



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017
5:30 P.M.

The Special Meeting of the City Commission was held at 5:30 p.m. in the City Commission Room. Mayor Usha Reddi and Commissioners Linda Morse, Michael L. Dodson, Wynn Butler, and Karen McCulloh were present. Also present were the City Manager Ron R. Fehr, Deputy City Manager Jason Hilgers, Assistant City Manager Kiel Mangus, City Clerk Gary S. Fees, 5 staff, and approximately 10 interested citizens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Reddi led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORK SESSION

UPDATE - WESTAR ENERGY/KCP&L REGARDING MANHATTAN SERVICES

Mike Soliday, Business Manager, Westar Energy, introduced the item.

Chuck Caisley, Vice President, Marketing and Public Affairs, representing Great Plains Energy and KCP&L (Kansas City Power & Light), provided background information about their company and information on the pending transaction between their company and Westar Energy. He discussed the transaction process and what can be expected. He stated that the increasing costs of infrastructure, and operations have made the industry increasingly difficult to compete in and that their company would be purchasing Westar Energy and assuming all of Westar's debt. He informed the Commission that the best way to combat rising costs is to find efficiencies and savings by combining these two companies, which is expected to result in \$2 billion in customer savings over a 10-year time period. He also discussed attrition being experienced by the two companies and future staffing levels. He then responded to questions from the Commission and stated that nothing is in the foreseeable future to do anything different in Manhattan.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

UPDATE - WESTAR ENERGY/KCP&L REGARDING MANHATTAN SERVICES (CONTINUED)

After discussion and comments from the Commission, Chuck Caisley, Vice President, Marketing and Public Affairs, representing Great Plains Energy and KCP&L, responded to questions from the Commission regarding efficiency programs for residential, commercial and industrial. He stated that their company needs approval for the merger from the Kansas Corporation Commission on April 24, 2017, and approval from the Federal Environmental Regulation Commission as well as the Missouri Public Service Commission. He highlighted the Nest thermostats available to customers to save energy and reduce costs. He also discussed available rebates for energy efficiency programs, recycling of old refrigerators, and electric charging stations.

After additional comments and questions from the Commission, Chuck Caisley, Vice President, Marketing and Public Affairs, representing Great Plains Energy and KCP&L, stated that customer service is very important to Great Plains Energy. He stated that its biggest customer is the City of Kansas City and they have quarterly planning meetings with the mayor, city manager, and members from KCP&L. He informed the Commission that the long-term debt is very manageable and discussed the revenues to repay the additional debt. He then responded to questions and provided clarification on utility trends, how customer savings would be realized, how Westar Energy stockholders would be compensated, and discussed plans to utilize solar and wind, and capitalize on energy efficiencies as well as optimize the electrical grid.

Mayor Reddi thanked Mr. Caisley for his presentation and update.

As this was a Work Session discussion item only, no formal action was taken.

FLINT HILLS ATA BUS FIXED-ROUTE TRANSIT SYSTEM UPDATE

Stephanie Watts, Transportation Planning Manager, Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Anne Smith, Director, Flint Hills ATA Bus, presented an overview and update of the Flint Hills ATA Bus fixed-route transit system. They highlighted the multi-modal integration plan; ATA Bus service area and historical ridership; federal funds available; current 30-day bus pass; proposed bus stop signage; current route schedule; ATA fixed routes and map; real-time transit application and Google transit; infrastructure bus stops and amenities planned; and outreach and involvement that has occurred. They then responded to questions from the Commission.

Jared Tremblay, Transportation Planning Analyst, Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization, presented maps of current versus proposed routes and ATA bus stops throughout the city of Manhattan. He also provided clarification and an overview of the routes and transfer stations being proposed.

WORK SESSION (CONTINUED)

FLINT HILLS ATA BUS FIXED-ROUTE TRANSIT SYSTEM UPDATE

Anne Smith, Director, Flint Hills ATA Bus, presented the levels of frequency and coverage area of the routes. She also presented a graph of financial sources of revenue for Fiscal Year 2016 for fixed routes and provided a draft revenue budget. She requested \$75,000 for the fixed-route transit system from the City of Manhattan for the next fiscal year. She then responded to questions from the Commission regarding insurance costs, wages for employees, fares, ridership associated with Kansas State University, and demographics of those using ATA Bus. She stated that roughly 40 percent of all ATA Bus riders use the bus system to get to and from work.

Jared Tremblay, Transportation Planning Analyst, Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization, responded to questions from the Commission regarding frequency and provided additional information on the coverage of the proposed routes.

After additional questions from the Commission, Anne Smith, Director, Flint Hills ATA Bus, presented information on a 14-hour operating service and associated operating costs. She then responded to questions regarding the proposed fare structure for users and the financial amount being requested from government agencies.

After further comments from the Commission, Mayor Reddi and the Commission thanked Ms. Smith, Ms. Watts, and Mr. Tremblay for their presentation and update.

As this was a Work Session discussion item only, no formal action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:42 p.m., Commissioner McCulloh moved to recess into Executive Session until 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel pertaining to the evaluation of the City Manager. Commissioner Morse seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

At 8:15 p.m., the Commission reconvened with Mayor Reddi and Commissioners Morse, Dodson, Butler, and McCulloh in attendance. Mayor Reddi moved to recess into Executive Session until 8:45 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel pertaining to the evaluation of the City Manager. Commissioner McCulloh seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

At 8:45 p.m., the Commission reconvened with Mayor Reddi and Commissioners Morse, Dodson, Butler, and McCulloh in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reddi moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McCulloh seconded the motion.
On vote, motion carried 5-0.

At 8:46 p.m., the Commission adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Fees", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary S. Fees, MMC, City Clerk