

Council Minutes – July 14, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, July 14, 2015. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Clear, Ortiz, Schumm, De La Isla, Jensen, Schwartz and Harmon -8. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Coen -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Ortiz gave the invocation.

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

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

MINUTES of the regular meeting of July 7, 2015, was presented.

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

APPROVAL of the 2016 Social Services and Contracted Services Allocations in the amount of \$633,178 was presented.

Councilmember Hiller referenced a memorandum from Sasha Stiles, Department of Neighborhood Relations Director, outlining necessary adjustments to the social service grant total. She reported an adjustment was made to the social service grant total of \$333,179 which only included the General Fund grants and should include \$136,823 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a total of \$470,002; and the Kansas Legal Services has declined their 2016 allocation of \$19,670 due to the discontinuation of their employment program; therefore, staff recommends these unused funds be directed back into the 2016 General Fund. She stated the total recommended 2016 allocation is \$750,331, which includes \$299,999 for Contracted Services and \$450,332 for Social Services.

Councilmember Hiller moved to approve the Economic and Community Development Committee recommendations for the 2016 allocation of \$750,331 which includes \$299,999 for Contracted Services and \$450,332 for Social Services. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jensen.

Councilmember Ortiz questioned if the \$19,670 declined by the Kansas Legal Services could be allocated to other social service agencies in need and if it was too difficult for new organizations to meet the grant allocation process requirements.

Councilmember De La Isla commended the Economic and Community Development Committee for their hard work during the process. She reported all agencies were required to list outcome measurements and consistencies to be considered for funding.

Councilmember Hiller reported many new applicants were approved for grant funding and the \$19,670 may be used towards the \$50,000 needed to implement the youth employment program approved by the Budget Committee to be included in the 2016 City Operating Budget.

Councilmember Clear asked if the \$19,670 could be divided equally between all the agencies that were approved.

Councilmember Hiller stated the Committee worked to stay within the application guidelines to optimize funds.

Lynn Davis, Breakthrough House Executive Director, expressed her appreciation in receiving continued funding from the City.

The motion to approve the Economic and Community Development Committee recommendations for the 2016 allocation of \$750,331 which includes \$299,999 for Contracted Services and \$450,332 for Social Services carried. Councilmember Schumm voted “no.”

(8-1-0)

APPROVAL of the 2016 Transient Guest Tax allocation recommendations in the amount of \$2,740,721 was presented.

Councilmember Schwartz gave the Transient Guest Tax Committee report approving the 2016 Transient Guest Tax allocation recommendation in the amount of \$2,740,721. The funds would be allocated as follows:

- \$1,514,117 to Visit Topeka, Inc.
- \$213,389 to Visit Topeka BID Fund
- \$383,890 to Sunflower Soccer Special Assessments
- \$46,067 Administrative Fees
- \$383,890 for 1% allocation to be determined
- \$7,423 for contingency
- Transfer of \$191,945 to General Fund for the Topeka Zoo

Councilmember Schwartz moved to approve the 2016 Transient Guest Tax allocation recommendations in the amount of \$2,740,721. The motion seconded by Councilmember Harmon carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 19958 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, terminating the Eastgate Redevelopment Project Plan, the Eastgate Redevelopment District, the Redevelopment Agreement, terminating tax increment financing (TIF) for the district, and distributing the remaining TIF funds to the County for disbursement to the participating taxing entities pursuant to the law, was presented.

Brandon Kauffman, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided a brief overview of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, the timeline in which it was to be developed and the finances associated with the TIF District. He reported approval would terminate the TIF District and authorize the distribution of TIF funds to the City, Shawnee County and Washburn University.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember De La Isla.

Councilmember Harmon asked if there was any legal liability as a result of terminating the contract.

Mary Feighny, Interim City Attorney, stated there was no legal liability for the City because 15th Street Investments has agreed to waive any and all liability and J&J Development has declared bankruptcy.

The motion to adopt the ordinance carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Clear, Ortiz, Schumm, De La Isla, Jensen, Schwartz, Harmon and Mayor Wolgast -9. Absent: Coen -1.

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

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, gave a brief overview of the July 21, 2015, Council agenda.

Jim Colson, City Manager, announced Harley Davidson of Topeka would make a one-of-a-kind international tourism announcement on July 17, 2015, at 11:00 a.m.

Doug Gerber, Administrative and Financial Services Director, announced the City of Topeka was pleased to offer E-Billing to City utility customers effective August 1, 2015. He stated citizens would have the ability to view their bills online, replacing current paper bills while saving resources and reducing waste.

Mayor Wolgast announced a JEDO Board meeting would be held July 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. He encouraged the community to attend the World Horseshoe Tournament sponsored by the National Horseshoe Pitching Association at the Kansas Expocentre July 13-25, 2015, and noted ESPN will be televising the event live. He reported Visit Topeka gave \$25,000 for the national event with an anticipated return on investment of \$2.5 million in Transient Guest Tax dollars.

Councilmember Ortiz encouraged citizens to attend the 82nd Annual Fiesta Mexicana July 14-18, 2015.

Councilmember Schumm reported he attended the Kansas Community Leadership Initiative Summit July 9-10, 2015. He stated it was a great opportunity to work with community leaders in addressing poverty and other crisis issues in the community.

Councilmember Jensen reported he is a committee member of TEDxTopeka (Technology, Entertainment and Design); a nonprofit group devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. He encouraged citizens who are interested in speaking at the December 2015 TEDxTopeka to submit an application found at www.tedxtopeka.com by August 14, 2015.

Councilmember Schwartz announced that she considers Reser's Fine Foods this week's "gem" of Topeka because they continue to be a great corporate sponsor and supporter of the local community. She stated she would like two ordinances to be placed on a future Council agenda relating to e-cigarettes and towing vehicles without insurance.

Councilmember Harmon commended the Economic and Community Development Committee and the Transient Guest Tax Committee for their hard work and display of leadership regarding funding allocations for the 2016 City Operating Budget.

Councilmember Hiller commended City staff and Committee members for their work on the social services grant allocation process.

Councilmember Clear reported she attended a Heartland Visioning meeting and commended individuals that work together to make Topeka a better place to live as well as the Community Action Board meeting which included many people who are vested in the community. She stated she toured the City of Topeka Oakland Wastewater Treatment Plant, a great facility operated by employees that are dedicated to their jobs and the community.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk