

Council Minutes – January 6, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, January 6, 2015. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Brown, Ortiz, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt and Harmon -8. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Everhart -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Manspeaker asked for a moment of silent meditation.

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

A PRESENTATION on the City of Topeka e311 online customer service application was provided by Monique Glaudè, Division Director of Community Engagement. She gave a brief overview of application statistics including the number of downloads, users, unique visitors, page views, answers to questions and total requests. She noted as they move forward in 2015 they would continue to find ways to promote the program and help increase users.

A PRESENTATION on the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Comprehensive Financial Aid Report (CFAR) received by the City of Topeka was provided by Doug Gerber, Administrative and Financial Services Director. He recognized the staff members who assisted with the process and reported the award is the highest form of recognition that is received for excellence in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) allowing Topeka to be a part of an elite group in meeting tough GFOA standards.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

MINUTES of the regular meeting of December 16, 2014, was presented.

A Dance Hall License application for Midwest Elks Lodge #1441 located at 1316 SE Madison Street was presented.

Councilmember De La Isla moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Brown carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 8662 introduced by Deputy Mayor Denise Everhart cancelling Council meetings for calendar year 2015 was presented.

Councilmember Schmidt moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hiller carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

There were no Cereal Malt Beverage or Scrap Metal Dealer License applications presented.

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

Jim Colson, City Manager, referenced the fire incident at 720 S. Kansas Avenue and commended the Topeka Fire, Police, Traffic, Development Services and Public Works Departments, Mayor Wolgast and Downtown Topeka Inc., for their response and willingness to assist the existing businesses in the area. He recognized the City's new Wellness Coordinator, Samantha Griffin and commended her for starting a 30-day challenge to create a healthier community and employment base for the City. He commented on discussions regarding Heartland Park's Request for Proposal process and reported discussions are continuing with two groups; however, these groups do have concerns with the legal aspects of the proposal. He reported the legislative post audit meeting will take place January 9, 2015. He stated he still believes the deal is beneficial for the City, and he would continue to push forward while remaining realistic and professional to those involved in the process.

Mayor Wolgast commended the community and Topeka Fire Department for coming together and providing the support needed to handle the fire incident at 720 S. Kansas Avenue on January 2, 2015.

Councilmember Schwartz welcomed Kansas State representatives to the city of Topeka and announced the Kansas State Legislature would begin the 2015 session on January 12th.

Jim Colson introduced Mr. Donald Stone, Topeka RoadRunners Hockey Team Association. He stated Mr. Stone is working diligently to become involved and engaged in the community to promote the Topeka RoadRunners Hockey Team.

Councilmember Hiller commended all the departments for their assistance with the fire incident at 720 S. Kansas Avenue on January 2, 2015. She also commented on the many other tragedies that have been averted recently due to quick responses by public safety teams. She wished everyone a great 2015 and looks forward to a new year. She encouraged citizens to support the Topeka Roadrunners Hockey Team and attend their games.

Councilmember Brown thanked all the first responders for their assistance with the fire at 720 S. Kansas Avenue, as well as, all City employees for their hard work and dedication to the community in 2014. He noted notifications were sent out to the neighborhoods surrounding the Southwest Publishing Company property located at 2600 NW Topeka Boulevard regarding an informational meeting on January 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. He stated if anyone needs more information concerning the meeting to contact him at 368-3710. He reported he may not attend the next few Council meetings as he will be undergoing neck surgery.

Councilmember De La Isla thanked those involved in winterizing three homes in the Hi-Crest neighborhood, as well as, all the Topeka firefighters who helped extinguish the fire at 720 S. Kansas Avenue on January 2, 2015.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk