

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
July 19, 2012

Present: Troy Hickman, Kent Steward, Henry Schwaller IV, Ron Mellick, Barbara Wasinger, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

**Hays Neighbors Association's Sidewalk Request**

No one appeared on behalf of the Hays Neighbors Association, therefore no discussion was held.

**2013 Job Classification and Pay Plan**

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution at the July 26, 2012 Commission meeting adopting the 2013 salary schedule and job classification plan, which includes a 3% pay adjustment for City employees. Additionally, the minimum and maximum of each pay range will be adjusted by 3%.

**2013 Budget Review**

Assistant City Manager Paul Briseno reviewed the 2013 Budget with the Commissioners. At the July 26, 2012 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will set the date for a public hearing for the 2013 Budget to be held during the Commission meeting on August 9, 2012.

**Determination of Outside Agency Funding**

Discussion was held about outside agency funding in the 2013 Budget. Three of the agencies requested more funding (totaling \$11,318) in 2013 than what was received in 2012.

Commissioner Steward stated that all of the agencies receiving funds provide worthwhile programs in the community and he favors granting the

additional funding. He suggested that 2012 funding levels be used as a base line to determine future funding.

Commissioner Wasinger stated the fundamental question is whether or not government is responsible to continue to escalate funding because the agencies need it. Is it time for other people to step up and provide funding? In her opinion, government is not responsible for funding to outside agencies. The City cannot continue to maintain funding for every agency making a request.

City Manager Toby Dougherty stated the outside agencies could be notified ahead of time that the 2012 amounts will be considered the base line prior to making their annual requests.

Commissioner Wasinger stated she is not comfortable giving the three agencies a combined total of \$11,318 more than was given in 2012. She feels this sets a bad precedent; there should be a limit to how much government helps outside agencies. She does not mind giving them some additional money; however, not that much.

### **City of Hays Funded Recognition Policy**

If an outside agency receives funding from the City, the Commissioners feel that it should be noted in their brochures and letterhead. A draft policy will be brought to a future work session for discussion.

### **Term Limits for Advisory Committee Appointees**

Discussion was held about term limits for Mayor appointed boards and committees. Currently, only the Building Trades Board has a term limit of two consecutive terms of four years per term.

Commissioner Schwaller feels that it is time to implement term limits for the other boards/committees so that new people are brought in on a rotating basis. This would help provide a fresh outlook on various issues/problems.

Discussion was held about the difficulty of finding someone to serve on some of the committees; having term limits would make finding new members even more difficult.

Staff will discuss this further and the issue will be brought forward again at a future work session.

### **Other Issues for Discussion**

Commissioner Schwaller distributed a list of Kansas communities who have implemented either a voluntary ban or an enforced ban on outside watering during the drought period the Midwest is now experiencing. He requested the City Manager review what steps the City has taken to insure the wise use of our water supply.

City Manager Toby Dougherty stated the City of Hays has conservation phases. We have a heightened awareness of water usage in Hays, so our citizens are used to operating with that awareness. The use of low-flow plumbing devices and limited watering hours, along with that awareness, helps keep our usage low. Increase in usage has been noted; however, the City has not yet hit the triggers for going to the next phase of our water conservation plan. The Smoky Wellfield is in pretty good shape. Reconfiguring the Smoky Wellfield several years ago has made it more drought resistant. The Big Creek Wellfield, which is in a different aquifer, is more stressed. The City Manager stated he could see hitting the “water warning” triggers on that Wellfield sooner than on the Smoky Wellfield. If that happens, an outdoor watering ban will be implemented. Currently, City staff is trying to keep the grass alive in ball parks, Massey and Aubel-Bickle Parks. The grass is stressed and not growing, the City is merely trying to keep it alive. Other grassy areas on City property have gone dormant due to heat and lack of moisture.

### **Executive Session**

Barbara Wasinger moved, Henry Schwaller IV seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session at 7:25 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss personnel issues, attorney-client privileged communications, union negotiations, and pending litigation. The executive session included the Commissioners, the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, and the City

Attorney. K.S.A. 75-4319 authorizes the use of executive session to discuss the topics stated in the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman  
Kent Steward  
Henry Schwaller IV  
Ron Mellick  
Barbara Wasinger

Chairperson Hickman called the work session back to order at 7:40 p.m. He stated no action was taken during executive session.

The work session was adjourned.

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

Doris Wing – City Clerk