

REGULAR MEETING
February 5, 2013

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas met at City Hall at 4:30 p.m. on the above date—the following being present: Mayor Robbin Bell, Commissioner Fred Olsen, Commissioner Woodie Haire, Commissioner D.J. Neuberger, Commissioner Beth Wade, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2013. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C1231-12 and #P0125-13 were discussed and reviewed.

There was one additional agenda item. Beth Wade added a ten minute executive session to include only the City Commission and City Attorney, for the same topic that is listed in the executive session in agenda item #9, attorney/client privilege. The extra ten minutes was added to agenda item #9. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve the agenda, with the aforementioned change. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Eric Otting of Wendling, Noe, Nelson, and Johnson LLC presented a brief summary of the hospital’s audit report. He referred to the management letter and noted that there were only two adjustments. He also pointed out the City’s forgiveness of a loan to the hospital, and went over the balance sheet. He said the hospital has held the line on their expenses, but even though the “cash on hand” has improved, they are still below average compared to other hospitals. Eric encouraged the Commission to read the “notes” and comparative data in the audit, and ended by saying that it is a challenge to fund and run a hospital. Ron and Virginia Neuberger each asked questions.

Todd Anderson of SMH Consultants gave an update on the bridge replacement project. He explained that Buck Driggs is no longer with the company, so he has taken over the project. Todd gave a run down on where we are on the project, and showed pictures of the preliminary design. He noted that the bridge would be the same width as we have now, with sidewalks on both sides and curb and gutter included. He added that the City’s share of the project is 20%, with KDOT providing 80%, for only the bridge itself. Any work done on the approach would be the City’s responsibility. The bid date is set for October of this year. Beth asked if the lake needed to be drained, and D.J. asked about rebar. Todd assured him that the design meets KDOT guidelines. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to approve the bridge design and continue on with the project. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with KDOT for the bridge replacement project. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Pat Moyer presented the hospital’s quarterly report. She noted that inpatient days are down by 2%, but other areas are up. She went over the balance sheet which was compared to the last three years, and showed that there has been a 5% increase in revenues, mostly due to price increases. The percentage of over 90 days delinquent is at 28%. D.J. asked some questions, and Ron asked how the physician recruitment is going. Mike Ryan said that things are looking positive, but they have a “long ways to go.”

Ron said that someone was interested in purchasing the City-owned property behind 424 South 5th, and asked the Commission if they want to sell it. It is in the floodplain and the use of the land would be restricted. A motion was made by Commissioner Haire, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to go out for bids on the South 5th Street property. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

At 5:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Bell, seconded by Commissioner Haire, for the City Commission, City Attorney, and City Manager to go into executive session for thirty minutes for attorney/client privilege. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." At 6:05 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Haire, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to re-convene into regular session. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." Even though the agenda was approved with ten minutes of the executive session to be limited to the City Commission and City Attorney, the City Manager attended the entire executive session.

Ron reported that the water contract with the City of Hope is still in negotiations, and that hopefully it will be taken care of in the next couple of weeks. Ron added that he has a "bad feeling" about selling water for less than it costs us to make it.

Ron said that as a member of a group of community water systems, we received a check for \$129,247.19 as our portion of a settlement of an atrazine class action lawsuit. This was a pleasant surprise. He suggested that we pay on the Community Building loan with the money. Stephanie Berry asked why the money was not being put in the water fund. D.J. asked if there was any other debt we could pay, and Ron said that many of the bond issues are limited as to when they can be paid off. A motion was made by Commissioner Neuberger, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to use the \$129,247.19 to pay on the Community Building loan. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

D.J. commented on the speed limit on South D Street, pot holes, and cleaning the streets in inclement weather. Robbin added that the curbs downtown need to be cleared of ice, and Fred commended Lori Dornbusch for the good report that was given to the Hilltop Community Center from the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging. Ron reported that the crews are working on the new playground equipment and trimming trees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Also present at the meeting were Virginia Neuberger, Mark Wendt, Alice Bell, Ruby Davis, Dave Davis, Todd Anderson, Eric Otting, Kathy Castleberry, Ben Castleberry, Tandi Arevello, Bill Carson, Mike Ryan, Pat Moyer, J. R. Sparke, and Stephanie Berry of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk