

City Commission Work Session

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

5:30 p.m.

A work session of the City commission was held at 5:30 on Tuesday May 13, 2003. Attending the work session were Commissioners Blanken, Heldstab, Talley, Taylor, Wunder, Staff attending were City Manager Rod Barnes and City Clerk Colleen Woodruff.

City Manager Barnes gave a Bartell House update. The City was the recipient of a \$100,000.00 loan . A decision on the award of tax credits will possibly be made later this week. City manager Barnes stated that owners of two buildings to the west of the Bartell House have expressed an interest in trading those buildings for one that the city owns. The Commission felt that further investigation was warranted. One of the building was previously used as a laundry and EPA concerns were expressed. If the city acquires the property it would increase the parking. Construction of the Bartell Hotel would probable begin in January , 2004.

A schedule was set for district meetings.

2004 budget work sessions were scheduled to begin On June 19th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Ordinances G-949 and 950 were presented to the Commission. These ordinances would allow for temporary cereal malt beverage permits to be approved by the City Manager after a background investigation was completed by the Police Department. The ordinance would not change the existing one to allow alcoholic beverage at specific locations. Commissioner Talley had concerns of allowing beer sales in the family parks. This ordinance will be presented for formal consideration at the next regular scheduled City Commission meeting.

WATER AND SEWER RATES

City Manager Barnes outlined the need for a water and sewer rate increase in the near future. He stated that he would like to see the new rates in effect by July 1, 2003. He presented the rates from various cities in the surrounding area. The water fund in debt because of the construction of the South west treatment plant and because of federal mandates. Mr. Barnes stated that the department is looking at raising the connect fee and tap fees.

BUDGET CUTS

A spending freeze has been implemented, except for essential costs to keep the city operating. A hiring freeze has been implemented. NO current or future vacancies will be filled at this time. There is a possibility of reducing the distribution to the Highland Cemetery by \$15,000.00. City Manager Barnes stated that he could see the City being responsible for the maintaining of the cemetery in the near future. He stated that the City was pulling the \$10,000 for the salary of the Executive Director of the Geary Health Council. The County and Hospital have indicated that if the city pulls the funding, they will also. Mr. Barnes also stated that the City needed to look at selling some city owned property.

Police Chief Story stated that the City was going to meet with the School District to negotiate the funding of the Dare officer and the three School Resource Officers.

Commission Talley asked if something could be done about under age smoking. Chief Story stated that tickets were being written and the people receiving the tickets went to Youth Court and generally received a fine of \$50.00. Commissioner Talley felt that the fine should be raised for each ticket.