

## **Council Minutes – January 7, 2014**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, January 7, 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, Everhart, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt and Harmon -8. Deputy Mayor Sylvia Ortiz presided -1. Absent: Mayor Larry E. Wolgast -1.

Deputy Mayor Ortiz announced that Mayor Wolgast would be absent because he was a passenger on Topeka's first regularly scheduled commercial flight from the Topeka Regional Airport to Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Grant English, Topeka Fire Department Chaplain, gave the invocation.

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

A PRESENTATION on the Sodium Reduction in Communities Program was presented by Misty Kruger, Shawnee County Health Agency, and Tara Dimick, E2 Communications, Inc. They highlighted the purpose of the three-year program and reported the funds would help implement policy and media strategies to create healthier food environments and helps reduce sodium intake in the population at the local level. They also commented on the improvements the Topeka Zoo has implemented to provide healthy food options to visitors and commended Hy-Vee and local gas stations for their willingness to help promote the media campaign and provide environmental support to sodium reduction efforts.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

MINUTES of the regular meeting of December 17, 2013, were presented.

A Dance Hall License application for Skivies Bar & Grill located at 921 S. Kansas Avenue, was presented.

An Open After Midnight License application for Short Stop III located at 2044 NW Tyler Street, was presented.

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

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING to consider the advisability of establishing a Community Improvement District for Crosswinds Common located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Wanamaker Road.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, establishing a community improvement district (CID) located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Wanamaker Road (Crosswinds Common) levying a CID sales tax of one percent (1%) within the CID, and issuing special obligation bonds placed on first reading December 17, 2013, was again presented.

Councilmember Harmon stated there were additional details that need to be worked out between the City and the developer; therefore, additional time is needed for discussion.

Councilmember Harmon moved to defer the public hearing and ordinance for one week. The motion was seconded by Councilmember De La Isla.

Bruce Woner, attorney for the developer, appeared for questions.

The motion to defer the public hearing and ordinance for one week carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 19873 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, amending the text of the Topeka Comprehensive Metropolitan Plan for the Historic Preservation Element placed on first reading December 17, 2013, was again presented. (CPA13/1)

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Manspeaker.

Peter Gierer spoke in support of the ordinance and the preservation of community history.

Murl Riedel spoke in support of the ordinance and the economic benefit of historic preservation. He stated the plan would provide the guidance needed during the difficult phase of implementing the recommendations.

Zach Snethen spoke in support of the plan and reported it was completed through a unified collaboration of the City of Topeka Planning Department, Topeka Planning Commission and Visit Topeka, Inc. He stated the plan would promote the heritage of Topeka with the goal of keeping heritage alive and vital in the community.

Councilmember Hiller commended the Topeka Planning Commission and City Planning Department staff on their efforts. She stated the process was well received and should be a role model for future plans which offered all stakeholders both private and public, to be involved in public sessions. She spoke in support of seeking to register the Capitol building as a world heritage site in the near future.

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

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Campos II, Ortiz, Everhart, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt and Harmon -9. Absent: Mayor Wolgast -1.

ORDINANCE NO. 19874 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, providing for the renewal of a nonexclusive franchise to American Medical Response to operate an ambulance service within the City of Topeka which replaces the franchise ordinance codified at City Code Appendix B, Article 6 that will expire December 31, 2013, placed on first reading December 17, 2013, was again presented.

Chad Sublet, City Attorney, reported Shawnee County contracts with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide ambulance services and the contract requires AMR to enter into a

franchise agreement with the City of Topeka. He stated approval would extend AMR's franchise agreement to December 31, 2014.

Councilmember Schwartz asked if the City has researched other options in providing ambulance services to the community.

Jim Colson, City Manager, stated City staff continues to research different options from an operational and financial standpoint in regards to the service and they would continue to do so until a sound decision could be made.

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

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Campos II, Ortiz, Everhart, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt and Harmon -9. Absent: Mayor Wolgast -1.

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

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

Jim Colson, City Manager, introduced Nickie Lee, the new City of Topeka Budget Manager and stated Ms. Lee would ensure daily budget activity and performance measures are followed accordingly. He reported staff would continue to rebuild the City's budget team over the next month.

Councilmember Hiller commended City staff for following City policy to address snow emergencies and doing a great job communicating to the public during the recent inclement weather.

Councilmember Campos II congratulated United Airlines and the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority on the first flight from Topeka to Chicago. He congratulated and welcomed

Nickie Lee on her employment with the City. He commended Doug Whitacre, Public Works Director, and Ron Raines, Street Maintenance Director, for a job well done during the recent inclement weather.

Councilmember Ortiz thanked Doug Whitacre, Public Works Director, for updating the Council on the icy roads and educating them on how roads are treated so they can provide the information to constituents.

Councilmember De La Isla welcomed United Airlines to the Topeka area.

Councilmember Manspeaker stated he has followed social media regarding public concern with inclement weather and street conditions. He expressed concern with U.S.D. 501 school buses running behind schedule due to poor street conditions forcing students to wait in sub-zero degree weather. He suggested reviewing policies so they are more effective and encouraged the Governing Body to approve sufficient funding for a successful snow removal process.

Councilmember Schwartz encouraged the Governing Body to promote tourism in the Capital City and take part in the many events that are offered at different venues throughout the city. She invited the community to participate in the Makin' Moves Program on January 10, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the Westridge Mall, an event free to all ages.

Frank Hoge appeared to speak under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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Brenda Younger  
City Clerk