

**City Council Minutes – November 15, 2005**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, November 15, 2005. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 7:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Kennedy, Alcala, Ortiz, Nave, Haynes, Blackburn and Harmon -7. Mayor Bunten presided -1. Absent: Councilmembers Duffy and Preisner -2.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Nave gave the invocation.

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

Councilmember Alcala moved to pull item 4B, a resolution relating to a Special Council Committee to study City of Topeka diversity issues from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Councilmember Blackburn moved to pull item 4C, a resolution relating to the establishment of a Redevelopment District for the Gaslight Entertainment District from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

A FINAL PLAT for Gail Subdivision located at the northwest corner of SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street and SW Urish Road was presented. (P05/34)

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2005 were presented.

A Dance Hall License application bearing the approval of the Chief of Police and City inspectors for the Kansas Expocentre, located at, One Expocentre Drive was presented.

Cereal Malt Beverage License applications bearing the approval of the Chief of Police and City inspectors for the following were presented:

Business

Cypress Ridge Golf Course  
Heart of America Food Services, L.L.C.

Location

2533 SW Urish Road  
One Expocentre Drive

Councilmember Alcala moved to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Ortiz carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember John Nave relating to the Special Council Committee to study and consider diversity issues related to City of Topeka personnel and purchasing practices, and rescinding City of Topeka Resolution No. 7684 was presented.

Councilmember Alcala asked if all members serving on the Diversity Commission have agreed to the January 13, 2006 deadline regarding completion of the study.

Councilmember Nave noted that the Commission did not start on the date that was initially planned. He expressed concern with the Commission having sufficient amount of time to complete their task.

Councilmember Alcala moved to defer for one week to verify that members of the Diversity Commission have agreed to continue until January 13, 2006. The motion seconded by Councilmember Ortiz carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 7720 introduced by City Manager Neil Dobler setting the public hearing for Establishment of a Redevelopment District for the Gaslight Entertainment District (Water Tower area) of downtown Topeka was presented.

Councilmember Blackburn suggested that they ask the Joint Economic Development Organization or the Topeka Chamber of Commerce to help fund the feasibility study.

Neil Dobler, City Manager suggested that they ask for funding support for the study from the developer and GO Topeka.

Councilmember Alcala stated that he does not want to delay the project, however, it is very important that the City finance the study so they receive accurate information.

Councilmember Haynes suggested that the selection for the feasibility study be made by the City, Go Topeka and the developer, each paying one-third of the total cost of the study.

Councilmember Alcalá moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Haynes carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

A PRESENTATION by the Business Friendly Committee was presented.

Ken Daniel, Chair of the Business Friendly Committee gave their final report. He stated that the committee worked diligently to identify the strengths and weaknesses in keeping and attracting business in the City of Topeka. The following points were discussed:

- In regards to “Government” they must allow the new city manager form of government to prosper.
- In regards to “Small Businesses” they need to promote training and support, hold taxes down, limit red tape, implement a private-sector health insurance solution and work to get the State to change it’s definition of “Small Business Enterprise”.
- In regards to “Big Businesses” they need to make sure the city is “business friendly” and “community friendly” for key leaders of each major employer, form a special committee to assist new executives and their families with their move to Topeka, hold a monthly “Mayor’s Business Roundtable” meeting and promote the excellence and cost-effectiveness of Topeka’s medical community.
- In regards to “All Businesses” they should utilize the services of the Topeka Chamber of Commerce and Go Topeka and encourage unity in City of Topeka and Shawnee County businesses. The City should also encourage the use of local businesses to perform government work.
- In regards to “Development and Planning” they should reestablish the Joint City-County Planning Department, reverse all or most of the downzoning of commercial properties, reduce development fees and reduce contractor licensing fees.
- In regards to the “Workforce” in the area the City should partner with Kaw Valley Technical School to promote an alternative to college preparation.

Councilmember Alcala moved to accept and refer the report to the Economic and Community Development Committee. The motion seconded by Councilmember Kennedy carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Neil Dobler amending the "District Map" referred to and made a part of the Zoning Ordinances by Section 48-1.04 of the Code of the City of Topeka, by providing for certain changes in zoning on property located in the 200 block of S.W. Van Buren (east side) in the City of Topeka, Kansas from "O&I-2" Office and Institutional District with Resolution of Intent for "I-1" Light Industrial District TO "I-1" Light Industrial District was presented for first reading. (Z86/25)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Neil Dobler relating to the designation of street names, more specifically changing the name of SW Meadow Court to SW Monarch Court was presented for first reading. (SNC05/2)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Neil Dobler authorizing Improvement Project No. 14118, which provides for traffic signal replacement and sidewalk and ramp construction, as needed, at the intersection of SW Washburn and SW 21<sup>st</sup> Streets, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka was presented for first reading.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, were presented.

Neil Dobler, City Manager stated that there is a need for an executive session following public comment. He congratulated Brenda Younger, City Clerk's Office for completing the Kansas Municipal Clerks Certification Institute. He also stated that the City would receive approximately \$600,000 for property recently sold in an auction. He announced that the Police

Department received departmental re-accreditation, and the Public Works Department completed departmental accreditation.

Councilmember Kennedy asked for a status report on the Sumner School Project.

Councilmember Blackburn asked for a status report on the Lower Silver Lake Road Project.

Frank Meade appeared to speak under public comment.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adjourn into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and a legal matter, for a period not to exceed 15 minutes and stated that no action would be taken. The motion seconded by Councilmember Nave carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Iris Walker  
City Clerk