

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
September 4, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

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

August 21, 2014 Work Session Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on August 21, 2014; the minutes stand approved as presented.

Discussion of DHDC Funding for 2015

City Commissioners requested that Downtown Hays Development Corp. (DHDC) explain their mission and present their case for continued funding from the City of Hays. The City of Hays has allocated \$53,655 in funding for downtown purposes in the 2015 Budget.

Stacey Smith, President of DHDC's Board of Directors, discussed their mission, role, community contributions and goals which were defined in a packet distributed to the Commissioners. She stated there is an effort underway to improve communication among the merchants.

Traci Stanford, DHDC Executive Director, stated the group's supporters and members of the downtown community are committed to the organization. She looks forward to building relationships with the downtown businesses to continue to make an impact in this community.

Karen Dreiling, owner of the Furniture Look and a DHDC board member, cited the "romance" of being in the downtown area as the reason she has not pursued opportunities to relocate.

Commissioner Steward voiced his concerns stating there are real communication problems not only with the Commission, but with the people downtown and the people in the community.

At the September 11, 2014 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to authorize expenditures of \$53,655 to the Downtown Hays Development Corporation for 2015.

Solid Waste Polycart Purchase

Current polycarts have been in use since 2008. Physical demands on the polycarts cause some to come into disrepair and require replacement. Replacement must come from an in-house inventory because of the special logo on the polycarts. Additional customers must also be provided polycarts.

At the September 11, 2014 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to authorize the expenditure of \$21,450 from Solid Waste Reserves to purchase 400 95-gallon polycarts, 50 wheels, and 50 hinge pins from Rehrig Pacific Company.

Fireworks Discussion

Following the last-minute decision to allow the sale and use of fireworks for the 2014 holiday season, the City Commission asked that discussion of the subject be placed on a future work session agenda. Current policy states the Commission decides at its final meeting in May if the sale and use of fireworks will be allowed during the Fourth of July holiday. The City Commission has the right to suspend the sale and use of common fireworks within the city limits at any time, if weather conditions so require.

Commissioner Musil stated May is too early to make the decision to ban or allow fireworks and also suggested reducing the number of days for using fireworks.

Commissioner Mellick stated the vendors asked that decision should be made in May to order stock and prepare for the season.

There were significant rains in June so the decision in May to not allow fireworks drew many complaints.

Chairperson Schwaller stated the ordinance has been altered many times and we can alter the ordinance as much as we want and it is not going to eliminate the complaints or problems.

The Commissioners agreed to not change the current ordinance.

Other Items for Discussion

Commissioner Phelps commented that he identified about 17 businesses downtown that cater to Fort Hays State University students and suggested the college students be made aware of what is available to them downtown.

The work session was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk