

## Council Minutes – October 8, 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, October 8, 2013. 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. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Ortiz -1.

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

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

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 8559 introduced by Councilmember Richard Harmon, granting Todd Colt an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 8560 introduced by Councilmember Richard Harmon, granting Shara Monhollon an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of October 1, 2013, was presented.

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

APPROVAL of a one-year Labor Agreement between the City of Topeka and the Water Pollution Control Division Local Union was presented. (*Contract No. 43187*)

Carol Foreman, Labor Relations Attorney, reported the labor agreement was ratified by the Water Pollution Control Division Local Union and includes a one-step increase; a 0.75% across the board increase to the pay schedule; one additional personal leave day; and allows

union officers up to 26 hours a year to conduct union business. She stated the estimated wage cost for 2014 is \$66,642.52 or 2.14% with the total impact to the 2014 budget including benefits being an increase of 3.35%. She stated staff recommends approval of the labor agreement.

Councilmember Hiller asked what the additional personal leave day would cost the City.

Carol Foreman stated there were concerns raised regarding the additional personal leave day; however, the negotiating team agreed to the provision to settle negotiations and felt it was the best thing to do.

Councilmember Hiller indicated there are 59 Water Pollution Control employees and adding the extra personal leave day would cost the City approximately \$12,000. She expressed concern with the increases driving up the costs for stand-by and overtime pay, a significant issue for future budgets. She suggested an amendment to the language in the labor agreement.

Chad Sublet, City Attorney, stated at this point in the process, amendments would not be allowed and the Governing Body must reject or accept the labor agreement as presented.

Councilmember Manspeaker moved to approve the labor agreement. The motion seconded by Councilmember Everhart carried. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” Councilmembers Hiller and Schwartz voted “no.” (7-2-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 8561 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, approving the 2014 Neighborhood Empowerment Grants as recommended by the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Committee was presented.

Brad Reiff, Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, reported allocation of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are contingent upon final federal appropriations and were reserved for the Empowerment Grant Program as part of the 2014 Consolidated Action Plan. He stated the funds are used to support a variety of neighborhood-designed and based public facility projects including sidewalks and parks. He noted eligible

neighborhoods developed proposals in coordination with Public Works staff members and the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department at Empowerment Application Workshops held in May 2013. He reported the proposals are then reviewed by a seven member review committee approved by the Mayor and funding recommendations are developed. He stated the committee recommended allocating \$139,200 to fund six projects in 2014.

Councilmember Campos II spoke in support of the projects and thanked the Neighborhood Improvement Associations for being engaged in the process. He expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in the process to enhance the quality of life in Topeka neighborhoods.

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

NO Retail Cereal Malt Beverage License applications were presented.

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

Mayor Wolgast commended Roseanna Haugen, Housing and Neighborhood Development Department Community Resource Manager and Inmate Services, for being nominated for the Award of Excellence by the Community Resource Council. He announced the Governing Body would discuss the new Council meeting proposal process at the October 15, 2013, Work Session.

Councilmember Hiller commented on the Award of Excellence Ceremony hosted by the Community Resource Council on October 7, 2013. She congratulated Roseanna Haugen, the Topeka Zoo and the Bikeways Advisory Committee for their award nominations, as well as, the Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority for being awarded the Government Agency of Excellence Award.

Councilmember Campos II announced the North Topeka Fall Parade sponsored by the North Topeka On The Move organization would be held on October 12, 2013, starting at 11:00 a.m. at Garfield Park. He reported the Highway 24 Cloverleaf Improvement Project would be open October 16, 2013; however, access to the on and off ramps would not be open until November 2013.

Councilmember Manspeaker asked when the Council would receive the City of Topeka Half-Cent Sales Tax Projects Plan for 2014 to review and evaluate. He requested to amend City code to require the replacement of water infrastructure if needed in conjunction with street improvement projects. He reported City Fire Department management employees continue to receive overtime pay.

Councilmember Schwartz reported she attended the Breaking the Cycle Event and participated in discussions regarding the Scared Straight Program sponsored by Safe Streets. She stated she believes the programs are essential to the community and she looks forward to further discussion on the programs. She announced she would be hosting a neighborhood meeting along with City staff members at her residence on October 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Cathy “Celeste” Miller appeared to speak under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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Brenda Younger  
City Clerk