

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
October 6, 2011

Present: Barbara Wasinger, Troy Hickman, Kent Steward, Paul Briseno,
John Bird

Absent: Henry Schwaller IV, Ron Mellick

Vine Street Welcome Banner Design

The north Vine Street corridor banner fixtures, located on street poles, are currently vacant. These fixtures offer an opportunity to welcome visitors to our community while increasing the overall aesthetics of Vine Street. The Hays Convention & Visitors Bureau collaborated with the Hays Beautification Committee and sent out a “Call for Entry” request to local artists for a banner design. Three proposals were submitted; the design submitted by Jessi Jacobs was chosen by the Hays Beautification Committee. No prize money is being awarded – just the satisfaction of having their design displayed in the banners.

It is estimated to cost \$9,360 to produce the banners and will be paid out of the Convention & Visitors Bureau contingency fund. The Commissioners approved of the design; it is not necessary for this item to come back to the City Commission as this is under the City Manager’s spending authority.

Dog Park Discussion

The Friends of the Hays Dog Park (FHDP) have organized an effort to create a dog park in Hays. The group is accepting donations to assist with the construction costs for a new dog park which is estimated to be \$50,000-\$75,000, subject to the selected location. To date, the group has raised approximately \$6,700. The FHDP has selected the green space area just east of 13th and Harvest Road, adjacent to Kiwanis Park, as the best overall location. This area is currently used as a source of alfalfa bales for the buffalo herd.

Kim Perez, representing FHDP, spoke on the grass roots efforts to develop a plan, advocate and raise funds for a dog park in Hays. Ms. Perez stated some people have been hesitant to commit funds until the group has received Commission approval of a site for the dog park.

Commissioner Hickman stated he has received some concerns about having the park located adjacent to Kiwanis Park at 13th and Harvest because it is too close to a residential neighborhood and too close to Kiwanis Park. He is also concerned that this would be one more area the Parks Department will have to maintain. He suggested the park be placed on airport property that is not usable for other purposes due to the Vortex equipment that is there.

Chairman Wasinger asked why FHDP did not consider a location at the Sports Complex.

Ms. Perez stated the only negative on that site is because it is on the outskirts of town.

Kent Werth, 1615 Copper Creek, presented a petition signed by neighbors in the area who are against having the dog park located at 13th and Harvest.

Stan Mayers, 1617 Copper Creek, spoke against the dog park because of the noise. He also felt that taking the area out of productive use (growing alfalfa) is not a wise use of the land.

Further discussion on the dog park will take place at the October 20, 2011 work session.

Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course Back-nine Irrigation – Award of Bid

The back-nine irrigation system, which was installed in 1995 by volunteers and members of the golf course, is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. Over the past few years the irrigation system has failed on numerous occasions requiring a lot of staff time and money. Staff recommended accepting the low bid from T & A Turf and Irrigation, in the amount of \$404,200, for the installation of a new irrigation system and also recommended proceeding with this project in 2011 to ensure it is ready for the 2012 playing season.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of the bid at the October 13, 2011 Commission meeting.

Curb and Brick Repair – Award of Bid

Bids were received for curb and brick repairs at various locations throughout the City. The lowest bid, in the amount of \$64,664, was received by J-Corp. At the October 13, 2011 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve the low bid.

Commission Update on Brine Operations

I. D. Creech, Director of Public Works, presented a report about brine usage, which has been part of the City’s snow and ice removal operations since 2002. Usage of the brine fluctuates with the number of snow events, amounts of snow per event, and the temperature for each snow event. Additional costs are incurred based on predicted snow events that do not materialize. Following are the cost for material purchased for brine use for the last four years:

2008	\$3,769	2009	\$7,759
2010	3,985	2011	7,280

Two brine tanks are used, an 1800 gallon tank and a 1200 gallon tank. The larger tank is mounted on one of two trucks capable of holding the tank; the smaller tank is mounted on its own truck. Brine is applied at the rate of sixty (60) gallons per lane mile.

The work session was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk