

Council Minutes – June 21, 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, June 21, 2016. 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, Emerson, De La Isla, Jensen, Schwartz, Coen and Harmon -9. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Jeremy Wynne, Fellowship Bible Church Local Outreach Pastor, gave the invocation.

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

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the reappointment of Darryl Kopfman to the Board of Mechanical Examiners Appeals for a term ending July 1, 2018, was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Mike Morse to the Topeka Board of Zoning Appeals to fill an unexpired term ending August 1, 2019, was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Ken Scott to the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Board for a term ending July 1, 2018, was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Stephen Smith to the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Board for a term ending July 1, 2018, was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Daryl Craft to the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Board for a term ending July 1, 2018, was presented.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Blanche Parks to the Washburn University Board of Regents for a term ending July 1, 2020, was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8780 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 8781 introduced by Councilmember Karen Hiller approving a special event known as the Sunshine Reggae Fest was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8782 introduced by Councilmember Sandra Clear granting Fiesta Mexicana an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8783 introduced by Councilmember Sandra Clear granting Fiesta Mexicana an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8784 introduced by Councilmember Sandra Clear granting a waiver to the provisions of City of Topeka Municipal Code Section 10.60.120 relating to parking on unimproved surfaces was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8785 introduced by Councilmember Sandra Clear approving a special event known as 2016 Fiesta Mexicana was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of June 14, 2016, was presented.

APPROVAL of a Cereal Malt Beverage License application for Abraham SN, L.L.C., located at 1107 SW 6th Avenue was presented.

APPROVAL of a Dance Hall License application for Glazed Goose, L.L.C., located at 5630 SW 29th Street was presented.

Councilmember De La Isla moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” (10-0-0)

A PUBLIC HEARING concerning the use of an amount not to exceed \$5,500,000 of proceeds of tax-exempt revenue bonds issued by the City of Wichita, Kansas, under the authority of K.S.A. 12-1740 et seq., for the purpose of financing and reimbursing the costs of buildings, building improvements, equipment, furnishings and various other expenditures at the existing facilities owned, leased and operated by Presbyterian Manors, Inc., was presented.

Brandon Kauffman, Finance Department Director, reported Presbyterian Manor, Inc., is requesting the ability to use \$5,500,000 of the 2013 bond proceeds of tax-exempt revenue for the purpose of financing and reimbursing the costs of building, building improvements, equipment, furnishings and other capital expenditures at existing facilities.

Mayor Wolgast opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak to the matter.

Upon no one appearing, Mayor Wolgast announced the public hearing was closed.

A PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE NO. 20005 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, apportioning and levying special assessments on certain lots and pieces of ground in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, in the area of Lauren's Bay Subdivision for Pond Improvement Project No. T-151011.00 as defined and described in Resolution No. 8317, adopted and approved March 5, 2011, was presented.

Brandon Kauffman, Finance Department Director, gave a brief overview of the special assessment process and how bonds are assessed to each property for 20 years. He stated the special assessment district consists of 806 units to be assessed at \$1,666.17 per unit and parcels will receive from one to four units based upon their proximity to the pond.

Mayor Wolgast opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak to the matter.

Lee Rosenthal questioned if there was a mechanism in place that ensures property owners are made aware of a pending assessment to the property because the assessment was not explained to him when he bought the property in May 2016.

Lisa Robertson, City Attorney, stated the resolution of advisability is recorded with the Shawnee County Register of Deeds office and every seller has the responsibility to notify the buyer of the special assessment.

Councilmember Harmon suggested requesting a property title report for more information on the property.

Lee Rosenthal stated his realtor checked with Shawnee County and there is nothing noted on the property disclosure sheet.

Marcelo D'Aprile stated he was not notified of the pending special assessment and does not live within proximity nor has access to the pond and questioned why the special assessment would apply to his property.

Upon no further public comment, Mayor Wolgast announced the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Schwartz spoke in support of the ordinance and stated the petition process in the subdivision was initiated by the property owners in 2011. She asked staff to research other cities ordinances for how the special assessment notification process is handled so that buyers are made aware of any pending assessments.

Councilmember Hiller stated she concurs with Councilmember Schwartz and expressed concern with the lack of notification to new property owners and would like to know what can be changed to ensure all property owners are notified of special assessments.

Councilmember Schwartz moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Hiller carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Clear, Ortiz, Emerson, De La Isla, Jensen, Schwartz, Coen, Harmon and Mayor Wolgast -10.

A PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE NO. 20006 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, apportioning and levying special assessments on certain lots and pieces of ground in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, in the area of Kanza Education and Science Park for Street Improvement Project No. T-601030.00 as defined and described in Resolution No. 8487, adopted and approved January 22, 2013, was presented.

Brandon Kauffman, Finance Department Director, reported U.S.D. 501 (Topeka Public Schools) submitted a petition to the City for improvements at the Kanza Education and Science Park for street, water and sewer improvements to the property. He stated the final project cost is \$4,407,995.63 and would be paid 100% by the improvement district spread over 10 years. He noted the district consists of 106 units to be assessed at \$41,584.86 per unit.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if the project was completed and who are the property owners in the improvement district.

Brandon Kauffman stated the projects are completed and ready to be assessed to the property and most parcels are owned by Topeka Public Schools with two parcels owned by Shawnee Community Mental Health Center.

Mayor Wolgast opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak to the matter.

Upon no one appearing, Mayor Wolgast announced the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried. Mayor Wolgast voted "yes." Councilmember Emerson abstained. (9-0-1)

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

A PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE NO. 20007 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, apportioning and levying special assessments on certain lots and pieces of ground in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, in the area of Kanza Education and Science Park for Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project No. T-401039.00 as defined and described in Resolution No. 8684, adopted and approved April 21, 2015, was presented.

Mayor Wolgast opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak to the matter.

Upon no one appearing, Mayor Wolgast announced the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember De La Isla carried. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” Councilmember Emerson abstained. (9-0-1)

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

A PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE NO. 20008 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, apportioning and levying special assessments on certain lots and pieces of ground in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, in the area of Kanza Education and Science Park for Water Improvement Project No. T-281062.00 as defined and described in Resolution No. 8485, adopted and approved January 22, 2013, was presented.

Mayor Wolgast opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak to the matter.

Upon no one appearing, Mayor Wolgast announced the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” Councilmember Emerson abstained. (9-0-1)

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

ORDINANCE NO. 20009 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, concerning governing body meetings; veto; veto override and vacancies; amending City of Topeka Code Section 2.15.020, 2.15.070 and 2.15.080, and repealing original sections was presented.

Lisa Robertson, City Attorney, reported to be consistent with City of Topeka Charter Ordinance No. 117, the ordinance should delete a specific number requirement for a majority vote in the event of multiple vacancies or absences of Governing Body members.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember De La Isla carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast does not vote. (9-0-0)

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

ORDINANCE NO. 20010 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, allowing and approving City expenditures for the period of April 30, 2016, through May 27, 2016, and enumerating said expenditures therein was presented.

Jim Colson, City Manager, reported approval would authorize City expenditures in the amount of \$16,014,450.57.

Councilmember Clear moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” (10-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Clear, Ortiz, Emerson, De La Isla, Jensen, Schwartz, Coen, Harmon and Mayor Wolgast -10.

ORDINANCE NO. 20011 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, concerning court costs and fees, amending Section 2.110.010 of the Code of the City of Topeka and specifically repealing said original section was presented.

Jason Geier, Municipal Court Administrative Judge, reported approval would increase court costs for convicted offenders in order to comply with State law and improve the efficiency of processing cases. He stated the ordinance would allow the court to be compliant with Kansas State House Bill 2696 increasing the assessment for the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Fund from \$2.50 to \$5.00 effective July 1, 2016; increase misdemeanor violations from \$140 to \$143 and increase moving, non-moving and parking violations from \$73 to \$76.

Mayor Wolgast thanked staff for providing the detailed list of costs and fees charged by municipal court.

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

Councilmember Jensen questioned if municipal court clerks could be given permission to adjust costs and fees to a whole number.

Jason Geier stated the Governing Body would have to consider the request.

Councilmember Jensen made a substitute motion to increase costs and fees to the State mandated \$2.50 and give Municipal Court clerks permission to raise costs and fees to a whole number with a maximum increase of \$0.99. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

The motion to adopt the ordinance carried. Councilmember Jensen voted “no.” (8-1-0) (*The Mayor does not vote on the ordinance due to veto authority.*)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Clear, Ortiz, Emerson, De La Isla, Schwartz, Coen and Harmon -8. Noes: Jensen -1.

APPROVAL of a Real Estate Purchase Agreement and Lease Agreement for the purchase of real property located at 601 NW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas was presented. (*Contract Nos. 45213, 45214*)

Sasha Haehn, Neighborhood Relations Department Director, reported negotiations for the property resulted in a final offer of \$100,000 with a lease back provision for the owner to lease the property through December 1, 2017 for \$1. She noted the City would be responsible for the property taxes from the time of property ownership transfer through the lease period for an estimated total of \$7,056.

Councilmember Harmon asked why the City should own the property. He noted the Riverfront Park project made more sense back in 2002 because the City operated a Parks and Recreation Department.

Sasha Haehn stated in 2015, the City Manager directed staff to work on the acquisition of the property and two others for the Riverfront Park project with the intent to complete what was started in 2002 when the Governing Body approved Resolution No. 7253. She noted although the City does not operate a Parks and Recreation Department any longer, discussions have taken place with Shawnee County and the Great Overland Station regarding the maintenance and care of the park when complete.

Jim Colson, City Manager, reported when the City and County Parks and Recreation Departments were consolidated it was determined to proceed with real estate acquisitions and allow the Governing Body to determine how to proceed with the project.

Councilmember Clear moved to approve the real estate purchase agreement and lease agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember De La Isla.

Joseph Ledbetter expressed concern with the property, timeline and completion of the Riverfront Park project and asked if the project should be transferred to the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department. He suggested the City and County have discussions about the project and how to move forward and ensure development and maintenance are managed efficiently.

The motion to approve the real estate purchase agreement and lease agreement carried. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” Councilmember Harmon voted “no.” (9-1-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 8786 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, requesting the Kansas Department of Transportation to install “Home of Harry W. Colmery, Author of the GI Bill” signs on the interstate highway around the city limits and retain the existing “Home of Ron Evans” signs was presented.

Jim Colson, City Manager, reported approval would initiate a request to KDOT to install “Home of Harry W. Colmery” signs at interstate highway approaches to the city limits as well as keep the existing “Home of Ron Evans” signs. He commended all the individuals involved in the process.

Councilmember De La Isla moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jensen.

Councilmember Ortiz asked what would happen if KDOT approves posting only one individual for the City of Topeka.

Bill Fiander, Planning Department Director, stated KDOT’s response would be brought before the Governing Body to consider how to move forward.

Joseph Ledbetter spoke in support of the resolution and stated both individuals are worthy of the honor.

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

DISCUSSION on the Elmhurst Neighborhood Conservation District was presented.
(NCD16/1)

Bill Fiander, Planning Department Director, gave a brief overview of a Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) and the existing base zoning for residential properties. He stated the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association contacted staff in 2014 to create a NCD zoning overlay for their neighborhood to provide a level of protection from incompatible development; and staff assisted in drafting the preliminary NCD and attended all public meetings relating to the case.

Mayor Wolgast commended the individuals and City staff involved in the thorough process.

Councilmember Jensen complimented everyone for working together to create a comprehensive plan for the neighborhood.

Councilmember De La Isla expressed her appreciation to L.J. Polly for being a neighborhood advocate and constantly working with City staff to ensure a thriving neighborhood.

Councilmember Emerson thanked staff for working with the neighborhood association. He asked if staff learned anything in the first NCD process with the Westboro neighborhood that helped them work through this process with the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association and how neighborhood notifications were handled.

Bill Fiander stated some language was clarified and graphics and visuals were used to help everyone better understand the changes to the zoning district overlay. He noted 300 property owners were notified as there are approximately 320 parcels affected by the NCD.

Councilmember Hiller commended the neighborhood and City staff for their participation in creating the zoning overlay. She expressed concern with ensuring all property owners were notified of the changes and the standards for the area were not too constrictive.

DISCUSSION of potential uses for the excess funds from the 2004-2016 Countywide Half Cent Sales Tax and continuation of Public Works budget item from the June 15, 2016, Budget Committee Meeting was presented.

Doug Gerber, Deputy City Manager, reported the June 15, 2016, Budget Committee agenda included discussion of the Public Works General Fund budget; however, due to time constraints it was not addressed so it was extended to this discussion. He stated it has been estimated that approximately \$10 million in unallocated funds would be given to the City when the 2004-2016 Countywide Half-Cent Retailers' Sales Tax sunsets at the end of 2016. He noted staff believes the best use of these funds is to improve infrastructure.

Councilmember Ortiz questioned if the excess sales tax funds were limited to existing infrastructure improvements due to ballot language restrictions.

Councilmember Jensen asked on average, how many miles of streets could be completed with \$10 million.

Doug Gerber stated staff believes there are three options to consider for use of the \$10 million (1) complete one or two major infrastructure projects (2) complete a number of smaller projects such as mill and overlay and (3) quality of life projects. He reported it would cost approximately \$1 million to construct one mile of a one lane street and the remaining funds could be used for street improvements of larger infrastructure projects. He noted when the sales tax sunsets and all projects included in the sales tax is complete the City and County can choose how to spend the excess funds.

Jim Colson, City Manager, stated the Governing Body can determine how to use the excess funds based on the structure of the funding source.

Councilmember Hiller stated she believes there is some confusion about the Citywide and the Countywide Half-Cent Sales Taxes and noted the Countywide Half-Cent Sales Tax included specific projects to be completed and when done the excess funds would go to the Governing Body to determine how the money would be spent.

Councilmember Emerson cautioned Governing Body members on how best to spend the excess funds and noted \$10 million would not complete a lot of major improvement projects. He suggested using the funds to maintain and improve existing street infrastructure.

Councilmember Clear asked if SW Topeka Boulevard between SW 7th and 10th Streets was slated for construction.

Jason Peek, Public Works Director, stated the improvement project is scheduled to start this week.

Councilmember Ortiz asked how much funding is spent on street improvements. She stated she would prefer some of the excess funds be allocated for streets and some be allocated for upgrades to Gage Park as it is a large visitor attraction for the city.

Councilmember Clear asked when the City would receive the excess funds and when the public could expect results from the funding.

Doug Gerber stated he estimates approximately \$35 million would be spent on streets in 2016 and most projects have a three-year timeline from conception to completion.

Councilmember Schwartz stated she believes SW 6th Street could be improved as it is considered the gateway to the Topeka Zoo.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if SW 6th Street was scheduled to be reconstructed.

Jason Peek reported the 6th Street Project would start construction this week and the SW Topeka Boulevard project from SW 7th to 10th Streets is currently under contract for design. He noted both projects are listed in the 2016-2021 Countywide Half-Cent Sales Tax.

Councilmember Harmon asked if a priority list for street repairs has been drafted so the Governing Body has a comprehensive list to make an informed decision on where the excess funds would be best spent. He stated he believes the priority should be given to street maintenance and mill and overlay within neighborhoods based on a priority list created by staff rather than focus on one or two large projects.

Jason Peek stated the City has finalized an agreement with a company to reassess pavement conditions through a pavement management program; however, the data would not be accessible until October 2016.

Councilmember Coen stated he concurs with Councilmember Harmon and would like to focus on smaller projects.

Councilmember Jensen stated he concurs with Councilmember Harmon and believes it is imperative to have a plan; therefore, he would like to place the spending of the excess funds on hold until the pavement analysis was complete.

Mayor Wolgast stated he would prefer the City find a better way to maintain streets so the City could stay ahead of the problem.

Councilmember Ortiz questioned if Councilmember Harmon was proposing to spend \$1 million in each of the nine Council districts for mill and overlay improvements.

Councilmember Harmon stated he would prefer reviewing the pavement analysis to develop a strategic plan for the best use of the excess funds and rely on staff to provide the best options for the money.

Doug Gerber stated he believes a strategic investment would best serve mediocre streets because the worst streets would need complete rehabilitation and involve much more money, specifically if sanitary sewer and water lines need to be replaced.

Councilmember Hiller stated she concurs with Councilmember Emerson and is eager to get the City's operating budget under control, start preventative maintenance and pay for projects with cash instead of accumulating debt. She commented on the City having an Engineering Fund in the past and questioned if the fund could be started again to pay for projects with cash instead of bonds.

Councilmember Jensen stated he concurs with Mr. Gerber and the need to look at strategically maintaining the streets to extend the life of improvements.

Joseph Ledbetter stated he believes citizens want their neighborhood streets fixed and suggested allocating a small percentage of the excess funds to install sidewalks in lower income areas because residents utilize sidewalks more often in these areas.

Jim Colson expressed concern with proceeding into a Budget Committee meeting to further discuss the Public Works budget item from the June 15, 2016, Budget Committee Meeting because he believes it could be a possible violation of the Kansas Open Meeting Act (KOMA).

Mayor Wolgast stated a Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2016.

Councilmember Ortiz asked if the Council meeting could recess into a Budget Committee meeting after public comment.

Lisa Robertson, City Attorney stated the Public Works Budget discussion item was included on the Council agenda; therefore, it is appropriate to have the discussion during the Council meeting.

Councilmember Ortiz suggested continuing the discussion after public comment.

Upon hearing no objections, Mayor Wolgast announced the discussion would continue after public comment.

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

Jim Colson, City Manager, announced a Budget Committee meeting is scheduled on June 28, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the location to be determined; the Department of Neighborhood Relations and the Topeka Fire Department are teaming up to give away 30 fans to help combat the prolonged heat on June 22, 2016, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. noon at the Holiday Building located at 620 SE Madison Street. He also announced the City's website would host an interactive map of fireworks stands located within city limits; the Colmery Pocket Park dedication is scheduled for June 22, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. and the Security Benefit Pocket Park dedication would occur on June 29, 2016.

Mayor Wolgast announced the South Kansas Avenue Celebration would occur on July 2, 2016, to celebrate the completion of street and landscaping improvements along South Kansas Avenue; the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Pocket Park is slated to open June 30, 2016, and the Capital Federal Pocket Park is nearing completion.

Councilmember Jensen reminded everyone to keep their pets inside and watered during severe weather conditions.

Councilmember Schwartz announced this week's "gem" of Topeka is the campers that participate in the summer activities at the Topeka Zoo; Friends of the Topeka Zoo would meet June 23, 2016, to discuss Kay's Asian Garden and the dedication of the garden is scheduled for July 20, 2016.

Councilmember Hiller commended the Topeka Downtown Rotary Club for the opening of Rotary Pocket Park at the Constitution Hall on June 16, 2016.

Councilmember Ortiz congratulated Topeka Fire Chief Greg Bailey and other firefighters on their retirements and thanked them for their service to the community.

Chance Lammers, Pedro Irigonegaray and Stephanie Mott appeared to speak under public comment.

DISCUSSION continued on the Public Works Budget item from the June 15, 2016, Budget Committee Meeting.

Mayor Wolgast stated an overview and outline of the Public Works budget would be given then discussion would continue at the June 28, 2016 Budget Committee meeting.

Doug Gerber reported the total budget for Public Works is \$40 million and gave a brief overview of the budget which includes the Street Tax, Motor Fuel Tax, Internal Service (Facilities and Fleet) and Enterprise Funds (Parking Division). He stated additions to the Public Works budget include \$50,000 for riverfront development to provide consulting support, \$47,000 for downtown maintenance pending approval of the agreement and an increase of 8.5% for streetlights compared to 2015 actuals.

Mayor Wolgast asked if the City installs the street light fixtures and pays the lighting bill.

Jason Peek reported there was a backlog of approximately 108 streetlights in 2015; however, only 49 remain to be installed and the goal is to complete installation by end of the calendar year. He noted the City's policy is to evaluate an appropriate location for installation of a streetlight then coordinate with Westar Energy to install. He stated there have been an additional four streetlight requests submitted since the beginning of January 2016.

Councilmember Schwartz asked if the streetlight at SW 41st Street and SW Lincolnshire Road has been installed.

Jason Peek stated the request has been processed for installation by Westar Energy as well as staff is reviewing traffic issues in this area for additional signage.

Councilmember Clear asked how many full time employees (FTE) are being requested in the 2017 Public Works budget and if they would be paid from a different fund.

Doug Gerber explained there are two positions requested in the Technical Services Group (TSG), two in Facilities to assist with ongoing and deferred maintenance, and shift four positions budgeted in TSG from the Water Department. He noted the objective is to place employees within the budget fund that belong and not to use utility funds to absorb the costs which reflects a new philosophy for employees to serve a variety of needs.

Councilmember Coen asked for an update on the new staff and equipment approved in the 2016 City Operating Budget. He thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work to improve the needs of the community.

Councilmember Clear asked if a schedule has been created for street sweeping and if the City has purchased a new street sweeper truck.

Jason Peek gave a brief overview of the Public Works Transportation Operations Key Performance Data. He reported the positions added for street sweeping work have increased productivity by 153% and employees allocated to the correct fund; preventative and alley maintenance and asphalt have contributed to the increase in productivity. He noted the street sweeper bid will be released in two weeks.

Councilmember Hiller asked how many FTEs were staffed in 2015 versus 2016; if the additional eight FTEs would be doing 100% of the street sweeping; and who would be responsible for lane striping.

Jason Peek reported in 2015 there were 33 FTEs and eight positions were filled for a total of 41 FTEs in 2016. He stated temporary employees are filling the additional positions at this time; however, as we move forward the individuals can be hired if they work out over time. He noted the pavement conditions will be listed in the pavement analysis; however, he can provide the lane striping information and street sweeping schedule when it complete.

Doug Gerber noted there has been difficulty filling these positions in the past; however, hiring temporary employees has worked thus far and leads to better results of hiring an individual on a full-time basis.

Jim Colson stated the eight positions would be conducting street maintenance which would include street sweeping duties.

Councilmember Jensen asked if the new equipment would be adequate to address the new street sweeping schedule.

Ron Raines, Street Maintenance and Traffic Operations Director, reported there are seven street sweepers currently in the fleet and the new equipment will replace one of the older models.

Councilmember Emerson asked why the City owns so many streetlights and what are the electric bills for them.

Jason Peek stated he would research and provide the information to the Governing Body.

Doug Gerber gave an overview of the TSG budget and stated the focus in 2017 would be to upgrade technology.

Councilmember Hiller asked what SeeClickFix is and questioned if the program was planned to replace the City's e311 program.

Councilmember Schwartz questioned the compatibility of Cityworks and the City's e311 program and asked why two different programs are being used.

Amber Reynolds, TSG Manager, stated the City's e311 program would be upgraded to better interface with Cityworks and Geographic Information System (GIS). She noted the City's e311 program is a citizen management tool and only a handful of systems work with Cityworks; therefore, we have to integrate the systems to run parallel workflows.

Councilmember Jensen stated he believes the City's e311 system lags and needs a cohesive solution.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk