

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
November 16, 2006

Present: Wayne Billinger, Troy Hickman, Barbara Wasinger, Henry Schwaller IV, John Bird, Randy Gustafson

Absent: Kent Steward

Public Transportation

ACCESS Transportation director Ron Straight and Fort Hays State University Police Chief Ed Howell appeared before the Commission to discuss the operation of the ACCESS program and the Safe Ride program.

Discussion centered on complaints that have been received about the two programs and how the programs can be improved to better serve the citizens of Hays.

City Employee Health Insurance Renewal for 2007

For the last three years, the City of Hays has budgeted \$6,000 per employee for health insurance. Savings have been realized each year and placed in a contingency line item in the Employee Benefit Fund. The City has experienced a low rate increase of 6.1% over the last three year period. The national trend for health insurance rates has been about 13-14% per year during this time period.

In the last year, the City experienced several very high on-going claims, plus several costly claims that were one-time experiences. The rate increase for 2007 is 36.41% for the medical portion of the program. The prescription program is self-insured and will see a 3.7% increase. Based on estimations,

health insurance costs for 2007, even with the projected increase, should be very close to the budgeted amount.

Director of Human Resources Susie Billinger recommended that the City sign a contract with Preferred Health Systems to continue providing a fully-insured medical plan for 2007, and with Preferred Benefits Administrators to continue providing a self-insured prescription plan for City employees for 2007. She recommended that the City consider hiring a consultant and request bids for health insurance coverage in 2008.

The Commissioners will be requested to formally approve renewing the contract with Preferred Health Systems and Preferred Benefits Administrators for 2007 coverage at the November 21, 2006 Commission meeting.

2007 Pay Plan and Job Classification Schedule for City Employees Not Represented by SEIU

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution amending the pay plan and job classification schedule for City employees not represented by the Service Employees International Union at the November 21, 2006 Commission meeting. The effective date of the job classification and pay plan will be December 17, 2006.

2007 Pay Plan and Job Classification for City Employees Represented by SEIU

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution amending the pay plan and job classification schedule for City employees represented by the Service Employees International Union at the November 21, 2006 Commission meeting. The effective date of the job classification and pay plan will be January 1, 2007.

Pre-Annexation Agreement for Property at 820 Canterbury Drive (APAC)

The owner of property located at 820 Canterbury has requested to be connected to City water services. The property is currently served by a water

well which is beginning to fail. A City water main runs adjacent to the property. The property is currently served and will continue to be served by a septic system since no sanitary sewer is available in the area.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider formal approval of the Pre-Annexation Agreement at the November 21, 2006 Commission meeting.

Solid Waste Proposal

Over the last 12 months, Public Works staff has been analyzing and presenting various reports to the City Commission in consideration of automated collection of refuse in 2007. The Solid Waste Fund Unreserved Fund Balance has declined over the last several years, and without an increase in refuse rates, the Solid Waste Fund will experience a deficit soon.

If the operation of the Solid Waste Division continues as a manual operation, it will be necessary to raise solid waste removal fees to \$14.60 per month per customer. Requiring mandatory collection for all residential customers would cost \$14.10 per month.

It has been determined that it will be necessary to raise the solid waste removal fee to \$14.70 for automated collection. The fee will be \$14.20 if mandatory collection is implemented. Staff recommended mandatory automated collection for all one and two family residences.

The City Manager stated that through attrition, automated collection will result in reducing the number of employees from 10 to seven in 2009 and beyond.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approving an ordinance to implement the necessary changes at the December 14, 2006 Commission meeting.

Note: After the work session was adjourned, Myron Schlegel, 3507 Fairway Drive, voiced objection to mandatory solid waste removal. He felt that it is not fair to charge him for a service that he will not use.

Establishment of the Hays Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals (Resolution/Ordinance)

As a result of county-wide zoning, it is necessary to approve an ordinance relating to the powers and duties of the Hays Planning Commission and the Hays Board of Zoning Appeals within the city limits of Hays and within three miles of its corporate limits.

The Commissioners will be requested to consider approval of the ordinance at a February Commission meeting.

The work session was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk