

Council Minutes – March 22, 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner and Harmon -9. Mayor William W. Bunten presided -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Glenda DuBoise, Antioch Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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

Councilmember Hiller moved to suspend the Council Rules to add a resolution relating to Improvement Project No. T-131019.00 to the Council agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wolgast.

Councilmember Alcalá questioned the need for the resolution.

Jackie Williams, City Attorney reported because a portion of the project would be financed with general funds a resolution is being proposed to authorize the use of those funds. He stated the Finance Department requested the resolution to clarify the process.

Councilmember Alcalá stated he believes the resolution adds an unnecessary layer to the approval process because historically the Council would authorize the project with an ordinance.

Councilmember Woelfel asked if there is an alternative to the resolution.

Jim Langford, Budget and Finance Director clarified the ordinance would authorize the issuance of bonds and the resolution would authorize the spending of general funds.

Councilmember Preisner suggested the project be deferred for three weeks to allow staff time to draft clean documents to be presented to the Council for approval.

The motion to suspend the Council Rules to add a resolution to the Council agenda failed.
Councilmembers Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Swank, Archer, Preisner and Harmon voted “no.”

(2-7-0)

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT in the amount of \$64,500 for Robert Williams was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8318 introduced by Councilmember Karen Hiller, granting Cumulus Broadcasting an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.170 concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of March 15, 2011 were presented.

A DANCE HALL License application was presented for Club Hunter located at 820 N Kansas Avenue.

OPEN AFTER MIDNIGHT License applications were presented for the following:

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
20’s West	901 SW Fairlawn
39 th Street Bar & Grill	555 SW 39 th Street
Applebee’s	5828 SW 17th Street
Bang (formerly After Dark Video)	2315 NW Topeka Boulevard
Bang (formerly Sinsations)	4720 SW Topeka Boulevard
Bang (formerly Some Like It Hot)	4732 SW Topeka Boulevard
Bob’s Carwash, Inc	2733 SE California
Bob’s Carwash, Inc	4150 SE 37th Street
Denny’s #7268	1500 SW Wanamaker Road
Denny’s #7269	3210 SW Topeka Boulevard
Dillons #87	5311 SW 22 nd Place
Dillons #88	4015 SW 10 th Street
El Azteca	1201 SE 6 th Street
Famous Dave’s	1625 SW Wanamaker Road
Fraternal Order of Eagles	2941 SE Fremont
Gage Bowl North	200 East Hwy 24
Gage Center Bowl	4200 SW Huntoon
The Goose Again	5630 SW 29 th Street
Hooters of Topeka	6100 SW 10 th Avenue

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Hot Pockets	1909 NE Seward
Hy-Vee	2951 SW Wanamaker Road
Jeremiah Bullfrog's	2940 SW Wanamaker Road
Kelly Express	1001 SW Wanamaker Road
Kickstart Saloon	2521 N Kansas Avenue
Kwik Shop #705	1114 NW Topeka Boulevard
Kwik Shop #713	5700 SW 21 st Street
Kwik Shop #720	102 W 37 th Street
Kwik Shop #729	1700 SW Topeka Boulevard
Kwik Shop #740	2277 W 10 th Street
Kwik Shop #757	2619 SW 21 st Street
Kwik Shop #780	2520 SW 6 th Avenue
Kwik Shop #781	4500 SW Topeka Boulevard
Kwik Shop #788	1414 SW 17 th Street
Kwik Shop #789	746 NE Wabash
Los Portales	1116 SE 6 th Street
Old Chicago	1231 SW Wanamaker Road
Philip Billard VFW #1650	3110 SW Huntoon
Ruffnecks Bar	917 N Kansas Avenue
Sixth Avenue Ballroom	117 SW 6 th Avenue
Sk8away	815 SW Fairlawn Road
Skinny's Inc	4016 SW Huntoon
The Spot Tavern	2200 SW Buchanan
Starlite Skate	301 SE 45 th Street
Steak-n-Shake	1415 SW Wanamaker Road
Taco Bell	101 SE 29 th Street
Taco Bell	1560 SW Wanamaker Road
Taco Bell	2013 N Topeka Boulevard
Tailgator's Sports Pub & Grub	2025 SW Urish, Ste 108
Terry's Billiard Club	3919 SW 21 st Street
Topeka Country Club	2700 SW Buchanan
Topeka Moose Lodge #555	1901 N Kansas Avenue
Wal-Mart Supercenter #1802	1501 SW Wanamaker Road
Wal-Mart Supercenter #2131	1301 SW 37 th Street
Wal-Mart Supercenter #5141	2600 NW Rochester Road
Wild Horse Saloon	3249 SW Topeka Boulevard

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

Councilmember Alcalá announced he would request the Council recess the Council meeting and adjourn into an executive session directly following public comment.

ORDINANCE NO. 19533 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending Sections 13.10.190, 13.10.200 and 13.10.210 of the Code of the City of Topeka concerning fluoridation in the city's water system, specifically repealing said original sections, and specifically repealing the following sections in their entirety Sections 13.10.200 and 13.10.210 placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Alcala questioned if these types of changes require Council's approval.

Braxton Copley, Utilities and Transportation Director stated the ordinance is based on federal and state recommendations and would allow the adjustments to be made administratively.

Councilmember Preisner moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Archer carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcala, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner and Harmon -9.

ORDINANCE NO. 19534 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., concerning accessory uses for various zoning districts, amending Section 18.210.020 and specifically repealing said original section placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented. (ACZR10/5)

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Charlie Campbell expressed concern with the required vehicle width range being 7 feet 6 inches to 7 feet 10 inches and noted most of his fleet of trucks would not qualify. He asked the Council if the required width could be increased by an additional 4 inches.

Councilmember Alcala questioned why the Planning Commission would not increase the width requirements 4 inches.

Charlie Campbell stated he did not have an opportunity to present the request to the Planning Commission because he ran out of time to speak at the public hearing.

Councilmember Hiller stated it appears there was not much time for discussion on this issue at the Planning Commission meetings. She stated she believes if the height is amended to 10 feet 6 inches it would solve the issue and be enforceable throughout the city.

Councilmember Swank suggested an additional 4 inches be added to the height and width of vehicles, encouraging a more business-friendly city.

Councilmember Preisner moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alcalá.

Councilmember Hiller questioned if the ordinance should be considered after the next Council agenda item. She stated there was a discrepancy in the weight of the trucks listed in the ordinances.

David Thurbon, Planning Department Director stated there is a weight discrepancy because the next item on the Council agenda deals with pickup trucks and this ordinance does not.

Councilmember Alcalá asked if a 15,000 pound limit was the initial weight request for trade trucks.

David Thurbon stated 15,000 pounds was recommended with specific dimensions.

Charlie Campbell stated 15,000 pound trucks are not an issue; however, the Council would have to revisit the weight limit again because in two years 16,000 pound trucks will only be available for purchase.

David Thurbon noted the Planning Commission chose a 15,000 pound weight limit for trade trucks because 15,000 pounds was the heaviest truck available at the time.

Councilmember Woelfel asked if there were objections to a 12,000 pound weight limit; and what would be the height limit on a 12,000 pound truck.

David Thurbon reported a 12,000 pound weight limit was not approved by the Council and the ordinance was remanded back to the Planning Commission for amendments to the dimensions. He reported a public hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting and the height requirements were increased to 10 feet, which was to include ladder racks, and a policy on what neighborhoods desired was heard. He noted height requirements could reach up to 11 feet 4 inches and the width could be up to 8 feet.

Mike Pressgrove spoke in support of an additional 4 inches for height and width and a 12,000 pound weight limit, regulations which would be easier to enforce. He reported these types of trucks are safer, more convenient and economical for employees to park at their residence.

Mayor Bunten stated the Governing Body as a whole is pro-business and supports the efforts in maintaining safe neighborhoods; however, he is concerned with large work trucks parking in residential neighborhoods and stated many residents have expressed opposition to the change in regulations.

Councilmember Hiller spoke in support of the ordinance. She stated it would be more economical for small businesses to be allowed to park their trade vehicles at their residence on a daily basis.

The motion to adopt the ordinance carried. Mayor Bunten voted “yes.” Councilmember Archer voted “no.” (9-1-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcala, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Preisner, Harmon and Mayor Bunten -9. Noes: Archer -1.

ORDINANCE NO. 19535 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending City of Topeka Code Sections 18.55.030 and 18.55.160, concerning definitions for zoning regulations and specifically repealing said original sections placed on first reading March 15, 2011. (ACZR10/4)

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Wolgast stated he understands the Mayor's concerns with parking large work trucks in neighborhoods; however, the Planning Commission has made a recommendation after careful consideration and he believes it is a good compromise.

Councilmember Wolgast moved to amend Line 57 of the ordinance by increasing the width standard from 7 feet 5 inches to 8 feet. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried. Mayor Bunten and Councilmember Archer voted "no." (8-2-0)

Councilmember Hiller moved to amend Line 57 of the ordinance by increasing the height standard from 10 feet to 10 feet 6 inches; and amend Line 59 by increasing the gross vehicle weight from 12,000 pounds to 16,000 pounds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ortiz.

Councilmember Woelfel questioned if 16,000 pounds would be an acceptable weight limit.

Councilmember Swank spoke in support of increasing the height standard. She stated she would not support increasing the weight limit to 16,000 pounds.

The motion to amend Line 57 of the ordinance by increasing the height standard from 10 feet to 10 feet 6 inches; and amending Line 59 by increasing the gross vehicle weight from 12,000 pounds to 16,000 pounds failed. Councilmembers Woelfel, Wolgast, Archer, Harmon and Mayor Bunten voted "no." (5-5-0)

Councilmember Swank moved to amend Line 57 of the ordinance by increasing the height standard from 10 feet to 10 feet 6 inches. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hiller carried. Mayor Bunten and Councilmembers Archer and Harmon voted “no.” (7-3-0)

Councilmember Swank and Councilmember Woelfel questioned how the regulations would be enforced.

Randy Speaker stated the City would do what is necessary to enforce the regulations.

David Thurbon, Planning Director stated the City has one zoning enforcement officer and enforcement is complaint based; however, if the enforcement officer observes a violation at anytime a citation is issued. He noted flex time would be arranged to cover enforcement during the weekend.

Mayor Bunten spoke in opposition of the ordinance and stated he supports clean and tidy neighborhoods because homes are the biggest investment for people. He expressed concern with having enough staff to enforce the regulations throughout the entire city.

Councilmember Hiller stated communities need to work together to provide the type of neighborhood they want to live in.

Councilmember Preisner moved to adopt the ordinance as amended. The motion seconded by Councilmember Alcalá carried. Mayor Bunten, Councilmembers Archer and Harmon voted “no.” (7-3-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank and Preisner -7. Noes: Mayor Bunten, Archer and Harmon -3.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending City of Topeka Code Section 6.20.120 and Section 6.30.100 concerning permit fees for cats and dogs

and specifically repealing said original sections placed on first reading June 22, 2010 was again presented.

Councilmember Ortiz gave the staff report. She stated the Committee has recommended additional time to review the ordinance to make sure the final draft is complete and includes all necessary information.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to refer the ordinance back to the Public, Health and Safety Committee. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried unanimously.

Councilmember Woelfel voted “no.” (8-1-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 19536 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending City of Topeka Code Section 9.05.080, concerning adoption of the 2010 Uniform Public Offense Code and specifically repealing said original section placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed concern with the mistake and encouraged staff to take additional time to review documents when necessary.

Councilmember Preisner moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Ortiz carried unanimously. Mayor Bunten voted “yes.” (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner, Harmon and Mayor Bunten -10.

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$120,000 and ORDINANCE NO. 19537 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., authorizing Improvement Project No. T-241011.00, which provides for citywide 50/50 sidewalk repairs, as more specifically described herein placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to approve the project budget and adopt the ordinance.

The motion seconded by Councilmember Archer carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner and Harmon -9.

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$426,999 and AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., authorizing Improvement Project No. T-131015.00, which provides for improvements to City owned facilities, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka placed on first reading February 22, 2011 was again presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Preisner moved to defer the project budget and ordinance to the April 12, 2011 Council meeting. The motion seconded by Councilmember Woelfel carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$120,000 and ORDINANCE NO. 19538 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., authorizing Improvement Project No. T-701004.00, which provides constructing a left turn lane at SE California Avenue and SE 28th Street, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Mayor Bunten asked if the street would have to be widened.

Councilmember Wolgast asked if curbs are included in the project and if the improvements would extend from 28th to 29th Streets helping resolve traffic issues.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed concern with the improvement causing the traffic to back up and questioned if the project is necessary.

Linda Voss, Traffic Engineer reported the project would require the street to be widened into five lanes to allow for a left turning lane; no curbs would be added; and the improvements would significantly reduce the safety issues by reducing the high number of traffic accidents.

Mayor Bunten expressed concern with financing the project with general obligation bonds and stated he would prefer the project be financed with cash.

Jackie Williams, City Attorney stated the project would qualify for the use of half cent sales tax revenue funds because the project is described as an improvement to the roadway.

Councilmember Alcala questioned if the accidents were more of an enforcement issue. He stated he would prefer to fund the project with cash instead of general obligation bonds.

Councilmember Woelfel stated he understands the project is necessary because of the safety issues involved; however, he would prefer to find an alternative funding source to finance the project. He asked if the ordinance could be amended to specify a funding source.

Councilmember Woelfel moved to amend Line 28 of the ordinance by deleting the words “General Obligation Bonds” and inserting the words “Citywide Half Cent Special Purpose Retailers’ Sales Tax.” The motion was seconded by Councilmember Preisner.

Councilmember Preisner spoke in support of the amendment. He stated he believes the improvements are necessary because it is a serious safety issue.

The motion to amend Line 28 of the ordinance by deleting the words “General Obligation Bonds” and inserting the words “Citywide Half Cent Special Purpose Retailers’ Sales Tax” carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

Councilmember Woelfel moved to approve the project budget and adopt the ordinance as amended. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner and Harmon -9.

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$640,000 and ORDINANCE NO. 19539 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., authorizing Improvement Project No. T-141009.00, which provides for traffic signal replacement at four intersections, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Mayor Bunten stated he understands the process and appreciates the time involved in replacing a traffic signal; however, the high cost of the project concerns him because the traffic signals appear to be working properly.

Councilmember Woelfel spoke in opposition to the project because it creates an additional tax burden for the citizens of Topeka. He asked if traffic signal replacement projects could be incorporated into street improvement projects to utilize half cent sales tax revenue funding.

Linda Voss, Traffic Engineering stated the new traffic signal would add pedestrian lighting and operate the same way as the old traffic signal. She reported the traffic signals are 33 to 34 years old and are at the end of their service life. She noted the new signals would not rust and maintenance issues would not be a hazard.

Jackie Williams, City Attorney stated it has been determined traffic signal replacements do not qualify for the use of half cent sales tax revenue funds.

Councilmember Swank moved to approve the project budget and adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wolgast carried. Councilmember Woelfel voted “no.” (8-1-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcala, Ortiz, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner and Harmon -8. Noes: Woelfel -1.

NO Retail Cereal Malt Beverage License applications were presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 19540 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., allowing and approving City expenditures for the period of February 28, 2011, through March 6, 2011, and enumerating said expenditures therein presented for first and final reading.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Wolgast carried. Councilmember Swank was out of the room. (8-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcala, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast, Archer, Preisner and Harmon -8. Absent: Swank -1.

ORDINANCE NO. 19541 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending the “District Map” referred to and made a part of the Zoning Ordinances by Section 18.50.050 of the Topeka Municipal Code (TMC), by providing for certain changes in zoning on property within the Central Highland Park neighborhood from “M-1” Two Family Dwelling District, “M-2” Multiple Family District, and “C-2” Commercial District ALL TO “R-2” Single Family Dwelling District placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented. (Z11/1)

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Councilmember Swank entered the room.

Councilmember Ortiz reported the Central Highland Park NIA has been working together to formulate a plan and stated the zoning changes are long overdue.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Archer.

Councilmember Woelfel questioned why this ordinance and the next ordinance on the Council agenda were not combined as one zoning change request. He stated he believes the Central Highland Park NIA did not propose any zoning changes such as these and expressed concern with the affects the removal of commercial zoning would have on the area.

David Thurbon, Planning Department Director reported the Central Highland Park NIA followed a nine month process to change zoning on certain properties, submitted a plan with the proposed zoning changes which were approved by the Council on December 7, 2010. He clarified this ordinance (Z11/1) amends specific zoning on properties to “R-2” Single-Family Dwelling District; and the next ordinance on the Council agenda (Z11/2) amends specific zoning on properties to “C-1” Commercial District.

Exparte communications were declared by Councilmembers Alcala, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast and Swank.

The motion to adopt the ordinance carried. Mayor Bunten voted “yes.” Councilmember Woelfel voted “no.” (9-1-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcala, Ortiz, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner, Harmon and Mayor Bunten -9. Noes: Woelfel -1.

ORDINANCE NO. 19541 introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending the “District Map” referred to and made a part of the Zoning Ordinances by Section 18.50.050 of the Topeka Municipal Code (TMC), by providing for certain changes in zoning on

property within the Central Highland Park neighborhood from “C-2” Commercial District TO “C-1” Commercial District was placed on first reading March 15, 2011 was again presented.

(Z11/2)

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager gave the staff report.

Exparte communications were declared by Councilmembers Alcalá, Ortiz, Woelfel, Wolgast and Swank.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Archer carried. Mayor Bunten voted “yes.” Councilmember Woelfel voted “no.” (9-1-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Alcalá, Ortiz, Wolgast, Swank, Archer, Preisner, Harmon and Mayor Bunten -9. Noes: Woelfel -1.

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember Bob Archer amending Topeka City Council Rules and Procedures 3.4 concerning work session was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., amending City of Topeka Code Section 3.30.020 and creating Section 3.30.035, concerning competitive bids and negotiation procurement and specifically repealing said original section was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., authorizing Improvement Project No. T-301034.00 which provides for a new roofing system for the rainforest at the Zoo, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., designating real property more specifically described herein as an historic landmark presently zoned “R-2”

Single-Family Dwelling District and located at 419 SW Taylor Street in the City of Topeka, Kansas, pursuant to Section 18.255 of the Topeka Municipal Code was presented for first reading. (HL11/01)

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

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager announced the following:

- The Topeka Fire Department would host the 2011 Citizen's Fire Academy in conjunction with the Topeka Police Department's Spring Academy on March 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Fire Administration Building located at 324 SE Jefferson Street.
- Project Take Over/Make Over would take place on April 2nd and April 16th for the east and west sides of Topeka Boulevard. He asked volunteers to call 368-3663 for more information.
- The Surviving Progress Open House hosted by the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Complete Streets Coalition and Heartland Healthy Neighborhoods is scheduled for March 23rd and April 27th.
- He asked citizens to call 368-3663 with changes to Neighborhood Improvement Association meeting dates, times and locations.
- The Housing and Neighborhood Development Department would host Needs Assessment Hearings for federal funding on March 24th at the Cyrus K. Holliday building located at 620 SE Madison at 6:00 p.m., and on April 14th at the Hillcrest Community Center located at 1800 SE 21st Street at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Hiller questioned if the additional documentation recently submitted concerning the property located at 2303 SE Pennsylvania Avenue has affected the opinion of the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) in regards to demolishing the property.

Randy Speaker reported all documentation has been shared with the State Historical Preservation Officer and SHPO would be on-site when the structure is moved to make sure any historical findings would be preserved.

Councilmember Ortiz stated communication between the City and Neighborhood Improvement Associations needs improvement and noted there continues to be issues with

broadcasting the correct meeting information on City 4. She asked if the flashing light removed from the SE 4th and Branner Streets intersection is being utilized.

Councilmember Alcalá reported the flashing light was installed at the NE Chandler and Seward intersection.

Councilmember Woelfel asked if the SE California Avenue street improvement project from SE 21st to 29th Streets would be discussed at the Surviving Progress Open House meetings.

Randy Speaker stated the project would be discussed at a meeting in approximately one month.

Councilmember Wolgast stated he believes the City-County representative trip to Washington D.C. was a great opportunity for the City to communicate their request to members of Congress. He expressed his appreciation to the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and GO Topeka for making the trip possible.

Councilmember Swank stated she concurred with Councilmember Alcalá and believes a weekly pothole report would be helpful to the Council when communicating with constituents about street repairs.

Councilmember Archer congratulated Gary Woodland, native Topekan and current PGA golfer, who is now ranked 3rd in the world for leading money winner on the PGA Tour. He reported he attended a Washburn Institute of Technology Open House and stated it is a tremendous asset to the community and invited citizens and Councilmembers to attend the next open house event scheduled on April 16th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Councilmember Preisner asked if there is a policy in place that regulates funding for the demolition of commercial properties, and if so, he would like the policy distributed to the Council.

Randy Speaker stated he would check to see if there was a policy in place and report back to the Council. He referenced an article printed in the Hutchinson Newspaper regarding preservation of historic neighborhoods in Topeka and how the City of Hutchison is following the City's lead to preserve historic neighborhoods.

Ted Mize appeared to speak under public comment.

At 8:10 p.m., Councilmember Alcalá moved to recess the Council meeting and adjourn into an executive session for a time period not to exceed one hour to discuss non-elected personnel issues and to include elected officials only. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hiller carried unanimously. Mayor Bunten voted yes. (10-0-0)

At the conclusion of the executive session, Deputy Mayor Swank announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Councilmember Alcalá moved to adjourn the Council meeting. The motion seconded by Councilmember Preisner carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk