

Council Minutes – March 11, 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, March 11, 2014. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Campos II, Ortiz, Everhart, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt and Harmon -9. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember De La Isla gave the invocation.

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

A PRESENTATION on the Endangered Historic Properties was given by Bill Fiander, Planning Department Director and Zac Snethen, Topeka Landmarks Commission Chairman.

Zac Snethen distributed a brochure outlining the nomination process for endangered historic properties that would seek to identify properties of historic significance that face critical threats to their existence. He stated the list would raise public awareness, promote citizen involvement, and provide priorities in order to better align resources to address public concern.

Councilmember Hiller commended the Topeka Landmarks Commission and stated is very impressed with the process.

Zac Snethen stated the Landmarks Commission would evaluate nominations and identify the 10 most endangered properties which will be presented to the City Council in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Month in May, reflecting public concern for the well-being and continued use of those properties. He noted nomination information and forms could be found on the City of Topeka website at www.topeka.org/topekaworthsaving.

Mayor Wolgast introduced two ambassadors visiting Topeka from Thailand, Ms. Penpuk Rattanakumfu, Mayor of the Kohkha Municipality, and Ms. Rangsinee Wisessittikul, Deputy Mayor Tambon Bangjak Municipality, Angthong province.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

DENIAL of claim filed by Joseph Chambers seeking \$250,000 in damages caused by a motor vehicle accident near SW 29th Street and SW Oakley Avenue was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8601 introduced by Councilmember Karen Hiller granting the Celtic Fox an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of March 4, 2014, were presented.

Open After Midnight License applications were presented for the following:

<u>BUSINESS NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Boss Hawg's BBQ	2833 SW 29 th Street
Buffalo Wild Wings #149	1227 SW Wanamaker Road, Suite 400
The Burger Stand @ College Hill	1601 SW Lane Street
Eclipse Night Club	4117 SW Huntoon Street
Hookah House #2	1507 SW 21 st Street, #201
Hooters of Topeka	6100 SW 10 th Avenue
Hot Pockets	1909 NE Seward Avenue
Kickstart Saloon	2521 N Kansas Avenue
The Landmark	605 SW Fairlawn Road
Lazy Toad	5331 SW 22 nd Place
Skinny's Sports Bar & Grill	4016 SW Huntoon Street
Serendipity	820 N Kansas Avenue
West Ridge Lanes	1935 SW Westport Drive
Whiplash Bar & Grill	2107 SE California Avenue

Councilmember De La Isla moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Everhart carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 19894 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, concerning Neighborhood Planning, pertaining to an amendment to the text and map of the Topeka

Comprehensive Plan for the Oakland Neighborhood Plan placed on first reading March 4, 2014, was again presented. (CPA13/3)

Bill Fiander, Planning Department Director, reported the Oakland community was selected to receive Stages of Resource Targeting (SORT) funds for infrastructure and housing improvements in selected target areas in 2013. He stated prior to determining the projects, the neighborhood plan is updated to reflect current trends and conditions, update goals, and prioritize target areas and improvements. He gave a brief summary of the process, meetings and goals to implement strategies in the community.

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

Elinor Cowell, Oakland Neighborhood Improvement Association Secretary, gave a summary of the improvement projects in the community and how it would benefit local residents. She commended Susan Hanzlik, City of Topeka Planner, for her assistance on the well-planned report and stated she believes it is a start to improving other issues in the community. She encouraged the Council to support the plan.

Frank Aguilar, Oakland Neighborhood Improvement Association President, gave a history of the planning process and the 2004 neighborhood plan. He stated the Oakland community is a small area in need of improvements and needs help to stop the decline of homeownership in the area.

Rosalie Ridgeway, Oakland Neighborhood Improvement Association Vice-President, spoke in support of the plan and thanked the Planning Department and Topeka Planning Commission for working closely with residents to develop a good neighborhood plan.

Tom Hedges, former Oakland Neighborhood Improvement Association President, commended the Topeka Planning Department, Topeka Planning Commission and the process by which the neighborhood plan was developed. He encouraged the Council to approve the neighborhood plan.

Councilmember Ortiz commended Oakland residents for working constructively and informing the Council with updates. She spoke in support of the plan which she believes is overdue and looks forward to continuing the working relationship with the community.

The motion to adopt the ordinance carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Campos II, Ortiz, Everhart, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt, Harmon and Mayor Wolgast -10.

NO retail cereal malt beverage or scrap metal dealers’ license applications were presented.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, annexing land to the City of Topeka, Kansas, in accordance with K.S.A. 12-520, located at the northeast corner of SW 17th Street and SW Urish Road within unincorporated Shawnee County, Kansas, and adjacent to the City of Topeka corporate limits, and said land being annexed for all City purposes was presented first reading. (A14/1)

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

Mayor Wolgast commended Bonnie Williams, City of Topeka Paralegal for receiving the 2014 Legal Professional of the Year Award from the Topeka Legal Professionals. He announced that Meals on Wheels is celebrating its 12th Annual March for Meals Campaign and encouraged the community to participate in the program which delivers meals to local residents. He also

acknowledged the work the Meals on Wheels volunteers perform and its importance to the community.

Councilmember De La Isla thanked Zac Snethen and the Topeka Landmarks Commission for bringing forward a comprehensive plan on historical properties. She reported two ambassadors were visiting from Thailand and have toured City operations. She thanked the Governing Body and City staff for meeting with them and providing information about Topeka. She also thanked the Topeka Police and Fire Departments and local ambulance services for their quick response time in dealing with certain incidents at her workplace.

Councilmember Manspeaker commended Zac Snethen, the Topeka Landmarks Commission and the Historic Tourism Committee for their work on the Endangered Historic Properties nomination process. He reported he attended the Human Relations Commission meeting on March 10, 2014, and thanked the volunteers who serve on the Commission for their forward thinking and making a difference in the community.

Councilmember Schwartz commended Mayor Wolgast for initiating the change in council meetings and agendas and stated she believes it is possible for the Governing Body to meet three times a month and accomplish tasks set before them. She commended City staff responsible for answering e311 telephone calls because many of her constituents have informed her that they are friendly, courteous and efficient. She thanked Doug Whitacre, Public Works Director, for the quick response to the issues at the intersection of SW 21st Street and SW Belle Avenue. She reported her first quarter Council District No. 7 Newsletter would be coming soon and stated if anyone is interested in receiving a copy to email her at eschwartz@topeka.org.

Councilmember Schmidt reported he attended the Project Launch Community Event on March 11, 2014, hosted by Visit Topeka, Inc., Downtown Topeka, Inc., and the Greater Topeka

Chamber of Commerce. He stated these entities are partnering together in a 14-week Branding and Marketing Action Plan Project with an internationally known community branding expert to improve efforts to market Topeka. He encouraged the community to participate in a survey on Visit Topeka's website at www.visittopeka.com which would help compile options in attracting visitors to Topeka.

Councilmember Hiller announced the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Mater Dei Irish Fest 5K Run, Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc.'s Great Topeka Bed Race, St. Patrick's Day Street Party and Mater Dei Irish Fest Street Fair are scheduled on March 15, 2014, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. She invited everyone to participate in the many events happening around the community this weekend.

Councilmember Campos II welcomed the Jenkins family home to Topeka after being in the Ukraine where they adopted four children. He thanked the Governing Body for their unanimous support of the Oakland Neighborhood Plan.

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

Brenda Younger
City Clerk