

Council Minutes – December 1, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, December 1, 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, Coen and Harmon -8. Mayor Larry E. Wolgast presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Schwartz -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Pastor John A. Hanson, Shawnee County Sheriff Department Chaplin gave the invocation.

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

A PRESENTATION on the Bikeways Implementation was provided by Bill Fiander, Planning Department Director. He briefly discussed the implementation of each phase of the plan, how the City would educate the public on the plan as well as an overview of the social media and marketing strategies.

Mayor Wolgast noted the majority of the funds were being provided by Kansas Department of Transportation grants.

Councilmember Hiller noted the Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority funded the Red Bike Program along with other funding sources for different aspects of the Bikeways Plan including signage and public education.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Brandon Barnette to the Citizens Advisory Council for a term ending June 30, 2017, was presented.

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

MINUTES of the regular meeting of November 17, 2015, was presented.

Councilmember Harmon moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Clear carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

APPROVAL of funding recommendations by Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council in the amount of \$600,000 for the 2016 Special Alcohol Fund was presented.

Max Wilson, Topeka-Shawnee County Advisory Council Chairman, provided the staff report for the 2016 City of Topeka Special Alcohol and Drug Program grant requests totaling \$600,000 to include funding for the following programs:

- Prevention and Recovery Services (PARS) – Community Prevention Program \$180,450
- PARS – Evaluation and Intervention Program \$56,133
- 3rd Judicial District – Drug Court \$28,600
- Topeka Youth Project – Jobs for Young Adults \$38,800
- Kansas Children’s Service League – Drug Endangered Children’s Program \$13,580
- Valeo Recovery Center – Social Detoxification Program \$282,437

Jared Harsin, Shawnee County 3rd Judicial District Drug Court Coordinator, reported they receive funding from five different agencies providing more financial leverage to offer program services.

Councilmember Schumm moved to approve the funding recommendations for the 2016 Special Alcohol Fund in the amount of \$600,000. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” (9-0-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 19975 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, 2015, was presented.

Lisa Robertson, City Attorney, gave the staff report and stated approval would extend the current nonexclusive franchise agreement for one year expiring December 31, 2016.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 19976 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, amending City of Topeka Code Section 3.40.030, establishing a service fee levy for 2016 relating to the Capital City Downtown Business Improvement District and specifically repealing said original section was presented.

Brandon Kauffman, Finance Department Director, gave the staff report and stated approval would continue the business improvement service fees on businesses located within the Capital City Downtown Business Improvement District implementing no fee increases for 2016.

Vince Frye, Downtown Topeka Inc., Chief Executive Officer provided a brief overview of how funds are expended to oversee downtown area events and noted the fee was based on square footage of each business.

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember De La Isla carried. Mayor Wolgast voted “yes.” Councilmember Jensen abstained. (8-0-1)

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

ORDINANCE NO. 19977 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, allowing and approving City expenditures for the period of October 3, 2015, through October 30, 2015, and enumerating said expenditures therein was presented.

Jim Colson, City Manager, reported approval would authorize City expenditures in the amount of \$15,623,145.16.

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

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

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

Jim Colson, City Manager commended Chief Executive Aide Megan Bottenberg and Public Works Director Doug Whitacre for their service to the community and the City. He noted their last day of employment with the City would be December 4, 2015.

Councilmember Hiller announced a number of new businesses have opened in the downtown area and encouraged citizens to shop local. She also announced the Miracle on Kansas Avenue Parade has been rescheduled to December 13, 2015.

Councilmember Ortiz announced December 1, 2015, marks the 60th Anniversary of Rosa Parks and her decision to take a stance against segregation on public buses. She asked Police Chief James Brown to comment on the “Lock It, Remove It or Lose It” campaign sponsored by Safe Streets and the Topeka Police Department. She offered her condolences to Councilmember Harmon and his family on the passing of his mother.

James Brown, Topeka Police Chief, reported auto thefts spike this time of year. He cautioned citizens to lock their cars, remove items from visible sight and avoid leaving vehicles running with the keys in the ignition.

Councilmember Jensen encouraged citizens to shop and visit the downtown area during the holidays.

Councilmember Hiller moved to recess into executive session for a time period not to exceed 60 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matters and to include the Governing Body. The motion seconded by Councilmember Clear carried. Mayor Wolgast and Councilmember Ortiz did not vote. (7-0-0)

At 7:45 p.m., the Governing Body reconvened into open session and Mayor Wolgast announced no action was taken.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk