

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Ron Mellick

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

2. MINUTES: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 22, 2020; the minutes stand approved as presented.

3. REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNING BODY: A. Nomination and election of Mayor: Ron Mellick moved, Mason Ruder seconded, that Sandy Jacobs be elected to the position of Mayor for 2021.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Ron Mellick

B. Nomination and election of Vice-Mayor: Michael Berges moved, Ron Mellick seconded, that Mason Ruder be elected to the position of Vice-Mayor for 2021.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil
Sandy Jacobs
Mason Ruder
Michael Berges
Ron Mellick

C. Recognition of outgoing Mayor: Mayor Sandy Jacobs presented Commissioner Musil with a plaque in recognition of his service as Mayor of the City of Hays. She reviewed many of the projects and activities that occurred during his term as Mayor including the start of the North Vine Street roundabouts, new playground shelters at the Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex, the Arc Park splash pad, the Development Agreement, CID and TIF for the Travel Plaza on Interstate-70 west of Hays, and an RHID for the Tallgrass Addition for workforce housing. She noted the difficulties of serving during a pandemic and thanked him for showing our community what heartfelt leadership looks like.

The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Musil for his service and leadership as Mayor during these trying times.

Commissioner Musil thanked his fellow Commissioners for their support and mutual respect. He also thanked his family and the community for their support.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: A. Approve Resolution No. 2021-001 adopting the City of Hays City Commission Rules of Procedure and repealing all previous resolutions, motions, or actions in conflict therewith.

B. The following appointment was recommended by Mayor Musil at the December 22, 2020 City Commission meeting and is now being presented for approval.

Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee

Forrest Martin (Hotel Rep – Days Inn) – term to expire December 1, 2022 (1st term)

Mason Ruder moved, Ron Mellick seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs
Mason Ruder
Michael Berges
Ron Mellick
Shaun Musil

NEW BUSINESS

6. ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR

SKYWEST AIRLINES: Jamie Salter, Director of Hays Regional Airport, stated commercial air service at the Hays Regional Airport is provided through the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and is administered by the US Department of Transportation (DOT). Air carriers who participate in the EAS program receive subsidies in return for providing quality, reliable air service. SkyWest Airlines has been our carrier since August of 2014 and currently provides 12 roundtrip flights each week to and from Denver.

Ms. Salter stated the current EAS contract with SkyWest Airlines expires July 31, 2021. The USDOT solicited proposals for the upcoming 2021 to 2024 period and received one response. This was from SkyWest Airlines and mirrors the same structure of 12 roundtrip flights each week to and from Denver. The annual subsidy requested is \$3.6 million, up from the annual \$3.1 million for the current contract. The USDOT offers communities the opportunity to provide feedback during the carrier selection.

Ms. Salter stated while the proposed annual subsidy has increased, there are no annual costs to the Hays Regional Airport as the contract is between the carrier and the USDOT. The increased ask is likely due to the pandemic's impact on the travel industry as a whole. The aviation industry has been hit heavily and while there has been an uptick in passenger traffic, usage is still down significantly.

Ron Mellick moved, Michael Berges seconded, to authorize the Mayor to submit the letter of support for the selection of SkyWest Airlines to provide passenger service at the Hays Regional Airport.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs
Mason Ruder
Michael Berges
Ron Mellick
Shaun Musil

7. NORTH VINE STREET CORRIDOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

John Braun, Project Manager, provided an update on the North Vine Street Corridor Project. He stated the 32nd / 33rd Street roundabout is fully operational. The contractor has been working on constructing the 37th Street extension to Skyline Drive and the side road, which will provide access to the Baymont Inn and Phillips 66. He added that recently, the contractor set up traffic control which will allow the extension of Skyline Drive to connect to 41st Street.

Mr. Braun stated as winter weather allows, the contractor will also begin working in areas of the I-70 ramps that do not have a significant impact on traffic. He added that they don't want a lot of traffic control devices should the City or KDOT need to plow snow or treat for ice; the contractors work will be limited on the side of caution.

Mr. Braun stated that by the middle of March, if winter weather allows, they anticipate the contractor will move Vine Street traffic to the east side of Vine, head-to-head in the northbound lanes and start construction on the west half of the three roundabouts to be constructed this year. He noted that they will not build each roundabout separately, they will build the entire west side, and then they will switch to the east side, and finish out the middle by the end of the year.

Commissioner Mellick asked what percentage of the project is complete. Mr. Braun stated the project is approximately 40% complete.

8. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Musil thanked City staff for the help they provided during his term as Mayor.

The Commissioners thanked Shaun Musil for his leadership as Mayor and congratulated Sandy Jacobs as she takes on her new role as Mayor.

Mayor Jacobs thanked the citizens of Hays who voted for her as City Commissioner and for affording her the honor of representing this great community. She stated serving on the Commission has been a great experience and she enjoys working with her fellow Commissioners and City staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk