

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
December 1, 2011

Present: Barbara Wasinger, Kent Steward, Henry Schwaller IV, Ron Mellick,
Toby Dougherty, John Bird

Absent: Troy Hickman

Joint Meeting – City of Hays/Hays Recreation Commission

The City of Hays contracts with the Hays Recreation Commission (HRC) to operate area pools and for all scheduling needs of the various recreational areas in Hays, such as ball fields, soccer fields, and the new Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex. Each year the HRC and the City of Hays conduct a joint meeting to discuss general operations and/or any other facility needs or expectations that may need to be addressed.

HRC and City staff provided an update on the current conditions and upcoming plans for the Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex, as well as the use of other ball fields in the city.

Roger Bixenman, Superintendent of the HRC, reported that the Hays Aquatic Park had an outstanding year, the 3rd best participation since 2003 and financially, the best year ever. Per the agreement, the City agrees to pay 50% of the pool revenue loss, up to a maximum of \$26,000. For pool operation in 2011, the City will need to reimburse the HRC \$3,261.85; last year the City's portion was \$5,380.89.

Director of Parks Jeff Boyle reported on several maintenance items that will need to be addressed at the Hays Aquatic Park.

Economic Development Policy Discussion

Aaron White, Executive Director of the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development, discussed the City's role in economic development with the Commissioners. The City's Economic Development Policy is an ever-evolving document. It has been many years since a lengthy discussion has been held on the foundations of this policy. Mr. White discussed several programs that he has found to be successful in other communities and can be used to overcome some of the obstacles that stand in the way of economic development.

City Manager Toby Dougherty stated that, going forward, a strategic plan should be developed that plays on our strengths. Our strengths are not the same as other cities in the state. Our strengths are Fort Hays State University and Hays Med Center along with other features that make Hays unique.

Golden Belt Estates 4th Addition Engineering Services Agreement

At the December 8, 2011 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve an Engineering Services Agreement with Ruder Engineering for engineering services to include engineering design, contractor solicitation, construction engineering, and warranty inspection, for an amount not-to-exceed \$35,800. These services are related to the development of 21 lots within the Golden Belt Estates 4th Addition.

Current Roadway System Condition

Assistant Director of Public Works John Braun reviewed the results of the 2011 Automated Pavement Condition Assessment. Using the results of that assessment conducted by Infrastructure Management Services earlier this year, staff presented the 2012 Street Maintenance Program for Commission review. Due to the pavement condition assessment being conducted in 2011, no major street maintenance projects were performed in 2011. This allows for both 2011 and 2012 Special Highway Funds to be allocated to the 2012 Street Maintenance Project in the estimated amount of \$1,072,161.

City staff will solicit bids for the 2012 Street Maintenance Program and will present the low bid for Commission approval in February 2012.

Other Items for Discussion

City Manager Toby Dougherty handed out copies of Governor Brownback's suggested water policy for upcoming legislation. The City Manager is a member of the Ogallala Water Aquifer Committee. He discussed various water issues and the recommendations that the Committee will make to the legislators.

The City Manager discussed dispatch/communications services that are a shared venture with Ellis County. Ellis County Administrator Greg Sund is working on a plan to upgrade the current communications tower that is owned by Ellis County, with plans to give that tower to the State to be part of the State system. It is planned for the City, in 2013, to take over all of the dispatch services, including 911. This would involve restructuring of the Law Enforcement Center communications services.

The work session was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk