

MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF HAYS, KANSAS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 10, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON: The Governing Body of the City of Hays, Kansas met in regular session on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mason Ruder
Michael Berges
Shaun Musil
Sandy Jacobs
Reese Barrick

Mayor Ruder 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 October 27, 2022; the minutes stand approved as presented.

Commissioner Musil asked that an item be added to the agenda. He requested that discussion be held regarding the outside agency funding request for \$45,000 from the Hays Chamber of Commerce.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: The following proposed appointment will be presented for approval at the November 22, 2022 City Commission meeting.

CARE Council – two-year terms

Amy Schaffer – term to expire November 22, 2024 (3rd term)

Sandy Jacobs moved, Michael Berges seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS

5. MATCHING FUNDS REQUEST FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDER

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: Sarah Wasinger, President/CEO of The Chamber in Hays, Kansas and facilitator of the Child Care Task Force of Ellis County, stated the Child Care Task Force was established in October 2021. Its mission is to create and maintain a sustainable, quality, childcare environment that assists in attracting employees to Ellis County, while developing our children into the next generation of community leaders and workforce. Since its creation, the task force has conducted a countywide needs assessment that has been utilized to apply for over a million dollars in funding for child care projects in Ellis County, completed a Communities in Action Workshop conducted by Child Care Aware of Kansas, held a child care provider appreciation event, and successfully engaged with two new local providers who have opened up child care businesses in Ellis County. She added that the Child Care Community Needs Survey and letter of support, generated on the behalf of the task force, led to HaysMed's anticipated child care center that will open up to 77 child care spots on their campus by the beginning of 2024.

Ms. Wasinger was happy to report the Child Care Task Force has been awarded a \$30,000 Robert E. and Patricia A. Schmidt Foundation grant to begin a Child Care Awareness Campaign. The campaign would include local and statewide advertising.

The Schmidt Foundation has required the task force to find matching funds in order to receive the grant. They are requesting up to \$15,000 in

matching funds from the City of Hays and have requested the same amount from the Ellis County Commission.

Ms. Wasinger reviewed the task force's short-term and long-term goals.

Short-term goals for the task force include:

- Ascertaining \$30,000 in match funds to complete a year-long childcare provider and business awareness campaign to engage with new providers
- Creating a childcare provider substitute pool that gives coverage and flexibility to current providers
- Conduct focus group meetings with current providers, parents, employers, faith-based community, and local schools to better realize potential partnerships that could create additional capacity

Long-term goals for the task force include:

- Creating an additional 635 spots to reach full capacity
- Providing continued education for current providers at little to no cost
- Development of a pay-to-play program and how that would work
- Providing greater access to childcare for children with special needs
- Giving access to benefits like health insurance to providers
- Creating pay equity and addressing livable wages
- Adding CDA certification at local high schools
- Establish a foundation to help subsidize infant care
- Addressing the need for second shift care
- Considering stipends for long-term providers
- Analyze regulations surrounding childcare in Kansas with local legislators to eliminate any unnecessary hurdles to providing care

Vice-Mayor Berges was concerned that it is already well known that there is a child care crisis and it may not be necessary to advertise that. Ms. Wasinger said, as a task force, they believe that there are still a lot of questions from people that don't have school age children and employers that have more seasoned employees and don't have the employment pool that is directly impacted by the lack of childcare. They believe some people may be naive as to

how big the problem really is. She added that the next step is finding the people who can provide child care.

Dana Stanton, Child Care Program Director for the Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, stated that it is her job to work with communities and private providers to help increase childcare slots. She added that people may be aware there is a child care crisis, but they don't realize that there are many opportunities for organizations and individual providers to get into the childcare business.

Mayor Ruder stated that he believes the awareness campaign will focus on the root cause of the problem which is lack of staffing, not just the lack of facilities or spaces. He added that the Hays Area Children's Center has room, but they are struggling to find staff.

Commissioner Jacobs clarified that the campaign will not run adds to say we have a child care problem, they will provide information about the resources that are available to child care providers.

Vice-Mayor Berges stated he would like the task force to ask for a funding match from not only the City and County, but from other organizations as well. Ms. Wasinger stated that they have met with other organizations and businesses that may be willing to provide funding.

Commissioner Jacobs stated the task force is doing a great job and she does not have a problem with the \$15,000 request for the Child Care Awareness Campaign, but it needs to be clear what the additional \$45,000 funding request from the Chamber of Commerce would be used for.

Commissioner Barrick stated he would not have a problem with the \$15,000 request but would suggest granting half of that in order to allow the rest of the community to be involved as well.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to table this discussion until the December 8, 2022 Commission meeting to allow them time to raise funds from other organizations. City Manager, Toby Dougherty, stated this is a privileged motion so no second was required.

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

Commissioner Musil asked to discuss the outside agency funding request from the Hays Chamber of Commerce for \$45,000. He clarified that this request was not discussed during the budget process because it was not a budget item. He added that he would like to see the \$45,000 granted as a one-time request.

Shaun Musil moved, Michael Berges seconded, to approve the funding request from the Hays Chamber of Commerce for \$45,000 upon their request, to be funded from the Commission Capital Reserves.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that she would need more clarity as to what the \$45,000 would be used for.

Commissioner Barrick stated that he assumes that child care funds would go into a separate line item to only be used for the advertising campaign. The \$45,000 would be kept separate and the monies would not be mixed. He sees them as separate requests.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that it was her understanding that part of the \$45,000 request was for the Child Care Task Force. She stated that she was interested in working with the Chamber on projects but was not interested in paying for Chamber of Commerce operations.

Ms. Wasinger stated that everything that would be received for the Child Care Awareness Campaign would go directly to campaign funds in a separate line item in the Chamber's budget. She added that regarding the \$45,000 request for 2023, they would be happy to hold off on asking for those funds until they have a clear picture of their financial position next year. She noted that the 10% dues increase for next year could affect their memberships.

The Commission discussed preapproving the \$45,000 funding request, but they can request a lesser amount depending on what is needed.

Kim Rupp, Finance Director, stated that if the Commission approves the \$45,000 request, the funds will be encumbered, but will not be paid until the request is made. If the request is less than the \$45,000, the requested amount is what will be paid.

Commissioner Jacobs thanked Ms. Wasinger for everything she has done and feels she is doing a great job. She added that this is a difficult decision as it is setting a precedent for future requests.

Commissioner Barrick clarified that the Chamber of Commerce does not have to come back to the Commission for approval.

Vote: Ayes: Mason Ruder
Michael Berges
Shaun Musil
No: Sandy Jacobs
Abstain: Reese Barrick

6. 2023 WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS – AWARD OF BID: Jeff Crispin, Director of Water Resources, stated the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan includes projects to upgrade waterlines and add new fire hydrants at various locations around the city. Bids were received from two contractors with the low bid coming from J Corp, Inc. of Hays in the amount of \$629,573.54.

The 2023 project replaces three, 4” water mains in residential areas that have had multiple breaks and quality issues in the past and adds six new fire hydrants at various locations that have been identified as needed. The current schedule calls for construction to begin in May of 2023 and be completed within 75 working days. Inspection of the project would be completed in-house.

Reese Barrick moved, Michael Berges seconded, to authorize the City Manager to enter a contract with J Corp in the amount of \$629,573.54 for the construction of the 2023 Waterline Improvements project, to be funded from Water Capital.

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

7. FORT HAYS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE – FEE INCREASE: Jeff Boyle, Director of Parks, stated fees at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course (FHMGC) have remained the same since 2014 and are below the state-average pricing for similar 18-hole golf courses. Overall costs to operate and maintain the golf course have increased dramatically and staff is hoping to reduce the gap between revenue and expenditures by implementing some much-needed fee increases.

The recommended rates carefully balance the need to increase revenue, yet remain market competitive. It is suggested these new rates be implemented beginning of the 2023 golf season. If approved, staff would expect an annual increase in revenue of \$49,558. Additionally, the increased trail fees will allow the City to initiate a project to replace the front 9, hole 10, and hole 18 cart paths.

Recommended Rates – 2023

Rate Classification	Current Rate	Survey Avg.	Recommended Rate	Difference
Junior Golf	10.00	11.13	10.00	-
9-Hole	14.00	17.13	16.00	2.00
Weekday (18-Hole)	20.00	24.54	22.00	2.00
Weekend/Holiday (18-Hole)	23.00	29.14	25.00	2.00
Single Membership	465.00	977.74	535.00	70.00
Couple Membership	575.00	1,222.77	645.00	70.00
Family Membership	645.00	1,238.89	715.00	70.00
Trail Fee	105.00	218.00	200.00	95.00
Cart Shed - Electric	300.00	348.00	300.00	-
Cart Shed - Gas	275.00	348.00	300.00	25.00

Future Golf Course Fee Increases to begin in 2024

Weekday	(+) \$0.50 every 2 years
Weekend	(+) \$0.50 every 2 years
9-Hole	(+) \$0.50 every 2 years
Junior Golf	(+) \$0.50 every 2 years
Single Membership	(+) \$20.00 every 2 years
Couple Membership	(+) \$25.00 every 2 years
Family Membership	(+) \$25.00 every 2 years
Cart Shed	(+) \$15.00 every 2 years
Trail Fee	(+) \$20.00 every 2 years

Shaun Musil moved, Michael Berges seconded, to approve the rate increases as recommended by City staff for the 2023 golf membership season, as well as the future increases as presented with the caveat that City staff will evaluate statewide golf course fees and report to the City Commission every other year prior to implementing the future fee increases.

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

8. HAYS AQUATIC PARK – FEE INCREASE: Jeff Boyle, Director of Parks, reported that fees at the Hays Aquatic Park (HAP) and Wilson Pool have remained the same since 2014. The overall cost to operate pool facilities has gone up due to increased supply and labor costs. Average daily rates at the pool facilities are well below the state average, and the average season pass rates are the lowest in the state for similar sized facilities. The average annual loss for the pool facilities over the last five years is \$165,985. City staff is hoping to reduce the gap between revenue and expenditures by implementing these much-needed fee increases.

Proposed 2023 Fees recommended at the November 3, 2022 Work Session

Rate Classification	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Hays Aquatic Park (3-17)	3.00	4.00
Hays Aquatic Park (18 & Up)	4.00	5.00
Wilson Pool (3-17)	2.00	3.00
Wilson Pool (18 & Up)	3.00	4.00
Season Passes	40.00	50.00

These proposed fees would produce an expected revenue increase of \$38,169.

Mr. Boyle stated that Vice-Mayor Berges recommended implementing a flat fee rate at both pool facilities for all ages 3-years and older. City staff and the Hays Recreation Commission agreed that was a good idea.

City Staff and the Hays Recreation Commission are recommending a flat fee of \$3.50 at Wilson Pool and \$4.50 at the Hays Aquatic Park. Doing so would increase revenue by an additional \$1,300 on an annual basis over the 2023 proposed fees. It is also recommended that to keep up with inflation, pool fees increase by .25 cents every two years and \$3.00 every two years for the season passes.

Mr. Boyle stated that the Commission requested the future fee increases begin in 2024 instead of 2025 at the November 3, 2022 meeting. Jeff Boyle stated that the Hays Recreation Commission does not agree with this because the 3 to 17-year-old rates will be increasing by \$1.50 if the flat fee rates are approved, which is a significant price increase. It is recommended that the future increases begin in 2025.

Mr. Boyle provided two options for the Commission to consider. The rates recommended at the November 3, 2022 Work Session or the flat fee recommendation. City staff and the Hays Recreation Commission recommend approval of the flat fee rates and season pass rates as presented for the 2023 swim season; as well as, the future fee increases starting in 2025, with the caveat that City staff will evaluate statewide pool fees and report to the City Commission every other year prior to implementing the future fee increases.

Sandy Jacobs moved, Michael Berges seconded, to approve flat fee rates of \$3.50 for Wilson Pool and \$4.50 for the Hays Aquatic Park for the 2023 swim season; as well as, the future fee increases as presented with the caveat that City staff will evaluate statewide pool fees and report to the City Commission every other year prior to implementing the future fee increases.

Commissioner Jacobs agreed that future increases should only begin in 2025.

Sandy Jacobs moved, Michael Berges seconded, to amend her motion to include that future increases begin in 2025.

Mr. Boyle stated that it was brought to his attention that the current action requested in the power point, moved by Sandy Jacobs, does not include season passes and it should be altered to include such. The Commission decided to vote down the current motion because of this.

Vote: Ayes:

No: Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Reese Barrick

Sandy Jacobs moved, Michael Berges seconded, to approve the flat fee rates and season pass rates for the 2023 swim season as presented, with future increases to begin in 2025.

Vote: Ayes: Mason Ruder

Michael Berges

Shaun Musil

Sandy Jacobs

Reese Barrick

9. COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS: Commissioner Barrick stated that he attended the Kansas Museum Association meeting and commended the Ellis County Historical Society for being awarded a grant to scan past Hays Daily

News articles for future use. They also received an award for graphic design for one of their traveling exhibits.

Commissioner Musil reminded everyone about the Holiday Open Houses that businesses are holding throughout Hays this weekend. He also thanked City staff for the beautiful decorations downtown.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Brenda Kitchen – City Clerk