

## **Governing Body Minutes – July 2, 2019**

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, July 2, 2019. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 5:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Hiller, Clear, Emerson, Padilla, Jensen, Mays, Coen and Lesser -8. Mayor De La Isla presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Ortiz -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Linessa Frazier, New Love and Hope Community Church, provided the invocation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present in the chamber.

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the appointment of Leilani Grey to the Topeka Sustainability Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending March 21, 2021, was presented.

Councilmember Lesser moved to approve the board appointment. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. (8-0-0)

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 20189 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, allowing and approving City expenditures for the period of May 4, 2019, through May 31, 2019, and enumerating said expenditures therein was presented.

APPROVAL of a workers' compensation settlement in the amount of \$20,000 for injury the employee sustained while engaged in normal work duties was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of June 18, 2019, and special meetings of June 19, 2019, and June 25, 2019, were presented.

APPROVAL of a Cereal Malt Beverage License application for Supermart El Torito located at 3000 NW Topeka Boulevard was presented.

APPROVAL of a Dance Hall License application for El Gallo Mexican Restaurant located at 3501 SW Topeka Boulevard was presented.

APPROVAL of Open After Midnight License applications for The Carwash located at 1814 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and The Carwash located at 720 SW Gage Boulevard were presented.

Councilmember Emerson moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

APPROVAL of the 2020 Social Services Grant allocation recommendations in the amount of \$434,904 was presented.

Councilmember Coen requested public comment be allowed before discussion by the Governing Body.

Upon hearing no objections, Mayor De La Isla announced public comment would be conducted.

Councilmember Ortiz entered the room.

Tawny Stottlemire, Community Action Inc., Executive Director, spoke in opposition of not allocating grant funding to the Community Action Latino Family Development Program. She expressed concern with possible flaws in the application process and requested it be reviewed in detail for needed adjustments. She encouraged the Governing Body to keep the program active due to the positive effects it has on the community as a whole.

Karen Mitchell, Topeka LULAC Center Board member, spoke in opposition of not allocating grant funding to the LULAC Consolidated Senior Center Services Program and expressed concern with the loss of services for the center due to funding cuts. She asked the Governing Body to consider funding only a portion of the requested amount; lower the required scoring in the process; or reinstate the total amount requested.

Councilmember Coen provided a brief overview of the application process. He stated the allocations were very difficult decisions to make and noted the Committee has been working on the process for a number of years.

Councilmember Padilla stated it was difficult to make the funding decisions and noted all programs were worthy of support. He commended staff for their work on the process; however, he believes there are steps in the process that need to be adjusted because there are programs that need funding and are being left behind.

Councilmember Padilla moved to remand the 2020 Social Services Grant allocation in the amount of \$434,904 back to the Social Services Grant Committee to discuss and reconsider the recommendations from staff at the July 16, 2019, Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Clear.

Councilmember Clear stated she concurs with Councilmember Padilla and believes the process should be reviewed for future grants.

Sasha Haehn, Department of Neighborhood Relations Director, reported the following:

- Guidelines for the process do not include language outlining a required percentage of the overall program budget
- Grant funding awards range from \$10,000 to \$25,000
- New program grant funding award maximum is \$15,000.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed concern with the appeal process and asked that it be reviewed. She noted she believes small and new organizations suffer the most and suggested reviewing additional measures to ensure a fair process.

Councilmember Hiller requested information on the appeal process. She asked Committee members what would be different in regards to the outcome if the recommendations are remanded back to Committee.

Councilmember Padilla stated the Committee would review the weighted measures to ensure the numbers were fair in conjunction with the expectation of outcomes. He noted consideration could be given on whether the process was worthy of review for adjustments or leave it the same. He spoke in opposition of staff recommendations and would like to review staff ratings of the programs.

Councilmember Hiller stated City staff, Social Service agencies and the Governing Body have worked hard to identify priority areas over the past several years.

Councilmember Lesser stated the grant allocation process was a difficult task. He suggested at least one committee member carry over each year to serve as guidance for the new members to learn the process. He expressed concern with remanding the recommendations back to the Committee as it will also affect the other 15 organizations that have followed the process and been awarded funding. He suggested the City Manager research and determine if there was additional funding in the budget to help assist the four organizations that did not receive funding.

Councilmember Mays questioned the intent of remanding the recommendations back to the Committee and noted unless the weighted measures are changed, little could be accomplished. He asked if there were limits to the number of grants an agency could apply.

Sasha Haehn stated there are no limits to the number of programs an agency can submit for grant funding.

Councilmember Hiller expressed the importance of using grant funding to establish core programs along with reviewing the process and annual performance measures.

Councilmember Padilla spoke in support of providing agencies sufficient funding to sustain their programs.

Mayor De La Isla reminded the Governing Body that the purpose of the process was to ensure organizations are upholding the services (*70% of the total score*) they are receiving funding for in the community based on applicable performance measures (*30% of the total score*) *i.e.* reporting requirements making certain tax dollars are being safeguarded.

Councilmember Coen stressed the importance of following the Committee's process.

The motion to remand the 2020 Social Services Grant allocation in the amount of \$434,904 back to the Social Services Grant Committee to discuss and reconsider the recommendations from staff at the July 16, 2019, Committee meeting carried. Councilmembers Hiller, Coen and Lesser voted "no." (7-3-0)

Councilmember Coen announced the next Social Services Grant Committee meeting would be held July 16, 2019.

DISCUSSION of, and possible ACTION on, the 2020 Proposed City of Topeka Operating Budget was presented.

Nick Hawkins, Administrative and Financial Services Deputy Director, reported the Governing Body met on June 18, 19, and 25, 2019, to discuss the 2020 City Operating Budget, and when those decisions are finalized the maximum taxes levied must be set on July 9, 2019 or July 23, 2019. He stated answers to the questions asked at the June 19 and 25, 2019 Special Meetings (Budget Workshops) have been provided in Supplement Nos. 1 and 2.

Brent Trout, City Manager, stated the agenda item would be placed to the July 9, 2019, Governing Body agenda for discussion and possible action, and if needed, continued to July 23, 2019.

Mayor De La Isla announced the time was 6:03 p.m. and the meeting was scheduled to end at 6:20 p.m. She stated if there were no objections she would allow Public Comment prior to Announcements.

Joseph Ledbetter expressed the importance of improving productivity wherever feasible with less funding; research smarter ways to repair infrastructure in a timely manner; use reserve funding to replace piping; increase the use of private contractors for street repairs; and spoke in support of fully funding the Police department especially the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Unit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL;

Brenda Younger, City Clerk, gave a brief overview of the July 9, 2019, Governing Body agenda.

Councilmember Clear reminded everyone to be mindful of City of Topeka Fireworks Regulations and clean up debris in their neighborhood after celebrations.

Clark Trammell appeared to speak under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

(SEAL)

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Brenda Younger  
City Clerk