

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Wayne Billinger
Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Henry Schwaller IV
Kent Steward

Chairperson Billinger declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

2. MINUTES: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 12, 2006 regular session; the minutes stand approved as written.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Finance Director/City Clerk Mark Loughry reported that investments on September 30, 2006 totaled \$32,750,000, which is the same as August 2006. Interest due at maturity on current investments totals \$1,514,142, which is an increase of \$30,460 over August 31, 2006. In September, the Finance/City Clerk's Office invested \$3,500,000 of maturing CD's with a weighted average interest rate of 5.29%.

Mr. Loughry stated that sales tax collections for the General Fund in September totaled \$468,407, which is a decrease of \$29,600 when compared to 2005. To date, sales tax collections are up a weighted 2.64% over 2005.

Troy Hickman moved, Barbara Wasinger seconded, that the Financial Statement for the month of September 2006 be approved.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger
Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Henry Schwaller IV
Kent Steward

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no comments.

5. HAYS EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION: Chairperson Billinger recognized the following City of Hays employees for their service to the Hays community:

5-YEAR AWARDS

Jim McLaughlin	Nikki Stramel	Chad Ruder
Melanie Fisher	Brandon Wright	Kirk Klein
Dawn McCormick	Tom Roy	JoAnn Schroller
Chris Rhoades	Michel Bachar	Mark Pfeifer

10-YEAR AWARDS

Mitch Berens	Brenda Herrman	Tim Hickert
Curtis Weber	Martin Byfield	

15-YEAR AWARDS

Mark Windholz	Steve Barnes	Brian Roe
Doug Randa		

20-YEAR AWARDS

Don Stejskal	Brian Scoby	Dan Roberts
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25-YEAR AWARDS

Pierre Baczowski	Mark Darnall	
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35-YEAR AWARD

Morris Denning

40-YEAR AWARD

Doris Wing

6. CONSENT AGENDA: There were no items on the consent agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS STRUCTURES – 700 EAST 6TH

STREET: Action on this item was tabled at the October 12, 2006 Commission meeting to give the owner of the property, Arden Kobler, additional time to resolve the problem of dangerous structures located on the property at 700 East 6th Street.

Henry Schwaller IV moved, Troy Hickman seconded, that Resolution No. 2006-016, being a resolution authorizing the City of Hays or its designated agent to abate the dangerous structures located on the property at 700 East 6th Street, Lots 30, 34, 35, 55, 66, and 98 (Cottonwood Park Inc.), Hays, Kansas, be approved.

Brenda Herrman, Director of Public Works, stated that there has been no activity on the abatement of the mobile homes on the Cottonwood Park property. Five of the mobile homes need to be removed and one needs minor abatement, which Mr. Kobler should be able to do within the 10 days allowed in the Resolution.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger
Troy Hickman
Barbara Wasinger
Henry Schwaller IV
Kent Steward

8. SISTER CITIES – 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION REPORT:

Francis Schippers and Carol Solko reported on the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Sister Cities which was held in Washington D. C.

Mr. Schippers stated the he appreciates the funding the program receives from the City of Hays and encouraged the Commissioners to keep the Sister Cities program active.

9. WILD WEST FESTIVAL MATCHING FUND REQUEST:

Several large Elm trees and one large Cottonwood tree have been removed from Municipal Park in the last couple of years. The trees were either dead or in very poor

condition. The Wild West Festival Committee is willing to pay 50% of the cost of five large trees from a local vendor. The trees are high quality and will be moved via a tree spade and will provide immediate improvement to the park area. An amount of \$2,500 remains in the matching fund budget that can be used for this purpose. The total cost of the project is \$2,250. The City's portion would be \$1,125.

Barbara Wasinger moved, Henry Schwaller IV seconded, that the request from the Wild West Festival Committee for matching funds in the amount of \$1,125 for tree plantings in Municipal Park be approved.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

Henry Schwaller IV

Kent Steward

10. RECREATION/FITNESS TRAIL CONSULTANT: There has been a tremendous amount of interest in the community for a hike/bike trail in Hays. Staff recommended hiring a consultant to complete all necessary groundwork, prepare a Master Plan and complete grant applications for the trail. Of the four proposals that were received, The Baughman Company, P.A./Carlson-Baughman Company, was the most qualified firm to complete the project. The selection committee and City staff recommended contracting with this firm for an amount not to exceed \$43,700. Funding to cover this amount is available in the Special Parks and Recreation Budget.

Commissioner Schwaller left the Commission Chambers due to a conflict of interest on this matter.

Troy Hickman moved, Barbara Wasinger seconded, that a proposal be accepted from The Baughman Company, P.A./Carlson-Baughman Company to prepare an assessment of properties and facilities, create a Master Plan and prepare grant applications for the implementation of a recreation/fitness trail in Hays.

Commissioner Steward stated that he does not think that a wide segment of the public would use a hike/bike trail. He cannot justify spending over \$1 million to complete the project or the \$43,700 for consulting. He would rather see the money spent on public transportation or on street repairs.

Commissioner Wasinger stated that it is important to have good public transportation and there is no reason why the City can't do both. Money can be put aside for public transportation, while encouraging transportation by foot and by bicycle. It is a quality of life issue. Not everyone will use it, just as not everyone uses the golf course or the swimming pool.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

No: Kent Steward

Not Voting: Henry Schwaller IV

11. NOVEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE: Troy Hickman moved, Kent Steward seconded, that the date of the regularly scheduled November 23, 2006 Commission meeting be changed to Tuesday, November 21, 2006, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Vote: Ayes: Wayne Billinger

Troy Hickman

Barbara Wasinger

Henry Schwaller IV

Kent Steward

12. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER: City Manager Randy Gustafson read a statement summarizing the contract negotiations between the City and the employees represented by the Service Employees International Union Local 513. The 2006 contract is undecided and is in litigation.

13. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Steward requested a comprehensive report from the Police Chief about policing issues relating to the Oktoberfest and Homecoming activities held on September 29 – 30th, 2006, as well as other weekends throughout the year.

Commissioner Schwaller commented that the two events are not under the sponsorship of the City. The Oktoberfest is sponsored by the Volga German Society and the Chamber of Commerce. Homecoming is sponsored by Fort Hays State University. He would like to see those three groups meet and make recommendations to the City about how to contain some of the problems associated with the festivities.

Commissioner Schwaller stated that as the City proceeds on the process of reconfiguring City wells on the Schoenchen Wellfield, he would like staff to consider locating a number of low-height dams along the Smoky River to protect the wells and the saturated thickness along the river.

Commissioner Hickman requested that the City Manager's report on the contract negotiations between the City and the Service Employees International Local 513 be put on the City web-site.

Chairperson Billinger recognized Eric Strauss, Scoutmaster for Troop 133 and several members of his troop who are fulfilling a requirement for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____