

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
August 4, 2011

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

Update on the Safe Ride Program

Ed Howell, Fort Hays State University Police Chief, updated the Commissioners on the Safe Ride Program.

Mr. Howell stated that the Student Government Association (SGA) has made a request and it has been approved, to add an additional evening, Thursday, to the Program, effective August 18, 2011. Currently, Safe Ride operates on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. SGA approved a \$14,000 line item budget to expand Safe Ride to include Thursday nights from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. on a one-year trial basis.

Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex Playground Equipment Bids

At the August 11, 2011 Commission meeting, commissioners will be requested to approve a bid submitted by Sterling West, in the amount of \$88,100, for playground equipment at the Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex.

Review of 2011 Fireworks Season and 2012 Planning

Fire Chief Gary Brown and Police Chief Don Scheibler reported on the activities of their respective departments in relation to the consumer use of fireworks July 1st through July 5th. Two additional days were added this year; some concern was expressed about the additional days as well as the hours fireworks use is allowed.

Commissioner Steward proposed that the days allowed to use fireworks in the city limits be reduced to two days in 2012. He also suggested that the Mayor

be authorized to ban fireworks at any point if weather conditions are deemed to be unsafe.

Commissioner Mellick stated he prefers that three days be allowed to use fireworks; however, he will not vote for anything unless there is some enforcement.

City Manager Toby Dougherty agreed that by shortening the number of days that fireworks are allowed, along with more pro-active discussions with the public, will cut down on fireworks noise, trash, and violations. He feels that fireworks enforcement is difficult because so many people are shooting off fireworks and it can be very hard to determine which location is violating the fireworks ordinance.

Commissioner Hickman felt that the Commission may want to also reduce the number of days that fireworks are sold in addition to limiting the number of days fireworks are used. The City follows what the State allows for sale of fireworks – nine days.

Mike Koerner, 3500 Canal, has a fireworks stand every year. He suggested several different ways educational campaigns could be conducted leading up to the 4th of July. He also requested the City not change the number of days that fireworks are sold.

The consensus of the Commissioners is to allow the use of fireworks on three days and will discuss the number of days that fireworks can be sold at the first work session in September.

Vacate of Graystar Addition

The Graystar First Addition was accepted by the City Commission on April 22, 2010. At the November 9, 2010 City Commission meeting, the Commissioners considered approving a resolution for establishing a special benefit district to fund improvements to the Addition. The resolution was not approved due to the high assessment cost that would have been imposed on adjacent property owners. The developer has chosen to vacate the plat of the Graystar First Addition. However, the plat contains dedicated right-of-way for an

area where 33rd Street could potentially connect Highway 183 Alternate to Columbine Drive. It would be logical to retain this right-of-way for future use and the developer is in agreement. Staff recommended vacating the plat with the exception of the 35' right-of-way for future 33rd Street improvements along the south side of the plat. The City will not have to maintain the right-of-way.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of the vacate with the exception at the August 11, 2011 Commission meeting.

41st Street Conceptual Plans for Commission Review

Chuck Bartlett, senior project manager for Benesch and Associates, presented four options for reconstructing 41st Street from US 183 By-pass to Hall Street. The Commissioners were in agreement about choosing Option 1 with the following features:

- 3-lane concrete road the entire distance from the By-pass to Hall St.
- Curb and gutter
- Storm sewer
- Reinforced concrete boxes at two drainage crossings
- Ten-foot wide concrete multi-use path along north side of the road and the entire length of the project.

This project was submitted to KDOT in 2008 for the KDOT 5-year plan with an estimated construction cost of \$2,943,000. Since that time, changes have been made to increase the six-foot concrete path to 10 feet, as well as make stormwater improvements to reduce the impact on downstream flooding. Due to those changes and a general increase in construction costs, the estimated cost exceeds the amount budgeted.

The construction cost of Option 1 is \$3,395,000, which is over the original construction budget of \$2,943,000 by \$452,000. KDOT has agreed to increase funding to cover 80% of the additional funds needed. The City share would increase by \$103,960.

Discussion was held about utilizing Hike and Bike funds and Stormwater funds to pay for the increased City share since the increased cost is mainly due to those two items being added to the project.

Vernon Befort, Scott McGrath, and Travis Rickford, who all live in the 41st Street Plaza area, spoke in support of Option 1.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve Option 1 at the August 11, 2011 Commission meeting.

Lining of Metal Storm Sewer Bidding

Several thousand feet of corrugated metal storm sewer piping has been inspected and found to be severely degraded. The 2011 Budget identifies \$236,000 available for repairs. A bid package has been developed for the structural lining of metal storm sewer pipes in several areas of the city. By consensus, the bid package was approved to be mailed to potential bidders and advertised in the Hays Daily News and on the city website.

Ordinance/Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Internal Improvement Bonds, Series 2011-A

At the August 11, 2011 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve an ordinance and a resolution authorizing the issuance of approximately \$2,200,000 of General Obligation Internal Improvement Bonds. The proceeds of these Bonds will be used to finance Vine Street improvements as well as improvements to five special assessment districts.

Other Items for Discussion

Commissioner Steward requested the City Manager update the Commission on Essential Air Services funding after he meets with representatives in Washington D.C. next week.

Commissioner Steward discussed the redistricting process in the Kansas legislature. He feels it would be advantageous to present a unified front with Ellis County and Fort Hays State University by making a joint presentation. He

requested the City Manager contact the County Administrator to see if there would be any interest in doing something of this nature.

City Manager Dougherty reviewed the 2010 Census numbers with the Commissioners. The Kansas Secretary of State office, for redistricting purposes, revised the 2010 Census numbers for Hays down from 20,510 to 18,716. Students at Fort Hays State, who are residents of someplace other than Hays, are taken out of the count. He is concerned about how this drop could impact Hays. He will be visiting with other administrators/managers and the League of Kansas Municipalities to find out how this impacts other cities similar to Hays.

The work session adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk