

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, September 24, 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 September 10, 2020; the minutes stand approved as presented.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Finance Director, Kim Rupp, reviewed the financial summaries of the revenue and expenditure activities of the City of Hays for the month ended August 31, 2020.

Month-to-date general fund sales tax collections were at \$703,674, which was an increase of \$105,798 or 17.7% as compared to last year. Year-to-date collections are at \$5,058,418 up \$241,370 or 5%. The six month average is at 6.35% which is an increase of 7.94% when compared to a year ago.

The report of top ten quarter-to-date sales tax collections by classification was up \$136,927 or 6.76%.

The portfolio of certificates of deposit on August 31, 2020 totaled \$49,550,000 with a weighted average interest rate of .89% down 1.5% from a year ago. The total of US Treasuries at par value is \$4,477,000 with a weighted average yield to maturity of .59%. The total balance of the Money Market

account on August 31, 2020 was \$1,750,000 with a current yield of .05%. Total investments are down \$6,523,000 when compared to this time last year.

Ron Mellick moved, Mason Ruder seconded, to approve the Financial Statement for the month of August, 2020 as presented.

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

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS: Ellen Hands thanked the Commissioners for passing the mask ordinance and asked them to extend it as it is scheduled to end Monday, October 5, 2020. She stated that she knows it is not popular, but it is better than another shut down and the negative economic and emotional consequences that would bring. She added that all of the reputable public health guidance says wearing a mask reduces the spread of the virus.

Elizabeth Snyder, M.D., a primary care doctor at HaysMed Hospital, stated she recommends to her patients that they wear a mask and believes it will help reduce the virus spread at least somewhat. She also asked the Commissioners to extend the mask mandate ordinance indefinitely.

Lydia Hickel, a student at St. Mary's School in Ellis, Kansas, who is at high risk for Covid-19 because she has asthma, stated she wants to keep the mask mandate ordinance so she can continue to go to school, dance, and be with her friends. Lydia's mother, Cassie Hickel, pleaded with the Commissioners to extend the mask mandate, so that everyone can feel a little safer shopping, dining, and being in the City that they know and love.

5. CONSENT AGENDA: The following proposed appointment will be presented for approval at the October 8, 2020 City Commission meeting.

Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee

Jeremy Gill (Hays Public Library) – term to expire December 1, 2021 (1st term)

Mason Ruder moved, Michael Berges seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS

6. REZONING OF ELLIS COUNTY PROPERTY IN THE 1500 BLOCK OF 240TH AVENUE FROM AGRICULTURE “A-L” TO PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT “P-I”:

Jesse Rohr, Director of Public Works, stated an application has been submitted by Ellis County to request a change in zoning from “A-L” Agriculture to “P-I” Public and Institutional District for property within the 1500 Block of 240th Avenue. Ellis County is also the owner of the adjacent property to the south, which is the Ellis County Landfill, that is zoned “P-I”. The purpose of the Public and Institutional District is to provide for public-owned and operated uses (e.g., governmental and school buildings and facilities, utility stations, libraries, cemeteries, active and passive recreational parks, public safety complexes, post offices, etc.). These uses are often unique in nature and scale and thus, not appropriately placed within any other district. The property will continue to use rural water and private sewer utilities as needed. The Planning Commission approved the zoning request at their August 17, 2020 meeting by a vote of 6-0. Staff is in favor of this request due to the zoning of adjacent property and compatible uses in the area.

Commissioner Berges asked if there are any buildings on this property. Mr. Rohr said there are no buildings currently on this property.

Commissioner Ruder stated because he is an employee of Ellis County, he will abstain from voting.

Michael Berges moved, Ron Mellick seconded, to adopt Ordinance No. 3990 approving the change in zoning from Agriculture “A-L” to Public and Institutional District “P-I” for property along the 1500 Block of 240th Avenue as legally described within the ordinance.

Vote: Ayes: Sandy Jacobs
Michael Berges
Ron Mellick

Abstain: Mason Ruder

7. AIRPORT FIBER CONNECTIVITY: Chad Ruder, Director of Information Technology, stated the Airport Terminal building and Airport Fire Station both have computer connectivity well below the standard established for most other City buildings. While operational, the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased use of the Fire Station has proven that we need to address this deficiency. The best solution to provide our standard of network function, speed, and reliability to these two facilities is to connect the Airport to our network via high speed dedicated fiber optic cabling.

Staff solicited proposals for dedicated fiber optic connectivity from our established termination point at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Airport Fire Station along with a shorter connection from City Hall to the Law Enforcement Center to allow Ellis County resources to connect to the project. One bid was received from Nex-Tech in the amount of \$73,742. The recommended proposal from Nex-Tech meets all requirements to successfully provide fiber optic cabling services to the Airport. The proposal amount of \$73,742 will be financed via CARES Act funding.

Mason Ruder moved, Michael Berges seconded, to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Nex-Tech in the amount of \$73,742 for fiber optic cabling services to provide connectivity to the Hays Regional Airport and the Law Enforcement Center using CARES Act funding.

Commissioner Mellick stated he appreciates Mr. Ruder's forward thinking when putting in the Wastewater Treatment Plant connection to prepare for the connection to the Airport in the future.

Commissioner Ruder asked if there are any other connections needed. Mr. Ruder said only if we build something new. The only building that is not connected is the Solid Waste Facility and unless they drastically change the way they do things he is comfortable with the way it is.

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

8. PROGRESS REPORT: Assistant City Manager, Collin Bielser, presented a monthly report of city-related activities, services, and programs.

9. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Mellick stated contractors have begun painting the Fort Hays State University logo on the water tower and that it is interesting watching the progress. He also noted that HaysMed will be holding their annual free drive-thru flu shot clinic on Sunday September 27th.

Commissioner Berges thanked Jeff Crispin, Water Resources Director, for the tour of the Wastewater treatment plant and the well houses near Schoenchen.

Vice-Mayor Jacobs added that the free flu shot clinic provided by HaysMed is a great service for our community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk