

Council Minutes – February 3, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, February 3, 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, Everhart, De La Isla, Manspeaker, Schwartz, Schmidt and Harmon -9. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Chaplain Major John Potter, Kansas National Guard gave the invocation.

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

A PRESENTATION honoring the 2014 Topeka Armed Forces Personnel of the Year Awards dedicated by the Topeka Military Relations Committee was presented by Mayor Wolgast. The following award recipients were introduced and honored for their contribution of service:

- Sgt. 1st Class Daniel L. Reling, Kansas Army National Guard
- Gunnery Sgt. Max D. Coons, United States Marine Corps
- Senior Airman Maria Garcia, Kansas National Guard
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Kimberly Lawson, United States Coast Guard
- Petty Officer 1st Class Daisy L. Brown, United States Coast Guard Reserve

A PRESENTATION on the FY2014 Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority (TMTA) Service Report was presented by Susan Duffy, Chief Executive Officer, TMTA. She reported the past year has been one of accomplishment and positive change for TMTA and highlighted the following:

- Provided 48,000 free rides for kids from May to August 2014 throughout the city of Topeka
- Provided 13,000 rides per month for Topeka Public Schools during the 2014 school year
- Provided 4,000 to 6,000 rides for Washburn University students and faculty
- Continued partnership with the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library for the Books on the Bus Program “The Big Read”

- New fare boxes were installed on all fixed route buses and new fare media was introduced
- “Camp Metro” was introduced which provides rides to day camps throughout the city
- 10 new fixed route buses were delivered in December 2014

In conclusion, Susan Duffy reported TMTA will bring proposals back to the Governing Body in the upcoming year for new programs that would include evening routes, as well as, a new bike share program in April 2015. She thanked City staff for their assistance in making TMTA a success.

Councilmember Ortiz thanked Susan Duffy for her great service to the community. She questioned if TMTA could communicate program information quicker so people could take full advantage of TMTA program opportunities. She asked when the bus shelter on E. 10th Street would be rebuilt.

Susan Duffy reported TMTA has installed 37 bus shelters throughout the community in 2014 and they would continue to work on the issue including the shelter on E. 10th Street in conjunction with ensuring all shelters are ADA accessible. She stated all routes are being reviewed to improve overall services for the community.

Councilmember De La Isla commended Susan Duffy for providing TMTA with momentum and thanked TMTA for their great service to the community.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

MINUTES of the regular meeting of January 20, 2015, was presented.

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

APPROVAL of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement between the City of Topeka and US Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance Inc., for the purchase of police vehicles in the amount of \$894,121.71, was presented. (Contract No. 44146)

Brandon Kauffman, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided a brief history on the replacement of the Topeka Police Department's aging vehicle fleet. He reported the process began in 2012, and the lease agreement being considered was included in the 2015 Police Department Operating Budget. He stated the City received two bids in response to the request, with U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance Inc., receiving the winning bid offering a 60-day rate lock of 1.38%. He reported the total annual payment would be \$298,040.57 over three (3) years with a total interest cost of \$24,121.71; and the lease agreement complies with the Kansas Cash Basis Law and requires annual appropriation by the Governing Body.

Mayor Wolgast questioned how many vehicles would be purchased annually and if they are close to meeting program replacement goals.

James Brown, Topeka Police Chief reported the Police Department would purchase the vehicles listed below bringing the Department closer in line to the City's replacement goals. He stated the purchase would keep the Police Department vehicle fleet in good shape while allowing them to maintain the vehicles already in place.

- 1 Harley Davidson Motorcycle
- 1 Chevy Van plus equipment (CSI Unit)
- 3 Ford Extended Cab Trucks with carriers (Animal Control Unit)
- 3 Ford Fusions (Criminal Investigation Bureau)
- 7 Police Mountain Bikes
- 20 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles (Black and White Patrol Vehicles)

Councilmember Everhart moved to approve the master lease purchase agreement. The motion seconded by Councilmember De La Isla carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted "yes." (10-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 8663 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, describing the areas to be considered priorities for 2015 Planning Target Areas for future federal and city funding as may be allocated within the 2016 and 2017 City budgets was presented.

Sasha Stiles, Director of Neighborhood Relations, gave a brief overview of the process and noted they received a total of five applications, and the Hi-Crest and North Topeka West Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIA) were approved as the target areas selected by the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). She commended the work of the NIA members and thanked City staff for their assistance.

Joseph Ledbetter, Hi-Crest NIA President, expressed his appreciation for the approval of the projects and stated the NIA looks forward to more improvements as they move through the process.

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

A Cereal Malt Beverage License application for Arturo's located at 105 SE 10th Avenue was presented.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to approve the cereal malt beverage license application as presented. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hiller carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted "yes." (10-0-0)

DISCUSSION regarding the restructuring and renaming of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HND) as the Department of Neighborhood Relations, was presented.

Jim Colson, City Manager reported over the past two and a half years there have been ongoing discussions on how the City could work more closely and effectively with neighborhoods. He stated Mayor Wolgast challenged him to resolve the issue and in response to

the challenge the City conducted two neighborhood summits, attended many Neighborhood Improvement Association meetings, Citizen Advisory Council meetings and engaged the community to help gather input on how to reduce redundancy and improve communication between the City of Topeka and the neighborhoods. He reported the reorganization would be the first phase in finalizing the pilot program. He briefly described restructuring the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department and the specific development of the Community Engagement Division, as well as, the complete overhaul of the Property Maintenance Division, formerly Code Compliance.

Sasha Stiles, Director of Neighborhood Relations, facilitated the discussion by providing a brief overview of overall 2015 Department goals and the services provided in housing; community engagement; development services; property maintenance and regulatory compliance. She introduced Corrie Wright, Division Director of Housing Services; Monique Glaude, Division Director of Community Engagement; Richard Faulkner, Division Director of Property Code and Development Services; and Brad Reiff, Division Director of Regulatory Compliance.

Mayor Wolgast asked that a similar report be presented on the Property Maintenance Division.

Sasha Stiles reported the Code Compliance supervisor has passed the certification as required by the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and is currently training three inspectors for certification. She reported she would be meeting with the Neighborhood Task Force on February 18, 2015, to specifically focus on the issue.

Councilmember Ortiz requested the City consider creating a position for a grant writer to acquire grant money to help clean up neighborhoods.

Jim Colson reported grant writing will be incorporated in the City's overall plan in the near future.

Councilmember Brown expressed his appreciation for the presentation and stated it clarifies the proposed changes by providing each division's focus, goals and outcomes.

Councilmember Schwartz stated she concurs with Councilmember Ortiz and the need to pursue grant funding. She stated she would like to know more information about Animal Control and the Property Maintenance Division.

Jim Colson stated Animal Control would stay under the direction of the Topeka Police Department; and the Property Maintenance Division was closely reviewed and it was determined it would fit best in the Department of Neighborhood Relations.

Councilmember Hiller stated she agrees with the reorganization and is impressed with the plan. She suggested the City consider a grant writing position because there are many neighborhoods interested in receiving grant funding, as well as, it would provide an opportunity to utilize any and all funding available to the City. She stated she would hope neighborhood development would not just focus on federal guidelines but also on becoming self-directed and self-sustained. She suggested the ordinance include full descriptions of each division; and the neighborhood rules and regulations be structured differently so neighborhoods are less dependent upon the City.

Mayor Wolgast requested a copy of the presentation, including a biography on Richard Faulkner, Director of Property Code and Development Services, be provided to Governing Body members.

Councilmember Brown encouraged the City to increase involvement with the Neighborhood Task Force, a division of the Community Action Council in 2015, in order to continue to improve communications with neighborhoods.

Joseph Ledbetter commented on the Hi-Crest area and stated he believes it is a very innovative, involved and unified neighborhood to take on the City and other forces. He reported he received the Department of Neighborhood Relations reorganization chart; however, he has not yet seen position descriptions. He referenced an email correspondence sent to Councilmembers from Betty Phillips expressing her concern with the ordinance. He stated he believes many NIAs should look to their own leadership for guidance to help improve neighborhoods.

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

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, provided an overview of the February 10, 2015 Council agenda.

Councilmember Schwartz referenced meeting with Kansas Senator Vicki Schmidt and Kansas Representative Kevin Jones to discuss local elections occurring in the fall and the impact it could have on military personnel seeking office. She suggested the City monitor the issue closely as they move through the 2015 Legislative Session.

Councilmember Hiller stated she is excited about the reorganization of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Division and looks forward to considering the ordinance at the February 10, 2015, Council meeting. She asked that an update on constituent services be presented to the Council in the near future.

Councilmember Brown thanked Brad Reiff, Deputy Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development Division for his work in neighborhoods and wished him well in his

new position. He announced the Neighborhood Task Force (NTF) Meeting would be held February 18, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Cyrus K. Holliday Building located at 620 SE Madison and encouraged citizens to attend.

Councilmember Ortiz thanked Brad Reiff for doing a great job in the Topeka community and wished him well in his new position.

Councilmember Everhart congratulated Brad Reiff on his new position and stated he has been a great asset to the City and will be missed.

Councilmember De La Isla congratulated Brad Reiff on his new position and expressed her appreciation for all he has accomplished for the City.

Joseph Ledbetter appeared to speak under public comment.

Councilmember Hiller moved to recess into executive session to discuss potential litigation for a time period not to exceed 10 minutes and to include the Governing Body, City Manager, Deputy City Attorney and Legal Department staff. The motion seconded by Councilmember Schmidt carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

At 7:34 p.m., the Council reconvened into open session and Mayor Wolgast announced no action was taken.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to recess into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel regarding a workers' compensation claim for a time period not to exceed 10 minutes and to include the Governing Body, City Manager, Deputy City Attorney and Human Resources staff. The motion seconded by Councilmember De La Isla carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

At 7:40 p.m., the Council reconvened into open session and Mayor Wolgast announced no action was taken.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk