

City Council Minutes – June 18, 2002

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, June 18, 2002. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 7:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Pomeroy, Alcala, Lane, Dunn, Hecht, Duffy, Stubbs, Hill and Price – 9. Absent: Mayor Felker –1.

The Mayor was out of town attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Deputy Mayor Dunn asked for a moment of Silent Meditation.

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

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

Minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2002, were presented.

APPLICATION for a Cereal Malt Beverage License, bearing the approval of the Chief of Police and City Inspectors for Devlin's One Stop, 5943 S.W. 29th Street, was presented.

Councilmember Lane moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hill carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

Presentation on the Helen Hocker Theatre, was presented.

Rogers Braizer, Parks and Recreation Director gave the staff report. He distributed and presented information regarding the Helen Hocker Center for Performing Arts. He requested funding in the amount of \$15,000 for a study to determine design and a solid cost estimate for a new facility within Gage Park.

Councilmember Lane asked if there are currently any parking problems when hosting a show at the Helen Hocker Theatre and if so how will these parking issues be addressed in the future.

In response, Rogers Brazier stated that currently they use street parking for the facility, which will also be used for the new Theatre.

Councilmember Duffy stated that following the presentation he was still unclear as to what exactly the 2.5 million dollars that was approved included, and why design and study was not incorporated into the cost. He also inquired on the 2005 plan proposal and what it entailed.

Dave Graverson, Interim Chief Administrative Officer explained that the specifics of the design are not included in the plan because no money has been expended at this point. The original proposed amount of 2.5 millions dollars was based on the original 10th Street facility that they now feel is inadequate, and are unsure of the type of facility that is needed.

Several Councilmembers continued the discussion on the financial implications of the proposed plan and the additional \$15,000 requested for the design study.

Councilmember Alcalá suggested using \$7,000 of the Transient Guest Tax Fund to apply towards the \$15,000 needed for the design study.

Councilmembers Stubbs and Hecht stressed the importance of the new Helen Hocker Theatre and the role it will play in the community.

Councilmember Dunn asked if they have organized any fundraisers to help assist with this project.

Rogers Brazier explained that all monies that are obtained through fundraising are distributed for scholarships.

Councilmember Alcalá suggested that a project budget for the design study be presented to the City Council for consideration.

Jo Huseman, Director of the Helen Hocker Theatre explained their programs.

Bill Mizley, Architect appeared for questions.

Gordon Self and Art Glassman appeared in support of the Helen Hocker Theatre and shared their experiences with this program.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Felker and Councilmembers Clark Duffy and Duane Pomeroy, amending the Comprehensive Zoning Code by adding as permitted, provisional and conditional uses, group residence general, group residence limited, correctional placement residence general, and correctional placement residence limited, and providing definitions therefor, amending City of Topeka Code Chapter 48, Article XXXV and Article XXVI, and specifically amending City of Topeka Code Section 48-2.02(c), 48-3.02(c), 48-4.02(c), 48-5.02(c), 48-6.02(c), 48-7.02(c), 48-8.02(c), 48-8a.02(c), 48-9.02(a) and (c), 48-10.02(a) and (c), 48-11.02(a) and (c), 48-12.02(c), 48-13.02(c), 48-17.02(a) and (c), 48-18.02(a) and (c), 48-23.02(a) and (c); 48-23a.03.2, 48-23a.04.2, and specifically repealing said original code sections as noted in section 48 of this City of Topeka Ordinance and specifically repealing City of Topeka Ordinance No. 17829, placed on first reading June 11, 2002, was again presented.

The Deputy Mayor referred the ordinance to the Policy Committee.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Felker and Councilmembers Clark Duffy and Duane Pomeroy relating to uses that are regulated by adoption of City Ordinance and specifically repealing City of Topeka Ordinance No. 17830, placed on first reading June 11, 2002, was again presented.

The Deputy Mayor referred the ordinance to the Policy Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 7239 introduced by Mayor Felker authorizing initiation of condemnation proceedings for furtherance of the East Topeka Project as described in City of Topeka Resolution No. 7234, was presented.

Kevin Rooney, City of Topeka Real Estate Office gave the staff report.

Councilmember Lane moved to adopt the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Alcala carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

A RESOLUTION introduced by Mayor Felker relating to a mutual aid agreement for emergency preparedness purposes between the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the City of Topeka, Kansas, was presented.

The Deputy Mayor referred the resolution to the Public Health and Safety Committee.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Harry Felker relating to the vacation of 3.29-feet of a 25-foot wide platted building setback along SW Maupin Lane dedicated by Foxcroft Four Subdivision for property located at 2929 SW Cedar Cove Court, City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Mayor Harry Felker abolishing the committee of bids and contracts by repealing City of Topeka Code § 2-426, amending City of Topeka Code §§ 2-429 and 2-430 and specifically repealing said original sections, also amending City of Topeka Code § 2-387 Competitive Bids, City of Topeka Code § 2-388. Awarding of bids and contracts and specifically repealing said original sections was presented for first reading.

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, was presented.

Dave Graverson distributed a copy of a news release highlighting the press conference that was held June 18, 2002 at the Topeka Performing Arts Center concerning hiring of Compass Facility Management, Inc. to provide management services for TPAC. He also reported that the City of Topeka has hired additional mowing crews to handle the backlog of mowing and hopefully will be caught up in a week to ten days.

PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, were presented.

Councilmember Duffy announced the conference of Minority Women Business Development Forum held on June 27, 2002, at the Ramada Inn Downtown. The guest speaker will be Rita Lewis of the Access America Program, Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated that he researched the concerns expressed last week at the City Council Meeting surrounding the characteristics of the new development in the Tennessee Town Home Neighborhood. Currently there are sixty-seven, one-story homes, and one-hundred-twenty-four, two and three story homes. Therefore, the new two-story, multi-family dwellings will be consistent with current neighborhood structures. He stated that he has received several calls from his constituents concerning the appearance of the Soldier Creek and north Jackson areas and asked when these areas could be cleaned up. He attended the grand opening of the new rest area located east of Topeka, however he is concerned that due to the wide-range of services that are provided by this new facility, this will eliminate the need for travelers to stop in Topeka.

Councilmember Alcalá voiced his concern on the appearance of the Soldier Creek and north Jackson area and requested that the new vegetation area be reassessed. An East Topeka property that is owned by the City of Topeka, is being used to store tires, this is a health and safety issue and he would like to make a request to implement a schedule for removal of these tires on a regular basis. He stated he would like to see an increase in speed limit enforcement in the 500 block of N.E. Emmett, as well as the alleys located in this area. Several residents have voiced their concerns on the safety of their children, because of speeding in this area.

Councilmember Lane stated that in addition to the East Topeka property, there is a property located at 21st and Lakewood directly adjacent to the new Shunga Trail extension, owned by the City of Topeka that has a large amount of tires that need to be removed.

Councilmember Dunn stated that she would like to congratulate the City Council on their efforts on bringing the Target Corporation Distribution Center to the City of Topeka.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS, were presented.

Connie Sanchez, Lazone Grays, Reese Phipps and Joe Ledbetter spoke under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:15 p.m.

Iris Walker
City Clerk