

Council Minutes – November 23, 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, November 23, 2010. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Alcalá, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, and Harmon -7. Mayor Bunten presided -1. Absent: Councilmembers Ortiz and Preisner -2.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Pastor Matt Broxterman, West Side Christian Church gave the invocation.

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

A PRESENTATION on the new water bill format was provided by Tamara Whorton, Customer Service Manager of City Utilities.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Daniel Rowe to the Board of Building and Fire Appeals for a term ending November 30, 2012 was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending a re-appointment of Steve Mohan to the Board of Building and Fire Appeals for a term ending November 30, 2012 was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of William D. Brown to the Board of Electrical Appeals for a term ending November 30, 2012 was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Brian Burnett to the Board of Plumbing Examiners for a term ending November 30, 2012 was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Ryan Wenrich to the Topeka Board of Zoning Appeals for a term ending November 30, 2013 was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Darcella Goodman to the Human Relations Commission to fill an unexpired term ending January 19, 2012 was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Jesse Romo to the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority for a term ending November 30, 2013 was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of November 16, 2010 were presented.

An Open After Midnight License application for Los Portales located at 1116 SE 6th Avenue was presented.

Councilmember Harmon moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Swank carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 8302 introduced by Deputy Mayor Deborah Swank adopting the City of Topeka legislative agenda for the 2011 Legislative session was presented. The resolution was deferred from the meeting of November 9, 2010.

Councilmember Swank gave the staff report.

Mayor Bunten commented on the importance of stricter regulations state-wide to reduce copper theft. He stated he believes the enforcement of stricter regulations would be more effective if neighboring states implemented the same regulations.

Councilmember Swank reported the resolution was amended to address the copper theft issue, as well as, issues relating to annexation, the property tax formula and distribution of motor fuel tax revenues. She stated the amended resolution was distributed in the Council agenda packet.

Councilmember Swank moved to amend the resolution as distributed. The motion seconded by Councilmember Wolgast carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

Councilmember Swank moved to approve the resolution as amended. The motion seconded by Councilmember Wolgast carried. Councilmember Woelfel voted “no.” (6-1-0)

NO Retail Cereal Malt Beverage License applications were presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 19489 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., allowing and approving City expenditures for the period of November 1, 2010, through November 7, 2010, and enumerating said expenditures therein was presented for first and final reading.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Swank moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Woelfel carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcala, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer and Harmon -7. Absent: Ortiz and Preisner -2.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., authorizing the issuance of \$10,615,000 aggregate principal amount of Full Faith and Credit STAR Refunding Bonds, Series 2010 (Heartland Park), of the City of Topeka, Kansas, under the authority of K.S.A. 10-101 to 125, inclusive, K.S.A. 10-427 et seq., and 10-472a et seq., as amended and supplemented was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., pertaining to an amendment to the text and map of the Topeka Comprehensive Metropolitan Plan was presented for first reading. (CPA10/2)

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., relating to the vacation of a platted wastewater lateral field easement on property located at 4613 and 4617 SW Mulligan Drive, City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas was presented for first reading. (V10E/2)

PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL;

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager announced City offices would be closed on November 25th and 26th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday; and there would be no City Council meeting on November 30th. He also announced Meet the Manager sessions would be conducted on November 29th from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Oakland Community Center located at 801 NE Poplar; December 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club located at 550 SE 27th Street; and December 2nd from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the YMCA located at 1936 NW Highland. He noted the new water bill sample format is available for review on the City's website, as well as, a survey for the public to evaluate how City4 could improve programming.

Councilmember Hiller proposed that it may be a good time to ask the County to consider including the pick up of yard and storm debris twice a year at no charge to city residents. She stated her proposal is based on recent discussions by the Shawnee County Commission relating to excess Refuse Department revenue funds and privatizing County refuse operations.

Councilmember Alcalá announced the Miracle on Kansas Avenue Parade and Walk/Run event on November 27, 2010; and the Topeka Loves Google event sponsored by Think Big Topeka on November 30, 2010. He reported the Community Thanksgiving Dinner is looking for volunteers to help serve and deliver meals on November 25, 2010. He asked if the City has researched the use of T8 fluorescent lighting in City buildings compared to T12 fluorescent lighting. He stated he believes there would be a cost savings of 30% to 40% over a three-year period and suggested scheduling a work session to discuss possible energy savings. He also asked staff to research the possible cost savings related to the use of retirees operating snow removal equipment instead of using private contractors.

Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., stated the City is currently taking measures to be more energy efficient. He also stated staff would research the difference between the T12 and T8 fluorescent lighting, as well as, the possibility of utilizing retirees for snow removal services.

Councilmember Wolgast commended Corrie Wright, Housing and Neighborhood Development Manager for being selected as one of the “Top 20 Topeka Professionals Under 40” sponsored by TK Magazine.

Councilmember Swank recognized Scott Alisoglu, City of Topeka Sustainability Coordinator and expressed the importance of the City developing a sustainable culture within the community. She also noted December 4, 2010 is the one-year anniversary of the adoption of the clean air ordinance for the City of Topeka.

Councilmember Harmon asked the Council to remember the citizens who are struggling in the community during the holiday season.

Gary Caruthers appeared to speak under public comment.

Councilmember Alcalá moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. The motion seconded by Councilmember Harmon carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk