

REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 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: Commissioner Woodie Haire, Commissioner D.J. Neuberger, Commissioner Beth Wade, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Mayor Robbin Bell and Commissioner Fred Olsen were absent. The meeting was conducted by Commissioner Haire.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2013. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C0131-13 and #P0210-13 were discussed and reviewed. There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Neuberger, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

The condemnation hearing for 12 East Sturgis was continued. The house has been occupied for three months, and Kenny Staatz reported that the property is clean and tidy, and there are no apparent structural issues or water or sewer problems. A motion was made by Commissioner Neuberger, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to take 12 East Sturgis off of the abatement list. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

The following bids were received for a 2013 Ford Explorer Utility Police Interceptor.

Midway Motors	Hillsboro, KS	\$27,049.00
Laird Noller Dealership	Topeka, KS	\$27,375.68
Dick Edwards	Junction City, KS	\$27,849.00

Chief John Pritchard said that all police vehicles are on a five-year rotation plan, and that this vehicle would replace a 2008 Ford Explorer with over 100,000 miles. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to accept the low bid of Midway Motors for \$27,049.00. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

At 4:40 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, for the City Commission, City Manager, and City Attorney to go into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing attorney/client privilege. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” At 4:55 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to re-convene into regular session. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Attorney Doug Thompson was present to discuss the Hope water contract. He said that Hope would agree to a rate of \$3.79/thousand, and would need 60 days to implement a rate change. He added that the controlling document of purchasing water is a contract dated November 7, 1988, which allows for a set rate for three years. D.J. commented that the City of Hope accepted a contract for \$3.79/thousand gallons on December 12, and was given until March 1st to start paying that rate. Doug said that the City of Herington then withdrew the offer and insisted that they would need 60 days to pass on the fees to their customers. Doug pointed out that this situation is not the City of Hope’s fault—they weren’t offered a contract to consider. Hope Mayor Ruby Davis said that Hope has always been willing to accept the cost amount of \$3.79/thousand for water, as long as it is for three years. After more discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to offer a contract for water to the City of Hope for \$3.79/thousand, effective May 1, 2013, with an \$18.75 meter charge that includes the first 2,000 gallons, and exercising the three-year stipulation from the original contract from 1988. After the motion, D.J. suggested working with the budget cycle on this and starting on January 1st. When the vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously. The City of Hope will have a special meeting to consider the contract.

Stephanie Berry asked a question about paying off the Community Building. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to add an item to the agenda as #10A, discussion of the City Manager’s salary and benefit package. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Beth said that the Commission had been discussing the City Manager's salary and benefits, and had asked Ron to come up with a suggestion of what might be fair. She added that he has only received cost of living raises. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to give the City Manager an annual wage increase of \$15,000, increase his car allowance by \$150.00/month, and add an additional week of vacation each year. After the motion, Commissioner Neuberger said that Ron has done a great job, but he thought the amount of pay increase is too high. When the vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

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 Don Cole, Virginia Neuberger, David Davis, Kenny Staatz, Mike Ryan, Ruby Davis, Doug Thompson, John Pritchard, Sue Stout, Amy Rutz, Alice Bell, Brenda Melcher, Cindy Roberts, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Berry of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk