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**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS - HUTCHINSON, KANSAS**  
**April 7, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m.**

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1. The Governing Body of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 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 Paul Brown, City Attorney.

4. Proclamations

- a. Apollo 13 Day
- b. The Week of the Young Child
- c. Child Abuse Prevention Month
- d. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

5. 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.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2020 City Council meeting.
- b. Approval of contract with the Emancipation Day Committee for 2020 subsidy.
- c. Approval of contract with the Hutchinson Municipal Band Association for 2020 subsidy.
- d. Approval of contract with the Hutchinson Symphony Association for 2020 subsidy.
- e. Approval of appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$1,474,920.52.

Councilmember Bagwell asked if we were still proceeding with the 2020 subsidies, pointing out the clause in the contract regarding any anticipated decrease in revenues. John Deardoff, City Manager, said we have not yet had that conversation; and said this is just a standard piece of

language in the agreements. He said this has never been invoked; and most of the amounts are fairly small.

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

7. New Business

a. Consider amendment to the Down Payment Match Incentive Program. Ryan Hvitløk, Director of Planning and Development, spoke about the program, saying applicants will no longer have to be Reno County residents.

Motion by Councilmember Garza, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the recommendation of the Housing Commission to amend program amendments for the Down Payment Match Incentive and; and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement extending program operations with Interfaith Housing and Community Services (IHS) into 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Consider proposed Supplement No. 1 to Build Grant Contract with WSP. Jeff Peterson, Director of Engineering, said the City submitted a Build Grant application for the Woodie Seat Freeway last year, but the City was not awarded that grant. He said he and the City Manager had a debriefing with the Department of Transportation, that the grant application “checked all of the boxes”; and they were encouraged to resubmit the grant application this year. Discussion ensued regarding the additional fees to update the application.

Councilmember Garza said this is a very controversial topic. He said this shuts off Avenue B; and asked if there is any other way this project can be done. Councilmember Bagwell asked about keeping the bridges; and making the on and off ramps better. Mr. Peterson said this wouldn't fit the Build Grant requirements; and that doing this would just be regular maintenance on what is already there. Discussion ensued regarding flexibility in design elements, accessibility, public meetings, etc.

City Manager, John Deardoff, said he has talked about this project quite a bit in the community; and there's been a lot of support for this project. He said he understands residents concerns, but difficult decisions have to be made. Mr. Deardoff said this was an overbuilt exchange; and this is an opportunity to improve that area or leave it as is and talk about it again in another 60 years. Mr. Deardoff said he and Mr. Peterson met with representatives of Kuhn Krause; and they are in support of this project, only asking that the railroad tracks in front of their building over Avenue D be improved.

Councilmember Daveline said he knows this grant is very competitive; and asked councilmembers to consider increasing the local match from 20% to 25% which would give the City more leverage. He said he has been involved in a lot of these projects; and understands what local match money can do. Councilmember Daveline said this is too good of an opportunity to walk away from as this is a \$9 million project. Mr. Deardoff said

Councilmember Daveline is right on target; and that increasing our percentage might give the project a push.

Councilmember Bagwell asked about increased noise in the area since the roadway would be lowered. Mr. Peterson said there will be more berm area on each side which will absorb some of the sound; and said you can also put in vegetation or a buffer. He said by slowing traffic down with the roundabouts, the noise level would decrease.

Additional discussion ensued regarding sidewalks in the area, street improvement, traffic flow, maintenance costs of bridges, etc.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Soldner, to approve the proposed Supplement No. 1 to the contract with WSP USA, Inc. in the amount not to exceed an additional \$18,487.08, to increase the local match from 20% to 25%; and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Councilmember Garza said he is completely against this project. He said he has been to a lot of meetings about this project, this will disrupt the lives of those living in that area; and he's not heard from anyone that supports this project. Mr. Deardoff said as a part of the grant application the City has to have letters of support; and said letters of support had come from the schools, Reno County, the City of South Hutchinson, etc. He said there is always someone that will be impacted. Additional discussion ensued.

The motion passed by a vote of three to two, with Councilmembers Bagwell and Garza voting no.

c. Consider property acquisition for Cow Creek Channel Expansion (610 East Avenue G). Jeff Peterson, Director of Engineering, said this is the largest property the City needed to acquire; and there is only one more property left. Discussion ensued regarding salvaging parts of the buildings that are currently located on this property.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the real estate purchase contract; and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract and all other documents necessary to complete the transfer of this property to the City of Hutchinson. The motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Report of City Officials

### a. Council

- Councilmember Bagwell encouraged everyone to stay safe, wash their hands; and to practice social distancing. She also thanked nurses, store clerks, those working on the front lines, etc.
- Councilmember Garza said we are in a desperate situation right now; and we need to pray for each other.

- Councilmember Daveline said stay strong, stay healthy and stay at home.
- Councilmember Soldner said she has nothing to add that hasn't already been said.
- Mayor Piros de Carvalho said she's not sure where to begin. She said this crisis is going to affect the City in many ways, especially budgetary. She asked Mr. Deardoff and Angela Richard to talk about the impact.

Mr. Deardoff said since this crisis hit, the focus has mainly been on the financial impact. He said the hit to sales tax will be big; and that sales taxes make up 33% of the general fund revenues. Mr. Deardoff said he expects to start seeing the impact in May and June. He said he and Ms. Richard looked at the impact in 2008 and 2009; and the City saw a decrease of about 5% in sales taxes. He said they have talked with other cities; and some say they expect this to be two to three times worse.

Angela Richard, Finance Director, said the General Fund balance at the end of 2019 was just under \$5.6 million. She said they are projecting a decrease in sales tax of \$1.1 million, as well as reductions in franchise fees, etc. She said the ending cash balance for 2020 is being projected at \$3.9 million. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Deardoff said this is just an overview, but wants councilmembers to think about what their comfort level is with regard to fund balances. He said the reserve is to help you in times when revenues aren't what was expected. Mr. Deardoff said over the next several days staff will be working on plans and ideas of how to reduce expenses. He said at some point he may request a special meeting to review these thoughts and ideas. Mayor Piros de Carvalho said no one wants to exhaust the reserves, but they are there to get you through crisis situations.

Mayor Piros de Carvalho asked about grant funding available to cities, wondering if we had tapped into any of those. Mr. Deardoff said he's received a lot of information; and said the City may be allocated to receive approximately \$71,000.00. He said there are no lost wages so far; that most of the expense has been for additional supplies. Additional discussion ensued.

Mr. Deardoff indicated there are a limited number of individuals working from home; and said he is proud of department heads who have implemented flexible scheduling, etc. He said for Police and Fire, it's business as usual.

b. City Manager

Mr. Deardoff said he has nothing more other than these are interesting times we are going through.

9. Executive Session

Motion by Councilmember Garza, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to recess into executive session pursuant to the personnel matters of non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) in order to discuss workforce needs; the open meeting to resume at 11:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

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

**Upcoming Meetings**

April 21, 2020	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
May 5, 2020	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
May 19, 2020	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting