

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes  
August 21, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

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

**August 7, 2014 Work Session Notes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on August 7, 2014; the minutes stand approved as presented.

Bernie Kitten, Director of Utilities, had a non-agenda item to report. The City of Hays had a monthly violation for total coliform. It is not uncommon to test positive for coliform and the follow-up test to be negative. However, two in one month is a violation. Coliform bacteria are harmless bacteria and the water is safe to drink. Even though this is not considered a health problem, Kansas Department of Health and Environment rules require us to notify the public. He stated warmer water this time of year and not flushing water mains might have caused the issue.

City Manager Toby Dougherty stated City staff has not flushed the lines as often because of public perception during the times of drought. The maintenance will be resumed to ensure health and safety.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade/Replacement**

The current City of Hays wastewater treatment facility was built in the 1950s and received a few modifications and upgrades since its original construction. The original facility was built to treat wastewater to a specific standard prior to releasing it into Chetolah Creek. As the standards for this wastewater have become more restrictive, it has become more difficult to meet the requirements given the technological limitations of the wastewater facility.

Jeffrey Barnard and Brian Meier representing Burns & McDonnell explained to the Commissioners the need for a more advanced plant. City staff has been working in conjunction with Burns and McDonnell to evaluate the current facility, as well as specific options for improving the facility to meet future permit levels. The anticipated project cost based on similar facilities constructed in the region would range from \$24 to \$28 million. New discharge criteria set to take effect in 2018 are forcing City staff to improve the facility.

City Attorney John Bird stated resisting the mandates could lead to expensive litigation.

**Other Items for Discussion**

Commissioner Phelps complimented Roger Moerke, Utility Wastewater Superintendent, stating his interview on ECTV regarding our wastewater treatment plant was very informative.

Chairperson Schwaller thanked those involved in making the Core2Campus event successful.

The work session was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

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

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk