

City Council Minutes – August 14, 2001

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, August 14, 2001. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in work session at 5:30 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Alcalá, Lane, Dunn, Duffy, Stubbs, and Price – 6. Councilmembers Pomeroy, Stanley and Hill were absent – 3. Mayor Felker presided –1.

Councilmember Duffy moved to adjourn into the Committee of the Whole for budget presentations. The motion seconded by Councilmember Lane carried. Councilmember Alcalá was out of the room. (5-1-0)

Councilmember Pomeroy entered the room.

Mayor Felker turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Dunn to chair the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Executive Department gave its budget presentation.

Councilmember Hill entered the room.

Councilmember Price moved to reconvene into open session for the regular Council meeting. The motion seconded by Councilmember Stubbs carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 7:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Pomeroy, Alcalá, Lane, Dunn, Duffy, Stubbs, Hill, and Price–8. Councilmember Stanley was absent – 1. Mayor Felker presided –1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, prayer was offered by Reverend Tobias Schlingensiepen of Seabrook United Church of Christ Congregational.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present in the chamber.

Councilmember Stubbs moved to suspend the rules. The motion seconded by Councilmember Duffy carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

Councilmember Stubbs moved to pull the empowerment grant off the table for next week's agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Dunn carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

Councilmember Dunn moved to reinstate the rules. The motion seconded by Councilmember Stubbs carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

A FINAL PLAT for Sherwood Park Subdivision No. 5 for property extending west of SW Indian Hills Road at approximately SW 27th Street within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2001 were presented.

CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE APPLICATION bearing the approval of the Chief of Police and City Inspectors was presented for Pizza Hut, 2800 SW Fairlawn Road.

Councilmember Duffy asked to remove the Final Plat from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Councilmember Dunn moved to approve the consent agenda without the Final Plat. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hill carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

A FINAL PLAT for Sherwood Park Subdivision No. 5 for property extending west of SW Indian Hills Road at approximately SW 27th Street within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented.

Barry Beagle of the Planning Department gave the staff report.

Councilmember Stubbs moved to defer the Final Plat for one week. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Price.

Bill Rowland, Developer appeared to speak on the Final Plat.

Following a lengthy discussion, Deputy Mayor Dunn referred the Final Plat to the Economic Development Committee.

Councilmember Pomeroy asked to move the New Business item before the budget hearing.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Felker agreed.

A COMMUNICATION from the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department submitting a real estate purchase agreement for approval and authorization for the Mayor to execute the real estate purchase agreement to purchase property at 1300 SW Huntoon, was presented.

A COMMUNICATION from the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department submitting a real estate purchase agreement for approval and authorization for the Mayor to execute the real estate purchase agreement to purchase property at 1222 SW Huntoon, was presented.

Councilmember Dunn moved to accept both communications. The motion seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy carried unanimously. Councilmember Duffy was out of the room. (7-1-0) (Contract Nos. 31327 and 31326 respectively.)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Harry Felker relating to the vacation of a 7 foot wide strip of right-of-way and a 4 foot wide strip of right-of-way located along SW 6th Avenue and a 1.5 foot wide strip of right-of-way located along SW Harrison Street as dedicated by Original Town Subdivision, City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, on property located at the southwest corner of SW 6th Avenue and SW Harrison Street in the City of Topeka, Kansas, was presented for first reading (V01S/7)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Felker, attesting to the increase in taxes levied for budget year 2002 necessary to finance public services for the City of Topeka, was presented for first reading.

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

John Arnold, Chief Administrative Officer distributed a memorandum concerning properties owned by the City of Topeka that are listed as delinquent in property taxes.

Discussion followed concerning tax exemptions and payments.

Councilmember Duffy requested a report on tax delinquencies incurred by agencies funded or associated with the City of Topeka.

John Arnold also reported on block zone parking.

Councilmember Dunn asked whether a tax exemption had been granted concerning 305 SE 17th Street. Discussion followed concerning the length of time allowed for parking in one day.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

Councilmember Duffy reported that the Economic Development Committee would meet on August 15, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. The Committee would discuss the Final Plat for Sherwood Park Subdivision No. 5.

PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Councilmember Dunn asked other Councilmembers how many THA board members they would think are necessary and how they should be appointed.

Councilmember Alcala presented a letter commending a park employee who returned a wallet that had been lost on the mini-train.

Councilmember Duffy distributed a memorandum requesting three ordinances attached be placed on a City Council agenda after the budget has been completed.

Discussion followed concerning Municipal Court fees and trial fees.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS:

Tim Sipes, Dr. Bert Opara, and Robin Conger appeared to speak for Public Comments.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Iris Walker, City Clerk

Special Session

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, August 14, 2001. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in special session at 7:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Pomeroy, Alcalá, Lane, Dunn, Duffy, Stubbs, Hill, and Price—8. Councilmember Stanley was absent – 1. Mayor Felker presided –1.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special meeting of the Councilmembers of the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas held on Tuesday, August 14, 2001, at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chamber, 214 East 8th Street to obtain citizen comment on a vacation request V01S/5 by Jesse H. and John H. Alonzo to vacate the north one-half of SE 12th Street right-of-way at SE Madison Street, was presented.

Barry Beagle of the Planning Department gave the staff report.

Mayor Felker gave an opportunity for anyone present to speak concerning the proposed vacation. No one appeared.

Councilmember Dunn moved to close the public hearing and adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Lane carried. Councilmember Duffy was out of the room. (7-1-0)

ORDINANCE No. 17709 introduced by Mayor Harry Felker relating to the vacation of the north one-half of SE 12th Street public right-of-way as dedicated by Ritchie's Addition, City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, on property located at the northeast corner of SE 12th Street and SE Madison Street in the City of Topeka, Kansas, was presented for final reading. (V01S/5)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Councilmembers Pomeroy, Alcalá, Lane, Dunn, Stubbs, Hill, and Price – 7. Noes: Councilmember Duffy was out of the room – 1.

Iris Walker
City Clerk

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special meeting of the Councilmembers of the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas held on Tuesday, August 14, 2001, at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chamber, 214 East 8th Street for the purpose of hearing and answering questions or objections of tax payers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied for the 2002 City of Topeka operating budget.

John Etzel appeared to discuss various aspects of the budget.

Perry Perkins of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board appeared and requested continued funding of park maintenance and improvements.

Christy Caldwell of the Chamber of Commerce appeared and spoke on the Capital Improvement Program.

Sarah McNeive of the Topeka Cemetery appeared and spoke on their agency's funding.

Betty Phillips appeared and spoke concerning Neighborhood Services Division and Washburn-Lane lighting project.

Michael Donnelly appeared and spoke about Social Service funding, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Topeka, and the economic impact of social service agencies.

Patsy Congrove of the Volunteer Center appeared and spoke about Social Service funding and the Shining Star program.

Joseph Ledbetter appeared in opposition to a tax increase and in support of consolidating city and county Parks and Recreation.

Karen Hiller of Central Topeka Turn Around Team appeared and spoke in favor of the Washburn-Lane lighting project.

Discussion followed concerning the cost and economic impact of the entire project.

Dan Neil of Topeka Fire Department appeared and spoke regarding the benefits committee and health insurance.

Bill Nicholson appeared and spoke on social service agencies and the Washburn-Lane project.

Jim Reardon of the Helen Hocker Theatre Board spoke concerning Gage Park.

Councilmember Dunn moved to close the public hearing. The motion seconded by Councilmember Stubbs carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

Iris Walker
City Clerk