

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON JULY 9, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Sandy Jacobs

Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Ron Mellick

Absent: Shaun Musil

Vice-Mayor Jacobs 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 June 25, 2020; the minutes stand approved as presented.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: There were no items on the Consent Agenda for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

5. 45th AND VINE STREET IMPROVEMENTS – PROTECTED LEFT TURN:

John Braun, Project Manager, stated City staff is seeking to make improvements to the intersection of 45th 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 45th Street, but would continue to restrict left turn movements onto Vine Street from 45th Street.

Mr. Braun stated properties along 45th St., both west and east of Vine Street, would be much more accessible with the proposed intersection. This

change in intersection configuration will benefit and support future development along 45th Street both east and west of Vine Street. The improvements will also help alleviate congestion at the 43rd Street intersection, especially during construction of the North Vine Street Corridor Project particularly at the 41st and Mopar roundabout.

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 45th and Vine Street and confirms the need for this particular improvement. Future peak traffic volume estimates are at about 224 vehicles per hour turning left off of Vine Street onto west bound 45th 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.

Ron Mellick moved, Mason Ruder seconded, to approve the in-house construction of a three-quarter intersection at 45th and Vine Street in the amount of \$80,000, to be funded out of 2020 Special Highway funds.

Commissioner Mellick asked why this was not done when that intersection was constructed to its existing configuration. Mr. Braun stated that was done as part of the KDOT System Enhancement Project that began in the late 1990's to improve the Vine Street Corridor. He noted you can see the progression of access management if you look at Vine Street from the south going north. He stated the south end has intersections everywhere; between 27th Street and I-70 they have frontage roads with limited access points; and the area north of I-70 has the reverse access roads which provides even less access to Vine Street, but allows traffic to flow freely. KDOT was implementing the best level of access control on Vine Street north of I-70 at the expense of access to businesses. That is why this improvement is being recommended to allow some access to businesses, but still keep the conflict points to a minimum.

Commissioner Ruder asked if changes similar to this would be done on the South Vine Street area. Mr. Braun stated the project to reconstruct Vine Street south of 13th Street will keep access open just as it is. He added that there are lower volumes of traffic at that end of Vine Street and they don't see the need to restrict the access.

Vice-Mayor Jacobs stated she feels this change to 45th and Vine Street is a great idea and will be a huge improvement in that area.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs

Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Ron Mellick

6. SANITARY SEWER POINT REPAIRS – AWARD OF BID: Jeff Crispin, Director of Water Resources, 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. Crispin referred to Commissioner Berges' question last week noting the bid from Utility Solutions, LLC was substantially lower than the other bids. Mr. Crispin stated Utility Solutions, LLC are confident they can repair 20 of the 31 locations internally. This reduces the cost to perform a full dig and replace repair. References were checked and City staff is confident they can complete those internal patches successfully.

Mr. Crispin 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.

Michael Berges moved, Ron Mellick seconded, to authorize the City Manager to enter a contract with Utility Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$140,950 for sanitary sewer point repairs, to be funded from Water Reclamation Reserves.

Commissioner Berges clarified that should Utility Solutions find they are not able to patch as many of the locations as they thought and need to dig and replace more sections; they will still be held to that bid amount.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs

Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Ron Mellick

7. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Berges made a personal plea to the community to choose to wear a mask. He stated he is not to the point of asking for a resolution from his fellow Commissioners for an ordinance from the City to mandate the use of masks. He added that he doesn't know if the coronavirus is just like the flu or a cold, but he does not want to find out. He also doesn't want our community to find out what spread and hospitalizations and death tolls look like.

He stated he has a young son that has a heart condition and it is very difficult to get children to wear a mask. He also has a 91 year old grandfather that is in a nursing home and has been in lock down since March; that is giving up your personal freedom. He asked that the community come together and wear a mask in public to protect those that can't.

Commissioner Ruder agreed and added that at this time there is so much division and animosity and he encouraged everyone to come together as a community and do everything you can to be the standard for western Kansas. He added that wearing a mask is a small price to pay to allow our economy to continue to grow strong. He encouraged everyone to social distance when you can and when you can't, wear a mask to help mitigate the spread.

Vice-Mayor Jacobs stated she is looking at this from both a humanitarian and economic standpoint. She agreed with her fellow Commissioners that people

should be wearing masks. She is concerned about what will happen if schools don't open as they normally would next month. The economic impact of that can be just as strong as shutting down our economy. If parents have to stay home and can't go to work to support their families, the economic impact on this community is going to be huge. She added that people in the medical field say this is our best line of defense and she pleaded for the community to wear a mask when they can't social distance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk