

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
August 15, 2013

Present: Henry Schwaller IV, Eber Phelps, Shaun Musil, Ron Mellick, John Bird,
Toby Dougherty

Absent: Kent Steward

August 1, 2013 Work Session Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Work Session held on August 1, 2013; the minutes stand approved as presented.

Discussion of Larks Park Recognition Plaques

Two years ago, the City had budgeted \$10,000 for backstop improvements at Larks Park. The City was contacted by Fort Hays State University about the possibility of replacing the entire backstop. As this would require more than the \$10,000 budgeted, the City indicated to the University that it would pledge the budgeted \$10,000 for the project if the University came up with the rest of the money. The total project to replace the backstop was \$18,350.

Sometime this year, a plaque appeared on the east side of the Larks Park grand stand identifying The Meckenstock Group for its financial contribution to this project. City staff was contacted by Fort Hays State University and advised the plaque would be small and unobtrusive.

Commissioner Mellick was thinking about the historical nature of the baseball park, which was constructed in 1940, and is afraid there will be more plaques, more holes drilled, and more recognition. He would like to see the plaque removed, and the holes not fixed, but restored.

Commissioner Schwaller stated any city property should be reviewed by the City Commission before a plaque is put up.

City Manager Toby Dougherty stated City staff would draft a policy and present it to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Update on Lease with North Central Kansas Technical College

In May of 2009, the City entered into a lease with North Central Kansas Technical College (NCKTC) for space at the former Army Reserve facility. In lieu of monetary compensation for space in the facility, the Technical College and the City agreed that the Technical College would assist the City with various projects that would not only save the City money, but would also provide the Technical College students with valuable on-the-job experience.

The Technical College has worked on a number of projects for the city, but from a staff perspective, the arrangement has not worked out as well as anticipated. The City has experienced issues with the quality of work on two of the projects.

City Manager Toby Dougherty stated we have had issues trying to identify projects that fit the Technical College's curriculum.

Eric Burks, North Central Kansas Technical College President, responded to these concerns stating NCKTC recently was named the No. 6, two-year college in the nation. He stated they are not used to issues dealing with quality, or lack thereof, because they have typically done very well in that area. Mr. Burks also pointed out the students enrolled at the college also provide an economic impact for the City.

Commissioner Schwaller asked for better communication, and would like the Commission to be better informed, with regular updates.

Other Items for Discussion

Finance Director Kim Rupp gave an update on the Home Depot TDD/TIF.

City Manager Toby Dougherty talked to the Commissioners about the expenses which were submitted to Union Pacific Railroad for reimbursement from the train derailment.

The work session was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk