

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2000

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session, Thursday, November 9, 2000, at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

Mayor Hickman declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

2. MINUTES: Wayne Billinger moved, Larry Schmidt seconded, that the minutes of the regular session held on October 26, 2000 be approved.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS: Keith Eilts, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #101, stated his troop was attending the Commission meeting as part of earning a merit badge.

4. CONSENT ITEMS: Henry Schwaller IV moved, Wayne Billinger seconded, that the following mayoral appointments to the Downtown Hays Development Corporation for Architectural Review, effective this evening, be approved:

Gary Weatherbee, Trades Board – one year term
Randy Reynolds, Kuhn's Diamond Jewelers – one year term
Chuck Comeau, C. S. Post – two year term
Willy Pfeifer, Ellis County Historical Society – two year term

Linda Donley, Donley Advertising – three year term
Wayne Brungardt, Architect – three year term
Kim Hodny, DHSC Member – three year term

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

OLD BUSINESS

5. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN: Virgil Howe, chairman of the Hays Beautification Committee, addressed the Commission regarding the strategic plan for the Hays Beautification Committee.

Mr. Howe stated the strategic plan has a proposed draft for future projects and programs. This strategic plan is the first effort of the HBC to plan for future projects and his hope is that the process will be fine tuned for implementing and reevaluating projects each year in order to achieve the desired goals.

2001 projects include the tree rebate program, holiday decorations on Vine Street, park tree restoration, and matching funds for service club projects.

NEW BUSINESS

6. VINE STREET, 27TH TO I-70, CITY-STATE AGREEMENT: Kurt Hassler, Director of Engineering, stated the agreement is for the payment required from the City for the reconstruction of Vine Street. At this time the estimate for the reconstruction is \$1,473,768. Bids are scheduled to be opened November 15, 2000. The median beautification portion is estimated to be \$80,400.

Wayne Billinger moved, Howard Rome seconded, that a Resolution relating to benefits obtainable by cities under program for federal aid on highway construction, be approved.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

7. VINE STREET SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT: City Manager Hannes Zacharias reviewed issues that would be addressed in the City-County-State agreement for the planning and construction of the Enhancement Project. Staff members from the City and Ellis County have jointly discussed these issues.

The City of Hays, Ellis County and the State of Kansas will sign this agreement. A majority of the roads to be constructed or reconstructed are currently in the county. Also, Vine Street is covered under the Corridor Management Program, which is a joint City/County/State agreement. The County will not be obligated for any financial responsibility in this construction project.

City Manager Zacharias stated the State wants to close Mopar Drive and 41st Street north of I-70, which accesses directly onto US-183 during this project and will be closed before the construction project is accepted. Staff recommends that this item be changed to say that these streets will be considered for possible closure during this project and possible closure before the construction project is accepted. This would give the public time to debate that issue before the project gets under way.

Director of Engineering Kurt Hassler stated that frontage roads would be eliminated and reverse access roads would need to be in place prior to the start of construction. Further discussions with the County will be held prior to returning the revisions to the State. A final contract will be presented for approval later this year.

Henry Schwaller IV moved, Larry Schmidt seconded, that staff recommendations for proposed changes regarding the upcoming KDOT Vine Street Enhancement Project from I-70 north to 55th Street, be accepted.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

Mr. Hassler stated there is concern about traffic problems with the opening of the new Wal-Mart Store on north Vine Street. Vine Street is not under City jurisdiction; the street was not annexed into the city limits. KDOT maintains that stretch of Vine Street. Mr. Hassler has drafted a letter to KDOT addressing the problems.

8. GUSTAD BRIDGE: Henry Schwaller IV moved, Howard Rome seconded, that the “Authority and Method Procedure” document regarding the Gustad Bridge Project at Fort Hays State University with KDOT, be adopted.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

9. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE NUISANCE ABATEMENT: Dorothy Stites, Assistant City Manager, presented information regarding the property at 114 East 15th Street, owned by Herbert Herman. A complaint was received September 27th, 2000. Staff followed procedure in notifying Mr. Herman to clean up the property. Mr. Herman is a habitual violator; this same property has had four nuisance complaints in the last five years. The City has cleaned up the property on several occasions.

Mr. Herman stated he needs help in cleaning up the property.

Henry Schwaller IV moved, Howard Rome seconded, that Mr. Herman be given a 30 day extension before any action is taken, and possibly have a service group help Mr. Herman clean up his property, and that this matter be revisited the first meeting in December.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman

Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

10. COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: City Manager Zacharias stated the City of Hays been awarded the “Employer of the Year” award from Development Services of Northwest Kansas. Clients of that agency do janitorial services for City Hall, the Airport, and the Park Department, and clean vehicles for the Police Department.

City Manager Zacharias stated the next Commission meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 21st, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

City Manager Zacharias stated he would like to include a separate memo with the Commission Informational Memorandum issues that were brought up at the previous meeting as add-on items. This memo would address the issues and report on the status of those items.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Wayne Billinger moved, Howard Rome seconded, that the Governing Body adjourn to executive session at 8:55 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss personnel. The executive session is to include the City Commission and the City Manager.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

Mayor Hickman called the meeting back to order at 9:15 p.m. He stated no action was taken during executive session.

Wayne Billinger moved, Howard Rome seconded, that the City Manager be given a 5% salary adjustment, his deferred salary raised by \$500 per year, and his car allowance be raised to \$400 per month retroactive to his anniversary date of September 25.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman

Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

12. ADD-ON ITEMS: City Manager Zacharias stated staff would like some direction on how to proceed on the issue of keeping Massey and Sunrise Pools open next year. If the two pools are to remain open next summer, the Commission needs to make some decisions so the pool can open in May.

Commissioner Rome stated he has received a lot of feedback about both pools. The biggest concern the public has is with Massey Pool losing so much water. He would like to see the two pools not used for one year, study the issue extensively, and then make a decision.

Mayor Hickman suggested the Pool Task Force study the issue. While the Pool Task Force is doing that, the City staff could receive input from the neighbors in close proximity of the pools.

Commissioner Schwaller stated he has no problem with the Pool Task Force studying this issue. This is not the first year the pool lost a lot of water; it is a big problem and there are quick fixes and remedies available. Personally, he is a big supporter of neighborhood parks and pools. Massey may need to be reconfigured into some other kind of water park. These parks should have been made ADA compliant eight years ago. It is no one's fault; there just wasn't enough money to make the pools compliant. Regardless if there is a pool or not, the City needs to make the restroom and park equipment facilities ADA compliant.

Commissioner Schmidt agreed with Commissioner Schwaller. The City should try to get the information together as soon as possible. Depending on the cost and the length of repair, the City should try to open this pool this summer, but he realizes it may need to take longer.

Commissioner Billinger stated he would like to have the Pool Task Force study this issue and come back to the Commission with some cost estimates for repair.

Wayne Billinger moved, Howard Rome seconded, that the Hays Pool Task Force be charged with reviewing all technical available data concerning Sunrise and Massey Pools, to determine what is viable data and what data still needs to be obtained in regards to the future use of these pools. This charge is not asking the Pool Task Force for a recommendation, but establishing if the City Commission has enough information to make a knowledgeable decision regarding these pools. If there appears to be missing information the Pool Task Force is asked to list these in priority order and possible ideas as to where to obtain the information. If it appears that there is substantial information available, the Pool Task Force is asked to organize this information in presentation form, so the City commission can evaluate the pro's and con's of every option available including costs. However, the Pool Task Force is not expected to make recommendations as to where these potential expenses may come from.

Vote: Ayes: Troy Hickman
Henry Schwaller IV
Larry Schmidt
Howard Rome
Wayne Billinger

City Manager Zacharias stated that trees would be placed around the restrooms at Aubel-Bickle Park to buffer and camouflage the area from the neighborhood.

City Manager Zacharias stated that at a recent area meeting of the League of Kansas Municipalities, several issues were discussed. Topics discussed were the loss of sales tax for items purchased over the Internet, investment authority for cities, enhanced 911 surcharge on cell phones, and the possibility of eliminating city control over drinking establishments. There will be a legislative conference on January 18th in Topeka.

Commissioner Schwaller he is concerned about the number of pedestrian-automobile accidents that have occurred recently in Hays. There have been two fatalities and one person severely injured. He is concerned about the way people are driving and the lack of enforcement. The Commission needs to be more aggressive in addressing this problem. There needs to be enforcement of

traffic laws, the Commission needs to know what the Police Department is doing to enforce traffic laws, and the public needs to be educated about speed limits. If necessary, an investment should be made in additional staff or traffic signalization, or any other thing that would address this problem.

Thereupon the Governing Body adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

Clerk of the Board