

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
July 7, 2011

Present: Troy Hickman, Kent Steward, Henry Schwaller IV, Ron Mellick, Carol Park, Toby Dougherty

Absent: Barbara Wasinger

**Discussion on Buffalo Park**

At the request of Commissioner Steward, the possibility of adding buffalo to the greenspace behind Home Depot was placed on the agenda.

He discussed his vision for "Buffalo Park" with the Commission. Commissioner Steward estimated start up costs at \$89,550, with an average yearly expense of \$6,250 for feed, vaccinations, maintenance and staff time. The present herd of buffaloes, located on Highway 40 Bypass near Frontier Park, could be moved to the new location, or a new herd could be started.

Commissioner Schwaller stated he liked the idea; however, he is hesitant about moving the bison because efforts are being made to bring people to downtown Hays and the old, historic Fort Hays. The bison are an integral part of the Fort; he feels any money spent should be spent on upgrading the present location. He understands the allure of having the buffalo right off I-70, but he does not think that would be a big enough draw to bring people into the city.

Commissioner Hickman stated he feels the buffalo should not be put near I-70 due to the liability if something should happen.

Commissioner Mellick stated he would rather see money spent on a hike and bike trail rather than spending \$90,000 on relocating the herd or starting a new herd near I-70.

### **Bike Lane Striping Test Areas**

Commissioner Steward discussed with the Commission the possibility of painting bike lanes on a few select routes throughout Hays that could be added without making any infrastructure changes. He suggested bike lanes be placed on Ash and Fort Streets between 27<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. He feels these two streets would be a good place to consider as the first phase of a developing plan to install other lanes throughout the city.

City Manager Toby Dougherty suggested that, with the Commission's approval and under the existing contract with RDG, ask them for recommendations to implement some bike lanes.

The Commissioners were in agreement with the City Manager's suggestion.

### **Taxi License**

At the July 14, 2011 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve a taxi license for Bernard Boos. A taxi license was issued in March 2011 for ABC Transportation; however, ABC desires to pull out of the operation. Mr. Boos is the primary driver and would like to continue the taxi service under his name.

### **Resolution Authorizing Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2011-A**

At the July 14, 2011 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Bonds. The total of this 15 year issue will be \$2,220,000 reimbursing the City for expenditures for improvements to Vine Street, the Tallgrass Addition – Phase IV, Golden Belt Estates 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition, Heart of America 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, and King's Gate 1<sup>st</sup> Addition.

**2012 Budget Presentation**

The City Manager presented and discussed the 2012 Budget with the Commissioners. Discussion of the 2012 Budget will continue at the July 21, 2011 work session after the Commissioners have had time to review it.

**Other Items for Discussion**

Discussion was held about fireworks being allowed for five days this year. The City Manager said he and County Administrator Greg Sund will coordinate the days fireworks are allowed to be shot off next year in both the city and county. At this time, it is the consensus of the Commission that only two or three days be allowed next year.

The work session adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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

City Clerk