



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
August 4, 2020
9:00 a.m.

1. The Governing Body of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 in the City Council Chambers with Mayor Piros de Carvalho presiding. Councilmembers Daveline, Soldner, Garza and Bagwell were present.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

3. The prayer was given by Pastor Darryl Peterson of Grace Christian Church.

4. Petitions, Remonstrances and Communications

a. Oral communications from the audience. (Please limit your remarks to five (5) minutes and to items NOT on the agenda.)

Anthony Fritchenmeyer, 511 East Avenue C, said he is in support of hiring a full-time Human Relations Officer. He said he was introduced to discrimination at an early age as his grandmother and uncle were both blind. Mr. Fritchenmeyer said his uncle was told on several occasions he couldn't be hired because of his disability. He also said he has witnessed his daughter come home in tears because she was called a racial slur; and told to go back to Mexico. Mr. Fritchenmeyer said this is a chance to right a wrong that has been in this community for far too long.

Mike Sullivan, 2300 West 56th, said he is not in support of a full-time Human Relations Officer as he was on the Human Relations Commission for eight years; and doesn't believe there are enough complaints made annually to support a full-time position. He said since 2008 there were on average two complaints per year. Mr. Sullivan said when people say they need a place to go, they've had a place, and the City has had someone to field those complaints. He said if the Human Relations Officer is given subpoena power, that person will investigate, prosecute, and judge the claim. Mr. Sullivan said this gives too much power to one person. He also said he heard the Mayor use the term "inclusive" on the radio. Mr. Sullivan said "inclusive" should include everyone, including white people. Discussion ensued between Mr. Sullivan and the Mayor.

David Inskeep, 1002 Dundee Court, said when he was on the City Council, he attended several meetings where the Human Relations Officer position

was discussed. He said he accepted the position being a part-time position, but was misguided when he thought case count would be a good measure. He said Ms. Moore is trying to make inroads into other places; and the City would be remiss if they only use case count. He spoke about the two protests that were held in Hutchinson, with one being very well organized; and the other having a very different feel. Mr. Inskeep said a full-time Human Relations Officer could help facilitate some of those issues; and said the education piece is key, as well as a review of the ordinance, etc.

Aubrey Patterson, 2708 Tyler, President and CEO of the Community Foundation, said the Community Foundation sees the HRO position as being very important; and they want to support this position if the council is ready to make the investment. Ms. Patterson said if the City will fund the HRO salary and benefits, the Community Foundation will pay \$20,000 per year for the next three years to apply toward programming, etc.

Derrick Pope said it's a necessity that the position be made full-time. He said discrimination does exist here; and that he has experienced it. He said council members have taken an oath to uphold the United States constitution; and they need to fulfill that oath.

Steve Drach, 1302 Bristol Road, said he represents the pickleball group in Hutchinson. He spoke about the number of players here in town; and said there are very few public courts available. Mr. Drach said the group has some use of the fairgrounds tennis courts, but they need additional taping to make it into a pickleball court. He said most of the other tennis courts are in dire need of repair; and are not suitable. Mr. Drach said some of the tennis players don't like them using the courts; and have torn up the tape numerous times, removed signage, etc. He said they do have some short term plans, but they need to find something long term. Mr. Drach spoke further about communities that have pickleball courts, painting permanent shadow lines on several tennis courts, etc. Additional discussion ensued.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2020 City Council meeting.
- b. Approval of reappointment to the Hutchinson Recreation Commission of Karin Neal, 3308 Thunderbird Drive, Hutchinson, for reappointment to a third four-year term beginning 8/01/2020 to 8/01/2024.
- c. Approval of appointments to the Hutchinson Planning Commission of the following:
 - Robert Hickman, 806 Loch Lommond, Hutchinson, to fill the unexpired term of Todd Carr, in an at-large position, for a term beginning 12/31/2018 to 12/31/2021.
 - Rodney Calhoun, 424 West 1st Avenue, Hutchinson, to fill the unexpired term of Brock Wells, in an at-large position, for a term beginning 12/31/2017 to 12/31/2020.

- d. Approval of Coronavirus Relief Fund Memorandum of Understanding.
- e. Approval of appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$811,197.77.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the Consent Agenda; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. Consider Ordinance amending Section 27-406.A. Use Table – Residential, of Chapter 27 of the City Code. Amy Allison, Senior Planner, said this amendment mimics the standards in R5 and R6 districts; and allows accessory dwelling units. Discussion ensued regarding parking, permanent foundations, etc.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Soldner, to approve Ordinance 2020 - 22 amending Section 27-406.A. Use Table – Residential, of Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

- a. Consider setting public hearing for 2021 budget. Angela Richard, Finance Director, spoke. She said the Budget Summary does not include the full-time Human Relations Officer, but that can be changed. Ms. Richard also said since the last study session, merit increases were added, and the cost of health insurance was reduced. She said the mill levy will remain flat. She also said the City's budget includes the Hutchinson Recreation Commission budget as we levy taxes for them.

City Manager, Jeff Cantrell, said the amount discussed for increases is discretionary; and has been discussed with the unions. Discussion ensued regarding health insurance costs and the \$15,000.00 shortfall of the Recreation Commission for neighborhood development work.

Councilmember Daveline asked about costs of the full-time HRO position. Mr. Cantrell said the position is currently funded at \$46,000.00 per year; and the City will be in the \$60,000 range plus 28% for benefits. Mr. Richard said the maximum difference would be an additional \$30,000.00. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Bagwell said she would like to see the council sit down together since there are two new council members and the remaining council members will be ending their terms in the near future. She said they need to look at short term and long term goals, as well as focusing on efficiencies that can be done within the City. Additional discussion ensued.

Councilmember Daveline asked if there was a consensus to direct the City Manager to modify the budget by proceeding with the creation of the position of a full-time Human Relations Officer, plus benefits, effective January 1, 2021. Councilmember Bagwell said she is okay with that, but wants to hold the line on outside agency funding. Remaining

councilmembers agreed with funding the HRO position full-time. Additional discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Daveline, to approve the Notice of Hearing setting August 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers as the date, time and place for the formal 2021 budget public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Report of City Officials

a. Council

- Councilmember Soldner had no comments.
- Councilmember Daveline had no comments.
- Councilmember Garza said he has talked to a lot of citizens; and all have been in favor of a full-time Human Relations position.
- Councilmember Bagwell had no comments.
- Mayor Piros de Carvalho had no comments.

b. City Manager

- Memorial Hall RFP – City Manager Jeff Cantrell said the City is not launching the program at this time based on market conditions, etc. He said we will wait and reintroduce this when the market heals.

Mr. Cantrell also spoke about the badgers that have been seen around Trinity High School. He said we have an issue that can be addressed administratively; and has talked with the trapper about how the badger problem can be addressed.

The City Manager also announced he was to have surgery at KU Med prior to coming to work for the City, but that surgery was cancelled due to Covid. He said the surgery has been rescheduled for August 12; and he will be out of the office for two to three weeks.

Mayor Piros de Carvalho asked about the RFP the City did on the water slide property, saying there has been a lot of conversation about that outside of city council. Mr. Cantrell said he would support hearing from each group, but would want to make sure that the one group that continues to raise this matter would participate in that meeting, as they backed out the last time.

The Mayor also reminded everyone to go vote.

Doug Proett, who owns property at 703 East Avenue A addressed council regarding issues he is having with his utility bill. He said his water has been shut off for two weeks; and he needs to get this matter remedied. Mr. Proett said his bills are over \$100.00 a month, that he doesn't water his grass, and that payments are not recognized until five to six days after payment. Mr. Cantrell said this is the first he is hearing about this; and said he will look into the matter.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Bagwell, second by Councilmember Soldner, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

August 18, 2020	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
September 8, 2020	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
September 22, 2020	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting