

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
5:00 P.M.

The Special City Commission Meeting of the City Commission was held at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room. Mayor Loren J. Pepperd and Commissioners John Matta, Wynn Butler, Richard B. Jankovich, and James E. Sherow were present. Also present were the City Manager Ron R. Fehr, Assistant City Manager Lauren Palmer, City Attorney Katharine Jackson, City Clerk Gary S. Fees, 6 staff, and approximately 26 interested citizens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pepperd led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

9-11 REMEMBRANCE - MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pepperd led the Commission and those in attendance in a moment of silence to remember those individuals that lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

SPECIAL MEETING

AWARD CONTRACT/TASK ORDER NO. 5/GRANT OFFER – GENERAL AVIATION APRON (AIP 3-20-0052-43)

Peter Van Kuren, Airport Director, presented an overview on the item. He highlighted funding sources and associated costs for the proposed general aviation apron project. He then responded to questions from the Commission regarding associated parking fees; uses of the general aviation apron if other projects are not approved; costs associated with the Fixed Base Operator (FBO), and services provided at the Manhattan Regional Airport; and the future plans proposed for the current FBO facility.

Ron Nordt, President, Kansas Air Center, informed the Commission that this is a worthwhile project and needs to be completed. He then responded to questions from the Commission and informed the Commission that he would like to see improvements made to Airport Road.

SPECIAL MEETING (CONTINUED)

AWARD CONTRACT/TASK ORDER NO. 5/GRANT OFFER – GENERAL AVIATION APRON (AIP 3-20-0052-43) (CONTINUED)

After additional discussion and comments from the Commission, Commissioner Jankovich moved to accept the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost in the amount of \$1,770,406.00; authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a construction contract in the amount of \$1,666,859.02 with Dondlinger & Sons Construction Co., Inc., of Wichita, Kansas, for construction of the General Aviation Apron at the Manhattan Regional Airport; authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute Task Order No. 5 in the amount of \$203,812.50 with Mead & Hunt, Inc., of Madison, Wisconsin, for construction administration of the General Aviation Apron; and accept the federal Grant Offer from FAA in the amount of \$1,890,734.00. Commissioner Sherow seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

WORK SESSION

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager, presented an overview on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and process to develop an MPO. She then presented two map options and jurisdictional boundaries; proposed preliminary budget options; proposed policy board for the MPO; proposed five-year budget summary; and the next steps for the City Commission to consider. She then responded to questions from the Commission regarding the maps and preliminary budget estimates.

Rob Ott, City Engineer, provided additional information on the two maps presented and responded to questions from the Commission on the process used to receive estimates for the preliminary budgets.

Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager; Ron Fehr, City Manager; and Rob Ott, City Engineer, responded to additional questions from the Commission and provided additional information regarding the proposed maps, preliminary budget scenarios, policy board make-up, and considerations to establish an MPO.

Commissioner Sherow provided background information on the item and on the Flint Hills Regional Council. He stated that the City Commission received a letter from the Garrison Commander at Fort Riley voicing their support for a regional concept for the boundary determination for the MPO. He stated that the Post wants to see Geary County and Junction City included in the MPO and both entities are interested in being included. He voiced support for map 4a and wanted to continue the regional cooperation and communication that we have all worked to achieve.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

Commissioner Matta stated that he understood Fort Riley's desire for a regional concept; however, he said that he represents the citizens of Manhattan and it is up to him to look out for their best interests. He voiced concern with the representation on the proposed policy board and creating extra bureaucracy and overhead. He said that he could support map 2 in order to maintain more local control on transportation projects. He stated that most people do not understand the MPO and that the public needs to be educated.

Commissioner Butler commented that added expansion could be phased in at a later date and was in support of map 2. He voiced concerns with the proposed funding for the organization and stated that starting with a smaller map would help reduce risk. He stated that once the MPO is created, then it could be expanded to encompass the larger area if it proves to be a prudent course of action.

Dave Yearout, Director of Planning and Zoning for Junction City and Geary County, provided additional information on the item and informed the Commission that they want to be an equal partner at the beginning of the MPO process.

Stephanie Watts, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), responded to questions from the Commission. She informed the Commission that this is a decision to be made by the Manhattan City Commission and KDOT will support that decision. She then responded to questions from the Commission regarding the proposed cost estimates.

Christine Tawney, 5435 Pheasant Ridge Road, informed the Commission that the larger map may damage local control and encouraged the Commission to start small and move up in phases. She stated that people are not aware of this initiative and the public deserves the right to be informed.

Chuck Henderson, 2008 Somerset Square, informed the Commission that he recognized the mandate of federal law but, stated that it would be foolish to go any further than we absolutely must to satisfy the mandate. He stated that we will continue to talk with other communities about transportation projects.

Larry Tawney, 5435 Pheasant Ridge Road, informed the Commission that he favored map 2. He asked the Commission to keep the control at a local level and was concerned with what policies a regional policy board would create for both the city and county.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

Commissioner Jankovich asked additional questions regarding the MPO and wanted to better understand the maps impact on state and federal funding. He stated that he was leaning more toward map 4a. However, he needed additional information and wanted to hear from the other entities at the next Joint City/Riley County/Pottawatomie County meeting before reaching a decision.

Rob Ott, City Engineer, and Stephanie Watts, Kansas Department of Transportation, responded to questions from the Commission and provided clarification on KDOT funds available and the process of the policy board in determining project priorities.

Mayor Pepperd stated that Manhattan has a regional Airport and we want Geary County and Fort Riley residents to use it. He said that Manhattan is a regional shopping center. He voiced support for map 4a and stated that if regional entities are willing to support the MPO financially, they should be included.

Lauren Palmer, Assistant City Manager, responded to questions from the Commission regarding the preliminary financial participation of other communities and stated that the MPO will need to be finalized by March 2013.

Ron Fehr, City Manager, responded to questions from the Commission and provided additional information on the item.

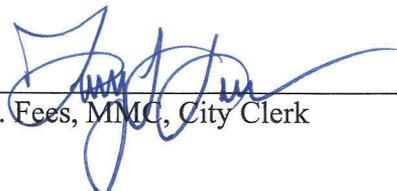
Stephanie Watts, Kansas Department of Transportation, provided additional information on the different state and federal programs and prioritization.

After additional discussion and comments from the Commission, Ron Fehr, City Manager, provided clarification and additional information on the proposed maps that were presented. He informed the Commission that the item would be discussed at the next Joint City/Riley County/Pottawatomie County meeting.

As this was a Work Session item, there was no formal action taken on the item.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:04 p.m., the Commission adjourned.



Gary S. Fees, MMC, City Clerk