

City of Hays  
City Commission  
Work Session Notes

Thursday, July 2, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Shaun Musil

**June 18, 2020 Work Session Notes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the work session held on June 18, 2020; the minutes stand approved as presented.

**45<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street Improvements – Protected Left Turn**

Jesse Rohr, Director of Public Works, stated City staff is seeking to make improvements to the intersection of 45<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street north of I-70. The proposed improvements include in-house construction of a three-quarter intersection that would allow left turns from Vine Street onto 45<sup>th</sup> Street, but would continue to restrict left turn movements onto Vine Street from 45<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Rohr stated the biggest advantage this project will provide in the short term will be congestion relief at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Vine Street during the North Vine Corridor Project, particularly during Phase 2 of the project which should begin next year. Work near 43<sup>rd</sup> Street will cause queuing changes for north bound, left-turning traffic, and vehicles having the ability to continue north to 45<sup>th</sup> Street to turn left will help tremendously. Long term it will help as development occurs along 45<sup>th</sup> Street and beyond.

The proposed project requires Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) review and approval, who in turn have required a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) of the area for the proposed reconfiguration of the intersection. A TIS was completed by Driggs Design Group, PA and submitted to City staff and KDOT for review. The TIS supports the proposed design of the three-quarter intersection

at 45<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street and confirms the need for this particular improvement. Estimates are at about 224 vehicles per hour turning left off of Vine Street onto west bound 45<sup>th</sup> Street. The project is to be completed in house by the Service Division and estimated costs for materials to complete the project are approximately \$80,000.

Commissioner Mellick stated this is a great idea and getting it done now will definitely benefit future development.

Commissioner Berges asked what will be done with the brick and plants that are currently in the median. Mr. Rohr stated the brick will be salvaged and reused and the Parks Department will salvage any plantings they can and transplant them elsewhere.

Vice-Mayor Jacobs feels this will be used more than anyone is expecting and added that we want this entrance into the City to look the best it can.

Commissioner Ruder added that he appreciates being able to get this work done in-house.

At the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to approve the in-house construction of a three-quarter intersection at 45<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street to be funded out of 2020 Special Highway Funds, contingent upon KDOT approval.

### **Sanitary Sewer Point Repairs – Award of Bid**

John Braun, Project Manager, reported that there are several areas in the City of Hays where sanitary sewer lines need repair because of cracks, holes, or off-set joints. City staff solicited bids to dig and replace sections, or as an alternate, perform internal trenchless spot repairs of sanitary sewer line in 31 locations. Bids were received on May 5, 2020 from three bidders, with the low bid coming from Utility Solutions, LLC of Basehor, Kansas in the amount of \$140,950.

Mr. Braun stated City staff feels that bidding out approximately 30 repairs each year is adequate and manageable. Because of other City projects occurring concurrently; annual sewer line cleaning and CCTV inspection, rehabilitating

manholes, scheduled maintenance, etc., projects significantly more than 30 repairs become too large to manage efficiently. After reviewing historical prices, starting in 2021, the budget for this annual program is being reduced to \$250,000 from the \$400,000 previously budgeted.

Commissioner Berges noted the bid from Utility Solutions, LLC was substantially lower than the other bids. Mr. Braun stated the company is reputable and after conversations with Utility Solutions they are fairly confident they can repair 20 of the 31 locations internally. This reduces the cost to perform a full dig and replace repair.

At the July 9, 2020 Commission meeting, Commissioners will be asked to authorize the City Manager to enter a contract with Utility Solutions, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$140,950 for sanitary sewer point repairs to be funded from Water Reclamation Reserves.

### **Commission Receives 2021 Draft Budget**

City Manager, Toby Dougherty, presented the 2021 Budget to the Commission and noted the following highlights.

- The budget is balanced.
- Sales tax revenues are projected to be down -2% for 2020 and down -1% for 2021.
- Total assessed valuation is up 1%.
- The mill levy is maintained at 25.000.
- The 2021 Budget contains a 2% programmed step increase for all City employees and there are no additional employees.
- Reserves are funded.
- The budget is sustainable into the future.

Mr. Dougherty reviewed the draft budget and added that in two weeks the Commission will be asked for suggested changes and for their recommendations on the outside agency funding levels.

Mr. Dougherty also discussed Covid-19 related reimbursable expenses. He noted through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

(CARES Act), Federal legislation was very clear that those funds could only be used to fund Covid related expenses and cannot be used to offset lost revenues. He noted Covid related expenses for the City of Hays are very low.

**Other Items for Discussion**

Vice-Mayor Jacobs thanked the Ellis County EMS Director, Jason Kennedy, and the Board of County Commissioners for the tough decisions they have had to make regarding Covid-19. She also thanked City Manager, Toby Dougherty, Finance Director, Kim Rupp, and Department Heads for the work they have done to prepare a balanced and sustainable budget.

The work session was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk