

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
October 1, 2009

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

Hydraulic Rescue Tool Purchase

At the October 8, 2009 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve a bid in the amount of \$26,010.23, submitted by AMKUS Incorporated, for a hydraulic rescue tool.

Permissible Fireworks

Fire Chief Gary Brown and Police Chief Jim Braun recommended that the ordinance regulating fireworks in the city limits be amended to allow the sale and use of all fireworks that are legal in the State of Kansas. The current ordinance regulating fireworks limits the sale and use of fireworks to those devices that are ground based; aerial fireworks such as rockets and roman candles are prohibited. Because aerial fireworks are available for sale outside of the city limits, it is very hard to enforce the prohibition of their use in the city limits. While the degree of risk a community is willing to accept is a decision of the City Commission, this decision, in effect, has been made by the state legislature. It is difficult to locally prohibit a behavior that is legal throughout the state.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approving an amended ordinance at the October 8, 2009 Commission meeting.

Abatement of Overgrown Trees at 101 West 33rd Street

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution abating overgrown trees at the October 8, 2009 Commission meeting.

Abatement of Abandoned Vehicle at 507 Milner

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution abating an abandoned inoperable vehicle at 507 Milner at the October 8, 2009 Commission meeting.

Replat of Lot 11 of the Replat of Lots 2-4, Block 5, Centennial Estates Sixth Addition

At the October 8, 2009 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of a resolution replatting Lot 11 of the Replat of Lots 2-4, Block 5, Centennial Estates Sixth Addition. The replat divides one lot into four for the purpose of residential development.

Final Plat of Club House Gardens I Addition

The Commissioners will be requested to approve the Final Plat of Clubhouse Gardens I at the October 8, 2009 Commission meeting.

Automated Refuse Collection Program Update

Public Works Director Brenda Herrman updated the Commissioners on the automated refuse collection that has been in operation since January 2008. She presented the following statistics:

- Currently, there are 6704 customers. 60 of those customers have the smaller 65 gallon cart instead of the larger 95 gallon cart. Also there are 120 customers with two carts and eight with three carts.
- While the typical refuse customer brings their polycart to the alley or street curb on collection day, there are eight elderly or disabled customers for whom the refuse collector goes to the house to get the cart at no additional charge.
- There was no appreciable change in the amount of either refuse or recycling as a result of the change to automated collection. The total volume of refuse in 2008 was 5,000 tons, and the trend for refuse in 2009

is just slightly less than that of 2008 with a slight increase in recycling volume.

- In 2008, 1,209 notification letters were sent to customers for various violations of the Solid Waste Ordinance and/or Refuse Recyclables Collection Policy. As of the end of August 2009, 1,025 letters were issued in 2009. Of the 1,209 letters sent in 2008, 106 were for leaving the polycart at the street curb more than 24 hours after the date of collection. As of the end of August 2009, that number was 58. Education of new customers is the main reason notification letters will continue to be necessary.
- Many polycarts are placed on curb-side sidewalks for collection on streets without alleys. There was some concern before the program started as to whether this would cause an issue for people with disabilities; however, there have been no complaints or concerns that Public Works is aware of. Should ADA issues arise in the future, placing the cart in the curb instead of on the sidewalk could provide resolution.
- Stockton inmate labor played a large role in beginning the switch to automated collection. Inmates were used to receive and mobilize the polycarts late in 2007 and early 2008. Later into the program, they were used to bale recycled paper at the recycling center. Since April 2009, inmate labor has been unavailable. The Solid Waste Division has compensated by utilizing overtime (typically only during holiday weekends). The increase in Solid Waste Division overtime costs due to the loss of Stockton inmates should not exceed \$2,000 per year, having little or no impact on the overall budget.
- Under the previous manual system of refuse collection, Solid Waste crews spent approximately 296 hours per week on refuse and recycling collection; whereas, under the automated program, this number has been reduced to 217 hours per week. The reduction of nearly 80 hours per week has allowed for the Solid Waste Division to assume full-time

responsibility for the operation of the compost site and still reduce the number of employees in Solid Waste from 10 to 9.

- In general, the alleys are much neater and cleaner since the utilization of the polycarts, and the City has received numerous positive comments in that regard.

The Public Works Director stated that current projections indicate that it will not be necessary to raise sanitation rates until 2013. Additionally, there has been no turn-over of employees nor have there been any job-related back injuries.

Executive Session

Barbara Wasinger moved, Troy Hickman seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session at 7:15 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss property acquisition. The executive session included the Commissioners, the City Manager, and the City Attorney. K.S.A. 25-4319 authorizes the use of executive session to discuss property acquisition.

Vote: Ayes: Ron Mellick
Christopher Channell
Barbara Wasinger
Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV

Chairperson Mellick called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m. He stated no action was taken during executive session.

The work session was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk