

Council Minutes – November 27, 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, November 27, 2012. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Alcalá, Everhart, Wolgast, Manspeaker, Archer, Gray and Harmon -8. Mayor William W. Bunten presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Ortiz -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Reverend Kate McGee, Trinity Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

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

Jim Colson, City Manager, stated the Minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2012, agenda item 4a, were not yet complete. He requested the Minutes be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on next week's Council agenda.

Upon hearing no objections, Mayor Bunten announced item 4a would be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the December 4, 2012, Council agenda.

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$4,000,000 and A RESOLUTION introduced by Interim City Manager Daniel R. Stanley, relating to and authorizing Improvement Project No. T-601020.02, which provides for street improvements to South Kansas Avenue between 7th Street and 9th Street, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka was presented. The project budget and resolution was deferred from the meeting of July 17, 2012.

Jim Colson, City Manager, reported the South Kansas Avenue Street Improvement Project No. T-601020.02 proposal has changed significantly as outlined in Council agenda item 6a. He requested the item be withdrawn from the Council agenda.

Mayor Bunten asked the individuals signed up to speak on the matter if they would object to reserving their comments until the Council considers the new project proposal (item 6a).

Upon hearing no objections from the individuals signed up to speak, Mayor Bunten announced public comment would be reserved until the Council considers the new project proposal, Council agenda item 6a.

Upon hearing no objections from Councilmembers, Mayor Bunten announced the project budget and resolution would be withdrawn from the Council agenda.

A PROJECT BUDGET in the amount of \$8,448,032 and A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, relating to and authorizing Improvement Project No. T-601020.02, which provides for street improvements to South Kansas Avenue between 6th Street and 10th Street, as more specifically described herein, all pursuant to Section A12-1 of the Code of the City of Topeka was presented.

Jim Colson, City Manager, requested to defer the project budget and resolution until December 11, 2012. He stated he concurs with the Council and believes there is great value in gathering public input on the new proposal. He announced they would provide a presentation on the new proposal, as well as, providing an opportunity for public comment on December 6, 2012, in an open house forum, with time and location to be determined. He reported there are significant changes to the proposal; however, the budget is consistent as there is still a certain amount of estimated funds coming from the private sector. He stated they would continue to work on building an increased level of financial commitment from the private sector.

Teresa Miller stated she believes more information and ideas need to be considered for the downtown area. She requested the public meeting be scheduled in the evening to allow more members of the community to attend.

Mayor Bunten stated complete information on the new proposal would be provided at the December 6, 2012, public meeting.

Councilmember Archer suggested televising the public meeting and scheduling the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on December 6, 2012.

Jim Colson confirmed the open house would be held on December 6, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 214 SE 8th Street. He noted the open house would be televised.

Angel Romero reported they are very excited about the downtown revitalization project and many fellow Washburn University students are ready to move forward with the plan. He stated they support hosting a public forum on the new proposal and thanked the Governing Body for continuing with the plan's development.

Frank Meade referenced an email he sent to the Council concerning his involvement in the downtown revitalization plan. He stated he believes a long term plan should be included for properties south of 10th Street to get real results and move towards real development in the future. He noted that he attended most of the Heartland Visioning public meetings; however, the plan is a narrow scope of a certain area to be revitalized which he believes limits the downtown area vision as a whole.

Mayor Bunten stated he concurs with Mr. Meade and believes other businesses would look into expanding or opening on Kansas Avenue if the plan extended to 10th Street.

Councilmember Wolgast moved to defer the project budget and resolution until December 11, 2012. The motion seconded by Councilmember Gray carried. Councilmember Manspeaker voted "no." (7-1-0)

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

Jim Colson, City Manager, commented on the court ruling in the case of *Bryant v. City of Topeka and State of Kansas* and reported the outcome of the court case would not hinder the City's continued efforts in addressing and promoting safety on the Kansas River.

Councilmember Hiller commended the volunteers who assisted with the Miracle on Kansas Avenue Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Councilmember Alcala requested the graffiti on the Oakland pump station be removed as soon as possible and noted the content is very offensive.

Mayor Bunten commented on the 44th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner held on November 22, 2012, and stated it was a great success. He also thanked the volunteers who helped make the Miracle on Kansas Avenue Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony a great success and noted Topeka is a vibrant community with many events happening this time of year. He commented on emails he received from residents expressing concern with downtown revitalization and infrastructure that is in need of repairs.

Jeff Scott appeared to speak under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk