



City of Lawrence

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CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR
ARON E. CROMWELL

COMMISSIONERS
ROBERT J. SCHUMM
MICHAEL DEVER
HUGH CARTER
MIKE AMYX

July 19, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Lawrence met in regular session at 6:35 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall with Mayor Cromwell presiding and members Amyx, Carter, Dever and Schumm present.

A. RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION

1. None.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Amyx, seconded by Dever to approve the consent agenda as below.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. Approved City Commission meeting minutes from 07/05/11 and 07/12/11.
2. Received minutes from various boards and commissions:
Board of Zoning Appeals meeting of 06/02/11
Public Health Board meeting of 05/16/11
Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting of 06/08/11
3. Approved claims to 251 vendors in the amount of \$2,915,289.20 and payroll from 7/3/11 to 7/16/11 in the amount of \$1,907,332.01.
4. Approved licenses as recommended by the City Clerk's Office.

Drinking Establishment licenses for Six Mile Tavern, 4931 West 6th, El Mezcal, 1520 Wakarusa Ste: F & G, La Parrilla, 814 Massachusetts, Retail Liquor License for Ray's Liquor Warehouse, 1215 West 6th, and Sidewalk Dining License for Genovese, 941 Massachusetts.
5. Bid and purchase items:
 - a) Set bid date of August 2, 2011 for the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program at 2209 Princeton Boulevard.



- b) Waived bidding requirements and approved the purchase of playground equipment for the Burroughs Creek Playground to Miracle Recreation Equipment Company for \$28,655. Private donations are covering \$27,600 of the cost, and the city will pay the remaining \$1,055.
- 6. Adopted on first reading, Ordinance No. 8645, amending the Standard Traffic Ordinance relating to driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs and relating to preliminary breath tests.
- 7. Adopted the following ordinance(s) on second and final reading:
 - a) Ordinance No. 8627, for a Special Use Permit (SUP-3-2-11) for a bar or lounge use located at 1344 Tennessee Street. (PC Item 2B; approved 8-2 on 3/28/11).
 - b) Ordinance No. 8641, for Text Amendments (TA-3-4-11) the City of Lawrence Land Development Code, Chapter 20, Article 7, regarding revisions to the district criteria and development standards in the Planned Development Overlay District.
- 8. Adopted the following resolution(s):
 - a) Resolution No. 6926, amending Section III of Resolution 6892 and ordering the improvement and authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for main traffic way improvements under construction this summer.
 - b) Resolution No. 6927, ordering the improvements and authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds for improvements to 9th Street, from Tennessee Street to Kentucky, including traffic signalization and geometric improvements.
- 9. Approved Special Event, SE-7-15-11, for a free event including food, music, fellowship, and a sermon, located in the 800 block of Lynn Street on July 27 and August 24, 2011.
- 10. Approved a Temporary Use of Public Right-of-Way Permit allowing the closure of Vermont Street from 7th Street south to the Parking Lot 13 entrance from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2011, for the Lawrence Public Library End of Summer Party.
- 11. Approved a Temporary Use of Public Right-of-Way Permit for the Lawrence Busker Fest for the use of sidewalks and 10 parking stalls in front of 900 Massachusetts Street, and the closure of the 100 block of E 8th Street and the 100 block of E 10th Street on August 19-21, 2011.
- 12. Approved the following items related to the 2011 Sandbar Birthday Party:
 - a) Approved a Temporary Use of Public Right-of-Way Permit allowing the closure of the 100 block of E. 8th Street from 1:00 p.m. on Saturday,

August 13, 2011, to 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 14, 2011 for the Sandbar Birthday Party.

- b) Adopted on first reading, Ordinance No. 8646, allowing the possession and consumption of alcohol on the 100 block of E. 8th Street from 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 13, 2011, to 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 14, 2011 for the Sandbar Birthday Party.
13. Approved the request by Grob Engineering on behalf of Bechtel Holdings LLC for a variance from 19-214B of the City Code which states that a private sanitary sewer service line shall not be located in a public utility easement for greater than 15 feet for Lot 1 of Pinnacle West Subdivision No. 10 (4311 West 6th Street).

C. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

David Corliss, City Manager, presented the City Manager's Report.

Chuck Soules, Director of Public Works, gave an update on the Tennessee Street mill and overlay project and the Kansas River Bridge project.

Mike Lawless, Assistant Director of Utilities, gave an update on a water main break at 19th and Missouri.

Schumm asked about the age of the water main that broke.

Lawless said it was a 1947 main but he did not know the condition at this time.

Schumm asked if that was considered an old main.

Lawless said yes.

D. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Receive information regarding the Access to Healthy Foods Planning Grant Leadership Team.

Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator, presented the staff report regarding the Access to Healthy Foods Planning Grant.

Mayor Cromwell said he would be interested in serving on the team.

Corliss said staff would work up the letter.

Horn presented the staff report regarding the use of city land for small scale farming.

Corliss said from a staff level we would look at city owned land. There were good reasons for not using some parcels and maybe not for others. Issues like water access and parking would be examined. It was also good from a management standpoint to look at what we have. Staff would bring back a report.

Mayor Cromwell called for public comment.

KT Walsh asked that everybody look to the State of New Hampshire for an example. Non-profits are trying to acquire land within one mile of all residents because when oil ran out people would be walking. When we look at our land it could be important to do that also.

Schumm said he was very interested in this and would look forward to the staff report.

2. **Receive and discuss memoranda and materials concerning retaining and attracting senior citizens and retirees to the Lawrence and Douglas County community.**

Hugh Carter said this comes from talking to the chamber's senior services council about Lawrence's strength as a retirement destination already, even though it was somewhat unintentional. There are other things we could do to be more intentional. We should inventory what we do well and look at where we could improve. The 50+ sector was outnumbering young folks and controlling 60% of the wealth. Fort Collins, CO and the State of Alabama have some good models. He said he hoped to establish a retiree attraction task force to take a look at these issues.

Cromwell said the financial impact of retirees could be significant. It could be an important part of our economic development strategy.

Carter said it would also be good to plan for the related demographic issues.

Hank Booth said he was part of the alpha group of the Baby Boomer generation. He said he had received numerous comments regarding this issue. He said Baby Boomers would be reinventing retirement communities much as they had reinvented the business world in decades past. We do not have to build it, because they are going to come. As we remodel it, we need to

examine the issues relating to where Baby Boomers would be homesteading. We have many amenities and characteristics that are already attractive to retirees. He said he had calls and emails from people wanting to help and wanting to be on the task force. When he raised this issue with the Board of Directors at the Chamber of Commerce they were excited about it. The senior council group had broken down many of the issues already. The basics were that we needed measurable results. He hoped the task force could get started in September. He thought the task force could report back by May of next year. He said right now they didn't want any money from the City of Lawrence. Let us come up with some ideas and plans and work and then we'll look at the 2013 budget process. He said he knew that communities had done this well had invested in it. We were not at that point yet and the task force was a first step. He said he read a quote recently that Lawrence had invested heavily in the fountain of youth, and now it was time to invest in the fountain of smart.

Mayor Cromwell called for public comment.

Jane Pennington said she would like to volunteer for the task force.

Carleen Roberts, Douglas County Senior Services Executive Director, said she would like to be on the task force, or someone from her board of directors. She said we had to think of Douglas County as a whole. She said youth needed mentors, and one of her goals was to create links between seniors and youth in mentor relationships.

Carter said the idea was to have a city commissioner and a county commissioner as well as Lawrence and Douglas County commission appointments to look at both city and county communities.

Amyx said back in the early 1980s he was part of an economic development task force that looked at the importance of accommodating the needs of retirees in the future. That future is now. A lot of people had made wise investments in meeting those needs since that time. A lot of positive things had come out of recruiting opportunities bringing retirees to Lawrence. He

appreciated the comments regarding mentoring relationships. We ought to do everything we can to be an attractive community for retirees.

Schumm said this was a great opportunity to demonstrate we were interested in having retirees come back and live here. There were tremendous numbers living here already.

Corliss said he had put together a draft resolution and he would amend it to make clear that the appointees be residents of Lawrence or Douglas County.

Carter suggested changing the name of the task force to Retiree Attraction Task Force.

Corliss said we would communicate this to the County Commission as well.

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Carter, to direct staff to amend the resolution and put it on the consent agenda next week. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive information on establishing a donation meters program in downtown Lawrence.

Mayor Cromwell said he brought this concept of donation meters to light when panhandling issues were brought forward a couple of years ago. Some communities were utilizing this to help minimize panhandlers and redirect people's charitable instincts toward institutions where the money could be better used than giving that money to panhandlers on the street. The cost was not tremendous for this concept and there could be a significant benefit.

Jonathan Douglass, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, said the City had used meters which could be used to implement this program.

Mayor Cromwell said Downtown Lawrence Inc. wanted to spend some of their money on an education component that would went hand and hand

Mayor Cromwell called for public comment.

Loring Henderson, Lawrence Community Shelter, said his board of directors had motioned yesterday to support this idea. The shelter did not support panhandling. They required their guests to sign a form saying they would not panhandle downtown. They thought the idea of donation meters was another way to direct people to a more constructive way of giving.

Jane Pennington said DLI had looked at this when she was director, and they had looked at these programs and they had been successful in other communities. One thing that would take city cooperation was whether the material that could be handed out would be an envelope that could be filled with bills and turned in through the parking meter fine boxes.

Dever said he had a couple questions regarding implementation. He said the number of meters was one and the cost of installation was another. He said a lot of other cities had sponsorships, and if this was something we were going to encourage we would want to look at deferring the cost of installation. He said education was great and having another way to give like Jane suggested was great. He said he thought it was a great way to address the issue and benefit groups that support homelessness services. He said he didn't know how much revenue could be gathered and thought it could be useful to know more about other community's experience.

Schumm said the Atlanta program had a sign discouraging giving cash to panhandlers. He asked whether that was how we would want to do ours.

Cromwell said yes.

Amyx asked whether people would be able to go to agencies and receive services instead of panhandling, and whether panhandling would be prohibited.

Cromwell said he thought we had looked at that before and weren't going down that road. He said we wanted to get people into the programs that help pull people out of homelessness.

Schumm asked how we decide where the money goes.

Cromwell said he would propose that the funds go to the homeless shelter. He said he didn't think the amount of funds would be tremendous and could not effectively be shared at the start. He thought the organization receiving the funds could maybe collect the funds from the meters.

Carter said he thought the funds should go to the homeless shelter. He said we have invested so much in downtown and we were real proud of it. This was a way to be proactive about it. He thought any way to defer costs would be good. There could be opportunities for sponsorship. He said there was a cost issue but we could get the program rolling.

Cromwell said the idea of getting sponsorships was a great one and he thought people would step forward. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 8-16 meters would be appropriate.

Dever said any businesses that wanted could get together and help with sponsorships.

Corliss said we could come back with an implementation plan regarding locations, sponsorships, costs, historic issues, stakeholder input, etc. He said he thought Massachusetts Street was the most natural location to begin. He said from an accounting standpoint it might make most sense for the city to collect and track the revenues.

Moved by Carter, seconded by Dever, to direct staff to bring back an implementation plan. Motion carried unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

David Corliss, City Manager, outlined potential future agenda items.

G: COMMISSION ITEMS:

None.

H: CALENDAR:

David Corliss, City Manager, reviewed calendar items.

I: CURRENT VACANCIES – BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:

Existing and upcoming vacancies on City of Lawrence Boards and Commissions were listed on the agenda.

Moved by Schumm, seconded by Amyx, to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

Aron E. Cromwell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jonathan M. Douglass, City Clerk