

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
November 7, 2013

Present: Kent Steward, Henry Schwaller IV, Eber Phelps, Shaun Musil, Ron Mellick, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

October 17, 2013 Work Session Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on October 17, 2013; the minutes stand approved as presented.

Amendment to City Ordinance Regarding Water Tap Fees

Earlier this year staff reviewed all utility fees to ensure pass through costs to tap water mains and install water meters were accurate. Current fees, adopted in the mid 90's, do not reflect present costs of labor or materials. This service is generally assessed during new construction or lawn meter requests.

A proposed increase for water tap fees would charge; for example, \$1500.00 for installing a 5/8" tap and water meter, an increase from the current fee of \$440.00.

Commissioner Schwaller was not in favor of the proposal. He stated housing is too expensive and this is another fee that will drive housing costs up. He would like to see us recoup our costs through our water rates. Commissioner Schwaller believes the increase for all water users would be minimal if part of the water tap fee was incorporated into the water rates.

Commissioners agreed to put discussion of water tap fees on the agenda for the November 14, 2013 Commission meeting.

Add On Item: An Ordinance Amending City Code Regarding Ownership of Meters and Maintenance

Assistant City Manager Paul Briseno presented a revised ordinance regarding ownership of meters and maintenance. This allows the City to sell a meter directly to the contractor if a tap already exists. This ordinance will be presented to the Commission at the November 14, 2013 Commission Meeting for approval.

Amendment to City Ordinance Regarding Fees for Dogs and Cats Impounded by the Hays Police Department

The City of Hays currently has an agreement with the Humane Society of the High Plains for their shelter to provide boarding and care for animals impounded by the Hays Police Department. The City of Hays is being charged a \$15.00 impound fee as well as the \$10 /night boarding fee for a total of \$25.00 a night per animal. As per City of Hays ordinance, the Hays Police Department can only charge the pet owner \$20 per animal for impounding. If the owner comes the next day to claim the dog or cat, the City of Hays is losing \$5.00 per animal.

The Commissioners will be requested to amend City Ordinance Sec. 5-88 (b) to allow the City of Hays to adjust fees to cover the boarding costs for animals impounded by the Hays Police Department at the November 14, 2013 Commission meeting.

Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course Tournament Fee Increase

The Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course Advisory Board has recommended a fee increase for all golf tournaments due to the ever increasing costs for preparation and oversight by golf course maintenance personnel and course marshals. Additionally, the City of Hays appears to have fallen behind most other courses in tournament fee requirements.

At the November 14, 2013 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be requested to approve a fee increase for golf tournaments by \$100.00 for an 18-hole tournament and by \$50.00 for a 9-hole tournament at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course.

Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course Junior Golf Fees

The Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course has never offered a fee to encourage younger individuals to play golf at the course. Adding a Junior Golf Greens fee will make the course more affordable for those seventeen years old and under which should increase play on the course and perhaps add future membership/greens fees for the course.

At the November 14, 2013 Commission meeting the Commissioners will be requested to approve the addition of a Junior Golf Greens fee at the same rate as Twilight Greens fee (\$16.00) beginning March 1, 2014 at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course.

Amendment to City Ordinance Regarding Taxi Cab License Fees

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Other Items for Discussion

Commissioner Musil thanked Police Chief Don Scheibler for setting up the ride along with Officer Anderson. He also stated the Mayor did a great job at the debate he moderated.

Chairperson Steward served as the moderator in the debate with former U. S. Senator Rick Santorum and former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean as part of the Sebelius Lecture Series at Fort Hays State University's Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

Commissioner Schwaller stated the debate the Mayor moderated can be seen on YouTube on the Fort Hays State University channel and that he did an excellent job.

The work session was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk