

MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS  
HELD ON JULY 13, 2023

**1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON:** The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Reese Barrick

Mason Ruder

Absent: Alaina Cunningham

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

**2. JUNE 19, 2023 JOINT MEETING MINUTES:** There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the joint meeting of the Hays City Commission and the Russell City Council held on June 19, 2023; the minutes stand approved as presented.

**3. JUNE 22, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Sandy Jacobs moved, Mason Ruder seconded, to approve the June 22, 2023 Commission meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Reese Barrick

Mason Ruder

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Hays resident, Ainsley Lenays, spoke to the Commission regarding allowing chickens on private property as pets in the City of Hays. She stated that she feels it is no different than having a dog or cat. As long as you clean up after them, there would not be a problem with smell and that you can train chickens to use a litter box or a toilet. She added that if you only allow hens, there would not be an issue with noise as they don't crow.

Commissioner Barrick asked if the request was to allow citizens to raise chickens for eggs or to strictly have them as pets. Ms. Lenays stated her request is to allow chickens as pets.

Commissioner Jacobs stated she doesn't really have an opinion at this time, but she believes there is a strong contingency that does not want chickens inside the city limits.

The Commissioners directed her to gather more information about the community's interest in allowing chickens within the city limits and if the interest is to have them as pets or for producing eggs. Ms. Lenays will report back to the Commissioners with additional information, and the request will be reviewed with city staff.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:** The following appointments were recommended by Mayor Musil at the June 22, 2023 City Commission meeting and are now being presented for approval.

Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee

Audrey Mercer (Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center) – three-year term to expire July 13, 2026 (1st term)

Hays Housing Authority Board

Gracemary Melvin – four-year term to expire July 13, 2027 (1st term)

Mason Ruder moved, Reese Barrick seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil  
Sandy Jacobs  
Reese Barrick  
Mason Ruder

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE SUCH PURCHASE:** Collin Bielser, Deputy City Manager, stated

that the vacant parcel located at 27<sup>th</sup> and Main Street has been listed for sale by the Catholic Diocese of Salina and Grow Hays has entered into a purchase contract for the property. To partner on the development of the property, Grow Hays desires to sell the property to the City of Hays. This relationship would allow for the development of a private project or a combination of public and private uses.

If the City purchases the property, it will be subject to the same terms and conditions of Grow Hays's real estate purchase contract. The purchase price of the property is \$425,000, plus any necessary closing costs.

Sandy Jacobs moved, Mason Ruder seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2023-014, to purchase the property located at the southwest corner of 27<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, between Fort and Main Streets, and authorize the City Manager to sign a real estate purchase agreement for \$425,000, plus closing costs, as well as any and all other documents necessary to purchase the property from Grow Hays, to be paid from the Commission Capital Reserves.

Vice-Mayor Jacobs stated that she is excited that the City has the opportunity to purchase this piece of property, not only for the City's interest, but also for the collaboration between different entities to do something with this property.

Mayor Musil thanked Grow Hays for negotiating the purchase and added that he is excited to see this property develop.

Vote: Ayes: Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Reese Barrick

Mason Ruder

**7. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS:** Commissioner Barrick stated that he is looking forward to attending the Shrine Bowl and the Farmers Market this weekend.

Vice-Mayor Jacobs encouraged citizens to serve on the advisory boards and thanked those that volunteer.

Mayor Musil thanked the Convention and Visitors Bureau for helping to bring the Shrine Bowl to Hays and encouraged everyone to attend the events.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk