



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008
4:30 P.M.

The Special Meeting of the City Commission was held at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Room. Mayor Mark Hatesohl and Commissioners Bob Strawn, Bruce Snead, James E. Sherow, and Tom Phillips were present. Also present were the City Manager Ron R. Fehr, Assistant City Manager Jason Hilgers, Assistant City Manager Lauren Palmer, City Attorney Bill Frost, Assistant City Clerk Brenda K. Wolf, 14 staff, and approximately 9 interested citizens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hatesohl led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Snead moved to recess into Executive Session until 4:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to employer-employee negotiations with Local 2275, International Association of Fire Fighters, the union representing certain members of the Manhattan Fire Department. Commissioner Sherow seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

At 4:57 p.m., the Commission reconvened with Mayor Hatesohl and Commissioners Strawn, Snead, Sherow, and Phillips in attendance. Commissioner Snead moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Sherow seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

WORK SESSION

CITY PARK SWIMMING POOL OPTIONS

Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented options and timelines for replacement of City Park Pool and read remarks from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting held on Monday, July 7, 2008.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

CITY PARK SWIMMING POOL OPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Ron Fehr, City Manager, provided information on funding options for this project.

Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Ron Fehr, City Manager, answered questions from the Commission.

Jane Gibson, 1427 Leavenworth Street, stated that she has enjoyed the City Park Pool for years and that pools have been a part of her life due to her travels. She stated that she had participated in the public meetings a year ago regarding the most recent bond issue for the indoor recreation facility, spoke in support of the design/build option, and stated that she is willing to pay for the project by property taxes.

Vincent Tracey, 304 Knoxberry Drive, stated that the pool needed to be done right, even if it wasn't ready in 2009. He stated that the financing needed to go before the community on a ballot and include improvements for all the pools. He suggested making City Park Pool useable during the offseason by enclosing it, which will also help in keeping the pool from deteriorating so fast.

Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Ron Fehr, City Manager, answered questions from the Commission.

2009 BUDGET

Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance, introduced Melanie Landis.

Melanie Landis, Finance Operations Accountant, presented the updated 2009 Budget from the last work session and stated that the notice needs to be published by August 1, 2008.

Melanie Landis, Finance Operations Accountant, and Ron Fehr, City Manager, answered questions from the Commission.

Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance, pointed out concerns to the Commission regarding declining cash balances in the General Fund and 2010 Bond and Interest Fund.

Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance; Ron Fehr, City Manager; and Melanie Landis, Finance Operations Accountant, answered questions from the Commission.

Gwen Kropf, Secretary/Treasurer, Little Apple Task Force, requested funding from the Special Alcohol Fund. She presented the purpose/goal of Little Apple Task Force and answered questions from the Commission.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

2009 BUDGET (CONTINUED)

Matt Schlegal, Special Alcohol Fund Advisory Committee member, answered questions as to why Little Apple Task Force was not recommended for funding in 2009.

Gwen Kropf, Secretary/Treasurer, Little Apple Task Force, provided additional information on the set up of its website in order to access more parents and answered questions from the Commission.

Kari Quiton, Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coordinator, USD 383, spoke in support of Little Apple Task Force and the work it does.

Elaine Johannes, Special Alcohol Fund Advisory Committee member, provided information as to why Little Apple Task Force did not receive funding for 2009. She then answered questions from the Commission.

Larry George, Regional Prevention Center of Northeast Kansas, spoke in support of Little Apple Task Force.

Gwen Kropf, Secretary/Treasurer, Little Apple Task Force, answered questions from the Commission.

The Commission approved the request for funding for Little Apple Task Force from the 2009 Special Alcohol Funds, with the condition that Little Apple Task Force meet with the Special Alcohol Fund Advisory Committee to set guidelines which needs to be met within the next year.

The Commission stated to publish the notice for the 2009 budget in the Manhattan Mercury as presented with salaries lowered by ½% to 4% and apply the ½% to the Bond and Interest Fund.

At 7:40 p.m., the Commission took a short break.

Bernie Hayen, Director of Finance, presented an overview of the water rates, recommending a 10% increase in 2009 and 2010, and an overview of the wastewater rate, recommending a 20% increase in 2009, 20% in 2010, 15% in 2011, and 10% in 2012.

Gulten Celebi, Budget and Audit Analyst, and Ron Fehr, City Manager, answered questions from the Commission.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

2009 BUDGET (CONTINUED)

Ron Fehr, City Manager, provided additional information to the Commission on conservation, irrigation meters, water rates, and implementing a sliding scale for water rates.

The Commission requested City Administration work on scenarios on rates for water and wastewater. The Commission preferred to see gradual increases in rates versus huge jumps.

MISCELLANEOUS

The discussion of Commissioner Strawn serving as Treasurer for a partisan political campaign was brought up. It will be placed on the agenda for Commissioner's Comments on July 15, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m. the Commission adjourned.

Brenda K. Wolf

Brenda K. Wolf, CMC, Assistant City Clerk