

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
October 18, 2007

Present: Troy Hickman, Barbara Wasinger, Ron Mellick, Christopher Channell, Allan Lytton, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

Resolution to Abate Sidewalk at 510 West 23rd Street

The owner of the property at 510 West 23rd St. has informed staff that he has hired a private contractor to reconstruct the sidewalk.

City Manager Dougherty recommended that the Commission pass the resolution to abate the problem in case the property owner does not follow through with the repairs.

The Commissioners will consider approval of the resolution at the October 25, 2007 Commission meeting.

2008 Street Maintenance Program

There is \$800,000 in available special highway funds for 2008 street maintenance projects. Brenda Herrman, Director of Public Works, reviewed the preliminary plan for street maintenance to various streets throughout the city.

Staff will prepare bid documents so that contracts could be awarded for the repair projects. The bids would be based on quantities so that adjustments could be made, if needed, prior to construction. At the winter's end, City staff will reevaluate the street system based on the effect the freeze/thaw cycle may have had on streets not currently on the 2008 schedule. Staff and the Commissioners would then have the opportunity to make adjustments to the streets receiving improvements in 2008.

13th & Hall Street Sign, Plaques, and Bench

The City of Hays installed four flag poles in the green space area located on the corner of 13th & Hall Street. The United States flag is flown there, as well as flags from Hays' three sister cities countries, specifically, China, Germany, and Paraguay. The Sister Cities Committee is requesting that the City of Hays install a sign, four plaques, and a bench at this location. The Hays Rotary Club has offered to fund 50% of the cost of this project, estimated to be \$2,470, through the City's Matching Funds program. An amount of \$10,000 is allocated in 2007 for this program through the Special Park and Recreation Budget. No prior requests have been made by other civic groups for use of these matching funds. The City's share of the project would be \$1,235.

Chairperson Hickman stated the area has not been dedicated as Sister Cities Park and he has a problem with dedicating plaques in this area. He would also like to see other flags flown there occasionally. He also questioned whether a park bench in that area would be used.

Commissioner Wasinger stated that when the flag poles were installed, it was for the specific purpose of flying Sister Cities' flags.

The City Manager directed the Parks Director to provide a site layout of the area. The City Attorney was directed to research the process for naming a park/greenspace.

The Commissioners will discuss this issue again at the November 1, 2007 work session.

Hike & Bike Trail Master Plan/Grant Application

In 2006, the City Commission approved a contract with Baughman Company, P.A. to plan, design, create a Master Plan and prepare grant applications for a hike/bike trail in and around Hays. For various reasons, Baughman Company has not completed the necessary work and missed the deadline. The City has not paid for any of the services that have been provided so far.

Proposal for Lease-Purchase for Welcome Center

Four bids that met requirements were received for the financing of the new Welcome Center. The Commissioners will be requested to approve a bid submitted by Bank of Hays at the October 25, 2007 Commission meeting.

Other Items for Discussion

Chairperson Hickman requested that discussion take place at a future meeting regarding the donation of greenspace areas. He would like to get input from the Planning Commission.

The City Manager stated that changes to the Development Policy are on a future work session agenda.

The City Manager reported that he met with Fort Hays State University (FHSU) representatives for a semi-annual meeting. One of issues that arose was Larks Park. The Commission has voted to do some improvements in 2008; however the University would like to make fence improvements this fall. They would like to have the fence in place before their season starts in March. Because FHSU works off a different calendar year than the City does, it was suggested that FHSU do the project this fall, with the City reimbursing FHSU in January 2008. The Commissioners were in agreement with the plan.

Executive Session

Barbara Wasinger moved, Christopher Channell seconded, that the Governing Body recess to executive session at 6:06 p.m. for five minutes to discuss contract negotiations. The executive session included the Commissioners, the City Manager, and the City Attorney. The justification for the executive session is that it is in the public's best interest to not reveal the City positions during negotiations.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Ron Mellick
Christopher Channell
Allan Lytton

Chairperson Hickman called the work session back to order at 6:10 p.m.
He stated no action was taken during executive session.

The work session was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk