

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
July 5, 2007

Present: Troy Hickman, Barbara Wasinger, Ron Mellick, Randy Gustafson,  
Carol Park

Absent: Christopher Channell, Allan Lytton

**Consultant to Market Health Insurance Plan**

Susie Billinger, Director of Human Resources, recommended the selection of Alan Schumacher of Maverick Consulting from Wichita for services relating to reviewing current health insurance benefits and claims, requesting proposals for the City's health insurance plan and to make recommendations for future health insurance coverage. The fee for services is \$175/hour not to exceed \$8,000 plus travel expenses.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of the contract with Maverick Consulting at the July 12, 2007 Commission meeting.

**Wayfinding Signage Study – Prototype Project**

Staff was directed to look for less costly options for signage and consider locations along main thoroughfares where a few signs could be put in place that would have the most positive impact with the greatest exposure to the traveling public and highest representation of local destinations. Nine sign locations were chosen along Vine Street from the exit ramps off of I-70 southbound, which would identify 16 different locations. It has been estimated that it would cost approximately \$42,000 to \$46,000 for the nine signs.

Chairperson Hickman stated he feels this would be an appropriate amount to budget in the 2008 Budget for signage.

Commissioner Wasinger stated that she would like to see some signage throughout the community. She felt the cost was high for nine signs and would like to see if it was possible to find some signage that would be less costly.

Public Works Director Brenda Herrman stated that if the nine signs would be successful in directing traffic to the various areas of town, perhaps there could be an opportunity for some partnering with other entities to place additional signs throughout the community.

City Manager Randy Gustafson recommended that funds in the amount of \$40,000 be approved for the 2008 Budget. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to approve a Request for Proposals with specifications that may lower the cost of the signs.

The Commissioners agreed with the City Manager's recommendation.

### **Insurance for R-9 Ranch**

Currently the City of Hays has an agreement with Farmers National to handle all aspects of managing the R-9 Ranch. Monty Smith, the current manager, has asked the City to transfer its current insurance on the Ranch over to the Farmers National insurance division. Currently, the insurance is being handled through the City's insurance broker, Sunflower Insurance Group, with an annual premium of \$22,977. The premium for Farmers National would be \$26,076.

Finance Director/City Clerk Mark Loughry recommended the City switch to Farmers National. Sunflower Insurance does not offer a replacement cost policy, only an actual cash value policy. He feels that a single claim on a pivot at replacement cost rather than actual cash value would make up several years' difference in premiums. Additionally, having a firm that specializes in farm insurance handling claims is preferred.

Mr. Loughry stated that earlier today, he received an email from Farmers National that the premium will be increasing. He has not received the final premium total as of yet; staff will reevaluate the insurance cost once that figure has been ascertained.

### **Recodification of City Ordinances**

City Manager Randy Gustafson stated staff has made some minor corrections to the draft copy.

The Commissioners had no additional corrections.

### **2008 Budget Review**

The City Manager reviewed and discussed the proposed 2008 Budget with the Commissioners.

### **Other Items for Discussion**

Commissioner Wasinger requested a report from the Police Chief regarding fireworks shot off in the city limits during the days leading up to and including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **Executive Session**

Troy Hickman moved, Barbara Wasinger seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session for three minutes at 6:13 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. The executive session included the 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 to not reveal the City's position during negotiations.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

Ron Mellick

Chairperson Hickman called the work session back to order at 6:16 p.m. He stated no action was taken during executive session.

The work session was adjourned.

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

City Clerk

