks in a particular year at its final regular meeting in May.

At this time, City staff is not able to list a compelling reason for the Commission to suspend the sale and use of fireworks other than the fact that many residents do not like fireworks. Threats posed by fireworks to health and property are going to exist each year; therefore, they are not viewed by City staff as a reason to recommend suspending the sale and use. In previous years, the City was experiencing severe drought conditions, and the Commission was worried about the threat of fire.

According to the ordinance, the sale and use of fireworks, if permitted by the Commission, will be governed by the laws of the State of Kansas as to type. If the sale and use of fireworks are allowed, the sale shall be 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.

Roy Herman, co-owner of TAZ Fireworks, encouraged the Commissioners to allow fireworks this year.

The Commissioners discussed the issue and it was their consensus to allow fireworks in 2015. The City Commission must take action to suspend the sale and use of fireworks; if they don't take action, fireworks will be permitted as per the terms of the ordinance, so no action was necessary.

Removal of CID Section from Economic Development Policy

Commissioner Schwaller asked that discussion be held on the possibility of removing the Community Improvement District (CID) section from the City's Economic Development Policy. He stated he is not against economic development incentives, but is concerned if it is actually an incentive or if it merely improves the return on investment. He is also concerned with the use of funds from the incentive and he would like to see those funds go toward infrastructure, which would benefit the public. Commissioner Schwaller stated

there are at least two proposed CID's and he has some concerns about a patchwork of sales tax rates throughout the City. He also stated there is already development that is occurring without incentives.

Chairperson Phelps stated he looks at CID's as a legal tool that can be kept and used if needed on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Jones agreed he likes having the tool available, but stated that the requirements for the CID are very restrictive and do not apply to small business owners.

Commissioner Meier is not in favor of CID's, but stated that a project might come up he would support, like Target or Sam's Club, and would like the policy available.

Commissioner Musil stated if we want our town to continue to be viable, we have to have incentives available.

It was the consensus of the Commission to keep the policy as it is written.

City Manager, Toby Dougherty, will develop a checklist for applicants to streamline the process and will coordinate with the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development.

Other Items for Discussion

Commissioner Jones commented that the levy project is going well and that he has enjoyed the recent events held downtown. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at the American Legion.

The work session was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk