

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
July 3, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Eber Phelps, Shaun Musil, Ron Mellick, Kent Steward, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

Absent: Henry Schwaller IV

Vice-Chairperson Eber Phelps gave tribute to former Kansas State Representative Dan Johnson who passed away June 29th. He stated he had the extreme honor of serving 14 years in the Kansas Legislature with him and dedicated this meeting to him.

**June 19, 2014 Work Session Notes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on June 19, 2014; the minutes stand approved as presented.

**13<sup>th</sup> Street (Main to Milner) – Design Agreement**

In May, staff brought forward concepts and alternatives for the reconstruction of 13<sup>th</sup> Street from Main to Milner. Subsequently, the City Commission directed staff to solicit proposals for engineering design services. Proposals were received from four firms with the lowest cost proposal coming from Professional Engineering Consultants of Wichita in the amount of \$95,000.

At the July 10, 2014 Commission meeting the Commissioners will be requested to authorize the City Manager to enter an agreement with Professional Engineering Consultants in the amount of \$95,000 for engineering services related to the design of the reconstruction of 13<sup>th</sup> Street from Main to Milner, to be funded out of Capital Projects.

### **Water Supply Update**

Bernie Kitten, Director of Utilities, provided the Commissioners with an update on the status of the Smoky Hill and Big Creek well fields. He stated the recent rain has improved the levels in the City's wells and staff believes the water warning can be removed and the water watch can be instituted.

Toby Dougherty, City Manager, stated we are not completely out of the drought, but are out of the drought enough that our triggers aren't being met and we think we can move back to water watch. He also stated we would like to continue the investment of the public service announcements, but rather than explaining water warning regulations we would talk about the rebate programs we have to offer and general tips on how to conserve water.

Commissioner Steward raised concerns about scaling back the water regulations and causing citizens to be confused with the changes.

Commissioner Mellick pointed out that this would give property owners the opportunity to transition from cool season grass to warm season grass.

At the July 10, 2014 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution declaring the end of the Water Warning and declaring the existence of a Water Watch.

### **Addendum to the FOP Contract**

The City of Hays and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 48 Inc. have an agreement for fiscal year 2015 Wages and administration of the Pay Plan. The agreement states the City will provide members of the FOP bargaining unit with a one-time 2% bonus, paid bi-weekly beginning with the first payroll in 2015 and ending with the last payroll in 2015. The City will continue the current pay ranges.

At the July 10, 2014 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be requested to authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and Police Chief to sign the 2015 Addendum to the 2013 thru 2015 Union Contract.

### **Draining of Pools and Hot Tubs into Alleys**

Commissioner Mellick asked that the Commission consider modifying the City's Code of Ordinances to impose a fine for people who drain hot tubs and swimming pools into alleys. The practice by some residents of draining pools and hot tubs onto alleys can cause significant damage to the alleys which requires a lot of time, effort, and money on behalf of the Service Division to correct. The amended ordinance prepared by the City Attorney prohibits this practice and imposes a fine for anyone engaged in such practice.

The City's Code has also been amended to exempt the draining of swimming pools and hot tubs from the City's prohibition on allowing substantial amounts of water to escape from private property.

It is recommended that pools and hot tubs be drained into the sanitary sewer, storm sewer, impervious curb frontage, or keep it on their property.

Commissioner Mellick requested ID Creech, Director of Public Works bring back estimated costs to re-rock an alley due to damage from draining pools and hot tubs onto alleys.

Bob Dreher, owner of Dreher's Pools and Spas, suggested that better communication between customers and the companies can avoid these incidents. He stated that pool owners have been conscientious to maintain and repair their pools to help with water conservation and should not be punished with fines.

Commissioner Musil recommended the pool owners, that we have identified, be notified of the changes.

Commissioners will be requested to approve an ordinance exempting the draining of pools and hot tubs from the prohibition of water escaping the property, and imposing a fine for draining pools and hot tubs onto alleys at the July 10, 2014 Commission meeting.

### **Other Items for Discussion**

There were no other items for discussion.

The work session was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk