

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes

Thursday, August 5, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Sandy Jacobs, Mason Ruder, Michael Berges, Ron Mellick, Shaun Musil, Toby Dougherty, Kim Rupp, and John T. Bird

**July 15, 2021 Work Session Notes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on July 15, 2021; the minutes stand approved as presented.

**2021 Manhole Rehabilitation Project – Award of Bid**

Jeff Crispin, Director of Water Resources, reported the Department of Water Resources initiated a manhole rehabilitation program in 2018 to lengthen the lifespan of manholes needing repair.

Manholes are a critical part of the wastewater collection system. Manholes need rehabilitated for various reasons including acidic environments, low pH, erosion, age, and storm water infiltration. The sewer inspection video program that began in 2013 has assisted in strategically identifying key manholes for rehabilitation. This program, along with staff inspections, has allowed for the creation of a priority list of repairs.

Mr. Crispin stated there are 2,400 manholes in the City of Hays and the 2021 program includes rehabilitation of 46 manholes. Completing approximately 50 manholes per year would allow for a 50-year cycle of manholes being professionally rehabilitated. A 50-year cycle is recommended as an industry standard.

Staff received four bids for the 2021 program of rehabilitating 46 manholes. The low bid was submitted by Mayer Specialty Services of Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Crispin stated Mayer Specialty Services completed the 2019 and 2020 projects, and their work has been excellent.

At the August 12, 2021 City Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Mayer Specialty Services to complete the 2021 Manhole Rehabilitation Program with a budget not to exceed \$100,000 to be funded from the Repairs and Maintenance line item in the Water Reclamation & Reuse Budget.

### **2022 Budget Review**

The 2022 Budget was presented to the Commission at the July 1, 2021 Work Session and reviewed at the July 15, 2021 Work Session. Toby Dougherty, City Manager, reviewed the change pages and stated he would stand for any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the proposed budget.

Mayor Jacobs stated sidewalks along 27<sup>th</sup> Street, west of Hall Street, were extended last year to Englewood Drive. She stated there are a lot of citizens that live in that area and walk to Dillons and other stores. She would like the Commission to consider further extending that sidewalk to Thunderbird Drive. Mr. Dougherty said he would put together a cost estimate and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Musil said he would like to see full funding of the \$15,000 request from the Hays Arts Council, up from \$12,000 in 2021. He added that he would like to see that increase granted for just this year. He feels that they have dealt with a lot this past year from COVID-19. They want to get back to the schools and their normal activities. He believes that for what they do for our community it is a good investment. The other Commissioners agreed.

Mayor Jacobs stated she is still in favor of funding the full requested amount of \$54,000 to the Downtown Hays Development Corporation (DHDC). She pointed out that the DHDC funding request has stayed the same, but their budget has increased significantly. She stated their partnership program and private investments are growing every year and they are considering other sources of revenue. She feels they are working hard to fund themselves.

Vice-Mayor Ruder agreed and would like to fund their full request. He stated it is amazing to see the number of people that are drawn to the downtown area. He feels it is a great investment.

Commissioner Musil echoed those comments. He stated that he owns the Paisley Pear Wine Bar, Bistro, and Market in downtown Hays, but noted his business does not receive any funding from DHDC. He sees many visitors that come from big cities and small towns and they are so impressed with our downtown.

Commissioner Mellick stated he has been approached by business owners throughout the City that ask what they have to do to get the City to fund them. He said the Commission shouldn't be surprised if other businesses band together and request funding to promote their businesses as well. He believes DHDC needs to be fully funded by the businesses that use the DHDC. He feels they should be funded at the reduced rate and hopefully they will figure out a way to fund themselves in the future.

Commissioner Berges was also opposed to the request because DHDC did not follow the City's budget process. It is not about defunding or getting rid of DHDC; for him the sticking point this year is that this is a budget process and the budget process has guidance. He stated the Commission issued guidance last year on what we wanted to see in the budget process. Last year DHDC requested \$53,655 and through the budget process the Commission agreed to fund them at that amount. Following discussion it was the consensus of the Commission to round that up to \$54,000. The Commission was able to do that by cutting another outside agency's funding request. The DHDC funding was increased with the guidance to come with a 5% reduction this year. That is the amount that was included in the budget for 2022. This year they requested an increase so he feels we are not cutting them, we are following the guidance of last year.

It was the consensus of the Commission to fund DHDC at the requested amount of \$54,000.

**Other Items for Discussion**

Commissioner Mellick stated he attended the Hays Police Department Community Night Out at the Hays Aquatic Park. They offered free swimming, hot dogs, and hamburgers for the community. He said it is great to see the police officers and their families enjoying time with the community.

Commissioner Berges wished the Hays Larks good luck in the NBC World Series.

Vice-Mayor Ruder stated he is excited for school to get back in session and college students to come back to Hays.

Mayor Jacobs stated prior to the meeting she read a proclamation recognizing Chief Warrant Officer, Bryan J. Nichols, Thomas More Prep graduate 1998, and Chief Warrant Officer, David R. Carter, Hays High graduate 1982, who paid the ultimate price in service of this Nation. She proclaimed August 6, 2021 as Extortion 17 Day to honor these men for their sacrifice.

The work session was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk