

Governing Body Minutes – August 20, 2019

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, August 20, 2019. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Hiller, Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Jensen, Mays, Coen and Lesser -8. Mayor De La Isla presided -1. Absent: Councilmember Clear -1.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Jensen provided the invocation.

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

PRESENTATION on the City of Topeka Department of Financial Services 2nd Quarter Report was provided by Jessica Lamendola, Administrative and Financial Services Director.

PRESENTATION on the City of Topeka Development and Growth Management 2nd Quarter Report was provided by Bill Fiander, Planning and Development Director.

AN UPDATE on the Momentum 2022 Plan was provided by Kayla Bitler, Senior Vice President of Strategy, Greater Topeka Partnership and Keith Warda, GO Topeka Board Chair.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 9138 introduced by Councilmember Sylvia Ortiz, granting Amos Walker an exception to the provisions of City of Topeka Code Section 9.45.150, et seq., concerning noise prohibitions was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of August 13, 2019, were presented.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 20199 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, authorizing and providing for the issuance of \$33,270,000 aggregate principal amount of Combined Utility

Revenue Bonds, Series 2019-A, of the City of Topeka, Kansas; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof and authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith was presented.

Jessica Lamendola, Administrative and Financial Services Director, provided a summary of the bid form and reported Piper Jaffray received the winning bid offering a 2.5% interest rate. She stated Jeff White, Columbia Capital Management, LLC and Kevin Cowan, Gilmore & Bell, PC were present to answer questions.

Councilmember Jensen moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Coen carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Jensen, Mays, Coen, Lesser and Mayor De La Isla -9. Absent: Clear -1.

RESOLUTION NO. 9139 introduced by City Manager, Brent Trout, prescribing the form and details of and authorizing and directing the sale and delivery of \$33,270,000 aggregate principal amount of Combined Utility [Refunding and Improvement] Revenue Bonds, Series 2019-A, of the City of Topeka, Kansas, previously authorized by ordinance of the issuer; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith was presented.

Councilmember Jensen moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Mays carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 20200 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, amending the “District Map” referred to and made a part of the Zoning Ordinances by Section 18.50.050 of the Topeka Municipal Code, approving a major amendment to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Master Plan for Blue Cross Blue Shield in order to expand the boundary to include a property at 1104

SW Polk, currently zoning “M-2” Multiple Family Dwelling District all being within the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas was presented. (PUD04/6B)

Bill Fiander, Planning and Development Director, reported approval would add 6,075 square feet of property to the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas boundary and allow expansion of 12-17 parking stalls. He stated the Topeka Planning Commission and Planning Department recommend approval.

Mayor De La Isla stated prior to proceeding with the vote, each member of the Governing Body who has engaged in ex parte communication with any individual either in favor of, or against, the matter being considered to indicate that even in light of having engaged in this communication they are able to fairly, objectively and impartially consider the measure based only upon the evidence provided on the record which includes the Planning Commission minutes, the Staff Report, and its attachments, the public comments made during the Planning Commission hearing and similar relevant information related to the matter.

No ex parte communication was declared by Governing Body members.

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Mays carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Hiller, Ortiz, Emerson, Padilla, Jensen, Mays, Coen, Lesser and Mayor De La Isla -9. Absent: Clear -1.

JOINT Memorandum of Agreement concerning group healthcare cost-sharing with the labor unions for 2020-2022 was presented. (Contract No. 48038)

Brent Trout, City Manager, reported approval of the three year agreement (2020-2022) would set the cost sharing formula for the City and individual contributions.

Jacque Russell, Human Resources Director, reported the practice of meeting with the unions to tentatively agree on group healthcare started in 2015. She stated all unions have ratified the agreement with the exception of the AFT Union; however, the union president stated he believes the members have received the agreement positively. She summarized the terms of agreement for cost share of premium equivalent for base plans, wellness incentives, tobacco surcharge, buy-up plan enrollment, deductibles and clinic access for employees not participating in the healthcare plan and premium holidays based on health fund reserve balance. She listed the estimated additional increase in costs associated with the agreement and an estimated levy impact for the portion of the agreement funded by mill levy supported funds.

Councilmember Emerson referenced the financial memo (chart) distributed in the agenda packet and asked for clarification on the annual increase the City will incur from year to year.

Councilmember Hiller questioned if the healthcare fund was strong enough to benefit employees without becoming an expense to taxpayers.

Nick Hawkins reported the costs outlined in the chart carries over the assumed wellness incentive (\$345,683) from year to year; and the overall health fund has been performing very well which reflects in the decrease of the City's overall healthcare budget.

Jacque Russell stated the participation rate for the wellness incentive was 82% and the premium equivalence was based on the expenses the City receives from all healthcare vendors along with two layers of stop-block insurance coverage.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed concern with the \$50 per month charge to utilize the clinic and asked if consideration could be given to lowering the cost which could possibly allow more employees to visit the clinic.

Councilmember Lesser moved to approve the Joint Memorandum of Agreement (Contract No. 48038). The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. (9-0-0)

RESOLUTION NO. 9140 introduced by City Manager Brent Trout, cancelling the Governing Body meeting on October 1, 2019 was presented.

Brent Trout, City Manager, reported approval would cancel the Governing Body meeting of October 1, 2019, to facilitate travel to the inter-city visit in Montgomery, Alabama.

Councilmember Jensen moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Coen carried. Councilmember Ortiz voted “no.” (8-1-0)

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

Brent Trout, City Manager, announced Ed Collazo would serve as the new City of Topeka Independent Police Auditor.

Mayor De La Isla expressed her appreciation to Topeka Police Chief Cochran and staff for their efforts in assisting with homeless camps in north Topeka. She thanked Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for facilitating discussions regarding community building. She also thanked Hills Pet Nutrition for expanding their company in the Topeka community. She commended the City and its citizens for positively promoting Topeka.

Councilmember Jensen encouraged citizens to take care of their animals during the extreme heat. He announced the Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority has hired Robert Nugent as the new General Manager and he looks forward to working with him to solve transit issues. He thanked the TMTA Board for making fair corrections and trying to balance ridership and organizational issues.

Councilmember Mays thanked the Topeka Police Department for facilitating the Council District No. 7 Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships meeting on August 19, 2019, at French Middle School.

Councilmember Hiller stated there are positive discussions being held regarding the TMTA Bike Program issues and thanked the people involved in searching for ways to keep the program.

Councilmember Emerson announced Fellowship Bible Church-HiCrest would host a Hi-Crest Neighborhood Walk for Peace on August 25, 2019, at 12:30 p.m. at Betty Phillips Park located at 3303 SE Irvingham Street.

Carol Marple and Clark Trammell appeared to speak under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

(SEAL)

Brenda Younger
City Clerk