

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
December 19, 2013

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

December 5, 2013 Work Session Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on December 5, 2013; the minutes stand approved as presented.

2014 EAS Proposals for the Hays Regional Airport

City Manager Toby Dougherty updated the Commissioners on the recent proposals for passenger service at the Hays Regional Airport. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) received three bids. SkyWest Airlines has proposed a regional jet service 12 times a week to Denver, operating under the United Airlines code and brand with a bid cost of \$2,253,132. Great Lakes Airlines offered two proposals, both to Denver; 18 trips per week with a Beech 1900D for \$1,699,520, and 14 trips per week with an EMB-120 for \$1,499,508.

A draft letter was presented to the Commissioners to the DOT's Essential Air Service stating reasons why the City is requesting SkyWest Airlines proposal be accepted. The letter included information regarding Great Lakes Airlines failure to provide the City of Hays with reliable air service. The Commissioners agreed to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

City Officials sought and received financial commitments from Hays Area Chamber of Commerce, Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development, and Hays Medical Center to help subsidize SkyWest Airline's bid.

Drought/Water Supply Update

Bernie Kitten, Director of Utilities updated the Commissioners on the current water supply status and drought conditions. The City is currently in a water watch advisory and we are requesting the public to voluntarily conserve inside and outside water use; the situation might worsen to water warning status next year.

2014 Toilet Rebates

Nick Willis, Stormwater/Water Conservation Superintendent presented information regarding the toilet and urinal rebate program proposed for 2014. In the 2014 budget, City Commissioners allocated \$100,000 for a Gravity Toilet Replacement Program. This program is aimed primarily at indoor water usage in residences and hotels.

Toilets still represent the biggest indoor water savings opportunity. Due to the relatively low cost of water for indoor usage and sewage disposal, this water savings opportunity is often not economically attractive to undertake for property owners. Utilities across the country have implemented efforts to eliminate inefficient and leaky toilets through various means, with the most common method being a rebate program

Total savings from this program in 2014 are estimated to be between 11 and 14 acre feet of water yearly (based upon installation of 1000 1.0 gallon/flush models).

Mr. Willis also stated the City will begin retrofitting high efficiency fixtures throughout City owned buildings as time and money allows. The City will partner with North Central Kansas Technical College to help familiarize future plumbers in this area with water efficient fixtures.

2014 Urinal Rebates

In the 2014 budget, City Commissioners allocated \$45,000 for urinal rebates. This program is aimed primarily at indoor water usage in commercial and office settings. Staff is making a recommendation to adopt a rebate program

of \$300 per urinal replaced with a new high efficiency urinal. Urinals are very long-lived and frequently used. New products have arrived on the market reducing water usage between 88% to 100%.

As detailed in the 2014 budget, all City water customers with urinals will be eligible to participate in this program. The permit application will be that of a standard plumbing permit and City inspectors will ensure all new installations are correctly installed. Permit fees will be waived for urinal replacement projects. A rebate of \$300 will be paid for each replaced urinal. Replacement urinals must be Watersense labeled and flush at 0.13 gallons or lower.

Schools, restaurants, convenience stores, plumbing contractors and suppliers will be contacted via letter to inform them of this program.

Staff estimates that between 2.6 and 4.1 acre feet of water will be saved on an annual basis if the program funds are fully utilized and “pint” urinals are installed for replacement.

Discussion was held regarding water conservation education in the schools, updates to the City website, and other water conservation ideas.

Commissioner Mellick requested staff look into recycling the old toilets and urinals to keep them out of the landfill.

2014 Job Classification and Pay Plan

Each year City ordinance requires the adoption of a pay plan and job classification by resolution. City staff recommends approval of the 2014 pay plan and job classification which includes a 1% merit increase for all employees while keeping the City’s current pay ranges.

The Commissioners will be requested to adopt the 2014 job classification and pay plan resolution that includes a 1% merit increase for all employees and keep the current pay ranges at the January 2, 2014 Commission meeting.

Scheduling Conflict – Work Session/Chamber Banquet Scheduled for February 6, 2014

It will be necessary to move the February 6, 2014 work session to Tuesday, February 4, 2014 to accommodate the Commissioners' attendance at the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet to be held on February 6, 2014.

2013 Boundary Resolution

Whenever property is annexed into the city limits during a calendar year, Kansas statutes require cities to pass a resolution re-defining the entire boundary line of the city. The following ordinances annexed property into the city limits in 2013:

Ordinance No. 3859 – dk Ranch

Ordinance No. 3865 – Golden Belt Estates 5th Addition

Ordinance No. 3873 – 1101 East 43rd St.

The Commissioners will be requested to approve the 2013 Boundary Resolution which re-defines the boundaries or corporate limits of the City of Hays, Kansas at the January 2, 2014 Commission meeting.

Other Items for Discussion

It will be necessary to reschedule the December 26, 2013 Commission meeting because a quorum will not be present. The December 26, 2013 Commission meeting will be rescheduled for January 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. The action items from the December 19, 2013 work session will be addressed at that time. The regular January 2, 2014 work session will begin at 6:40 p.m. following the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Musil asked if there was any interest in bringing up the concealed carry issue again which failed to pass due to a tie at the December 12, 2013 Commission meeting which he was not present at. There was no interest to bring this back to the Commission.

Commissioner Steward informed the Commission of an information session regarding the Trade Mission/Sister Cities Delegation invitation for applications, to be held at Hays City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

The work session was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk