



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
February 2, 2021
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, February 2, 2021 in the City Council Chambers with Mayor Garza presiding. Councilmembers Piros de Carvalho, Daveline, Soldner and Bagwell were present in person.

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

3. The prayer was given by Paul Brown, City Attorney.

The City Manager requested that Item 7c be moved from the end of the agenda so the Fire Department could continue with their mitigation burns.

7c. Presentation of the Hutchinson Fire Department 2020 Annual Report and Annual Program Appraisals. Fire Chief, Steve Beer, said councilmembers have received a lot of information from the Fire Department; and that he has given them a lot of data. Chief Beer said they have the first ever annual report, which also contains each of the goals and objectives for the various areas of the program. He said it is an honor to lead the HFD; and said when he came here four years ago it was a good organization but not a great organization. He said they have accomplished a lot in a short time. Chief Beer said a risk assessment has been done on over 2,500 commercial structures; and the assessments were put into a grid which can be utilized in the event of tornados, etc. He said they know exactly what the hazards are at each location. The Chief said they have also color coded all of the fire hydrants; and out of 2,700 hydrants, less than 100 did not meet the highest standard of the blue color code. He said we have a great water supply here; and this has helped them get their Class 1 ISO rating. Chief Beer spoke about changes that have been made in the organization; and said they want the organization to be transparent. He spoke about the accreditation; and said in the spring the Fire Chief from Charlotte, North Carolina will be here to validate everything the Fire Department says they are doing. The Chief said it is similar to a third party audit; and, if cleared, they will go before the commission in July with the hope they will come back with approval that the Hutchinson Fire Department was internationally accredited. Chief Beer said if that happens; and he is sure that it will, we will be one of only approximately 40 departments in the world that are accredited and have a Class 1 ISO rating. Chief Beer also spoke about their data entry system, saying 2020 was the first year they got true data; and that will be seen during the presentation. He said any goals not accomplished in 2020 will roll over to 2021. Chief Beer also spoke about the HFD Philosophy of "Operate, Analyze and Improve", saying they are always looking for ways to improve; and are always open to ideas and suggestions.

Chief Doug Hanen presented the annual report, saying the new software has allowed them to do a lot; and he hit on some of the high points of the report. Chief Hanen gave an overview of the past three years; and spoke about responses to multiple types of calls. He said the fire department has been able to save 91% of the properties in 2020; and said that number is arrived at by taking the property value versus the loss. Chief Hanen also spoke about the number of responses by station, the five year brush fire history, budgeting, response time, etc. He also spoke about working with dispatch in the use of computer aided help which alerts HFD on the report of a fire and location, shortening the response time.

Councilmember Daveline said they have looked at a new fire station on Main Street for the past several years; and asked where they are in their discussions with the State Fair. Chief Beer said he has been meeting with the Fair Board for several years, but has not talked to them recently due to Covid. He said the Board would like them to relocate the existing fire station to 23rd & Main, south of Skaets. Chief Beer said the board wants to demolish the existing station to either make a new entrance into the fairgrounds, or possibly merge a hotel with the Meadowlark Building. He said last year council approved conceptual drawings, but this was pushed back due to a change in the City Manager. Chief Beer said he hopes to put it back in the budget for 2022. Additional discussion ensued.

Councilmember Daveline asked Chief Beer to bring us up to date on arrangements with the South Hutchinson Fire Dept. Chief Beer said the City previously had a contract with them for \$27,000.00 to supply a ladder truck and battalion chief on every working fire in South Hutchinson. He said that contract has expired; and we have had no contract with them for the past two years. Councilmember Daveline asked about the Chief's professional thoughts on merging the two departments. Chief Beer said he has dealt with consolidations before, but is not sure South Hutchinson wants to have that discussion. Additional discussion ensued.

Mayor Garza asked more about the computerized system that may be forthcoming. Chief Beer said it will help them with pre-alerts so that when someone calls 911 the computer will notify them within 10-20 seconds of the fire. He said as dispatch gets more information, that will be passed on to the department so they can upgrade or downgrade their responses. Additional discussion ensued regarding turning traffic signals green for emergency responders, the recent increase in structure fires, etc.

Chief Beer thanked the council for their time and support.

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.)

There were no oral communications from the audience.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2021 City Council meeting.
- b. Approval of appointment to the Airport Advisory Committee of the following:
Jerome G. Kahn, 1824 Nickerson Blvd., Hutchinson, KS to fill a non-occupied seat for a first full three-year term beginning 1/01/2021 through 1/01/2024.
- c. Approval of appointment to the Hutchinson Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals of the following:
David Inskeep, 1002 Dundee Court, Hutchinson, KS, for appointment to a first full three year term beginning 12/31/2020 to 12/31/2023.
- d. Approval of 2021 subsidy agreements with the Hutchinson Symphony Association, Reno Choral Society and Stage 9.
- e. Approval of Lease Renewal with Salthawk Archery Association.
- f. Approval of contract with Hutchinson Friends of the Zoo for operation of a narrow gauge train.
- g. Approval of contract with Hutchinson Friends of the Zoo related to operation of the Zoo Gift Shop.
- h. Approval of appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$1,247,442.91.

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

6. Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. Consider Ordinance authorizing General Obligations Bonds for the Golf Master Plan. Angela Richard, Director of Finance, spoke. She said an additional \$72,000.00 has been added for sod, bringing the total cost to \$445,000.00. She said this project won't be bonded until later in the spring; and that several projects will be bonded together.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Mayor Garza, to approve Ordinance 2021 - 5 authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas to pay the cost of certain public improvements, all pursuant to Charter Ordinance No. 50 of the City; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed by a vote of four to one, with Councilmember Bagwell voting no.

- b. Consider Ordinance amending Section 27-406.D of the Hutchinson City Code. Ryan Hvitløk, Director of Planning and Development, said after further review of the Ordinance passed at the last council meeting, several minor errors were found; and those just need to be corrected.

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve Ordinance 2021 - 6 amending Section 27-406.D. Accessory Buildings and Uses of

Chapter 27 Zoning Regulations of the Code of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

a. Consider 2021 Arterial Street Maintenance Program. Jeff Peterson, Director of Engineering, said the purpose of the program is to extend the life of the streets; and that spending \$1.00 on preservation can delay or eliminate spending \$6.00 to \$10.00 for future rehabilitation. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the City's 2021 Arterial Street Maintenance Program. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Consider Fun Valley Art. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, said this is associated with the 1% for art with the Fun Valley bleacher project; and they are required to spend \$7,500.00 on art per the ordinance. He said the committee guided the process, talked about what they wanted the art to look like, etc. Mr. Combs said they received six responses from the call for artists; and spoke about the selection. He said the 12 foot sculpture will be installed along the primary walkway; and that it can be used for team photos, etc. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, to approve the contract with Tom Riefe for art installation at Fun Valley Sports Complex for an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 in accordance with the one percent for art ordinance; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed by a vote of four to one, with Councilmember Bagwell voting no.

8. Report of City Officials

a. Council

- Councilmember Bagwell had no comments.
- Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said she saw the news release about the arrests at the Atrium; and that she has been getting a lot of feedback about the structure. She asked if there was any update on communications with the developer or current owner. The City Manager said he had a meeting last week with the Chamber; and the easy thing to do would be to purchase the property, but City's don't own hotels. Mr. Cantrell said based on recent events the City is "babysitting" the building. He said there has been some renewed interest by parties that were not associated with the original discussions. He said the cost to acquire and hold the property would be \$1.6 million, with another potential \$1 million to stabilize the property. Mr. Cantrell said there will be further discussions; and the matter will be brought back before the council.

- Councilmember Bagwell said she did have an e-mail from someone asking about the property being used by Salthawk Archery and why it is no longer identified on the GIS maps as being held by the City. The City Manager said this is normally a county function; and said he would have to research to answer the inquiry.
- Mayor Garza said he's received a lot of calls since he's been Mayor; and some of those have been about boxing in Hutchinson. He said he visited the boxing location; and they told him they want to start the Golden Gloves program again. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, said he would love to talk with them about using Memorial Hall.

The Mayor also said we need to be conscious about face masks; and that everyone needs to wear them.

b. City Manager

Jeff Cantrell, City Manager, spoke about the percent for art program with regard to the Law Enforcement Center. He said when it was presented, it was contemplated to be a \$50,000.00 public art investment which would be located in the atrium of the facility. Mr. Cantrell said \$50,000.00 is actually at the 2% mark rather than 1%. He said no formal action is required, but wanted councilmembers to be aware.

Chief Hooper said the art will consist of a bronze statute; and will be a law enforcement memorial. He said they are ready to go out with an RFP for the sculpture. Chief Hooper said they are still working on the exterior of the building. He said there were some unexpected costs in the building with regard to windows, asbestos, etc, so this limited funds for the exterior of the project.

9. Executive Session

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Soldner, to recess into executive session pursuant to the employer-employee negotiations exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3) in order to discuss issues related to 2021 and 2022 contract negotiations with the City's bargaining units; the open meeting to resume in the City Council chambers at 10:50 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to recess into executive session pursuant to the employer-employee negotiations exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3) in order to discuss issues related to 2021 and 2022 contract negotiations with the City's bargaining units; the open meeting to resume in the City Council chambers at 11:20 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

10. Adjournment

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

Upcoming Meetings

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| February 16, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. | City Council meeting |
| February 20, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. | Strategic Planning Session |
| March 2, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. | City Council meeting |
| March 16, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. | City Council meeting |