

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes

Thursday, September 17, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Eber Phelps, Shaun Musil, James Meier, Lance Jones, John Bird, Toby Dougherty and Kim Rupp

Absent: Henry Schwaller IV

September 3, 2015 Work Session Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on September 3, 2015; the minutes stand approved as presented.

DHDC Update

Sandy Jacobs, President of the Downtown Hays Development Corporation (DHDC) and Sara Bloom, Executive Director of DHDC, shared the new marketing plan for downtown. The marketing plan called the Bricks in Downtown Hays will be launched October 1, 2015. It was designed to develop a place identity for Downtown Hays like Mass Street in Lawrence or Aggieville in Manhattan, where community members feel a sense of unity, a university presence, and energy and excitement from the activities, businesses and people there.

The proposed branding and marketing strategies are based on feedback from community members and Fort Hays State University students who participated in a series of focus groups.

The Commissioners were also updated on new activities that DHDC have planned.

USACE Section 205 Study – Survey and Geotechnical Services

The City of Hays entered into a study cost share agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the Section 205 Small Project program to study the Lincoln Draw watershed. The study will look at potential locations for detention basins within the Lincoln Draw watershed to reduce flood risk within the watershed. The City of Hays is proposing to meet certain obligations under this agreement through in-kind services which will include work performed by City staff and work contracted to outside engineering firms.

Steven Walters, Stormwater Specialist, reported that City staff issued a request for proposals for land survey and geotechnical services to be contracted as in-kind services as part of the study cost share agreement. The proposed contract will be used to meet the 2015 and part of the 2016 monetary obligations for the cost share agreement.

At the September 24, 2015 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to direct the City Manager to execute a contract with Olsson Associates for field services in the amount of \$109,365 to be funded out of the Stormwater Reserve Fund.

Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Loan Ordinance

As has been discussed for several weeks, the City's wastewater plant is at the end of its useful life and more stringent environmental regulations have forced staff to seek a major improvement project. The facility plan estimates total costs including financing in the amount of \$30,260,000.

Finance Director, Kim Rupp, reported on several options available to finance the project. After review City staff feels the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan is the best source of funding the project costs.

At the September 24, 2015 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to approve an ordinance authorizing the Kansas Water Pollution Control

Revolving Fund Loan financing the City of Hays Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project in the amount of \$30,260,000.

Airport Marketing and 2016 EAS Bid Update/Release of 2015 Marketing Funds

City Manager, Toby Dougherty, updated the Commissioners on the upcoming Airport marketing campaign as well as the process for the 2016 Essential Air Service (EAS) contract bids. He stated because of scheduling conflicts early this year, the City lost its early morning flight for two months and enplanements have decreased since then. The morning flight was restored and we would like to see those using the flight increase. The new campaign will emphasize the convenience, reliability, and affordability of the Hays Regional Airport. He stated we need to get the message out to the public that we need to utilize our airport or it will not be there to utilize. If we lose SkyWest, we lose the viability of the airport.

At the September 24, 2015 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to authorize the expenditure of \$25,000 from the Financial Policy Projects line item to fund marketing efforts at the Hays Regional Airport.

Other Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

The work session was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk