

The Council of the City of Wellington, Kansas, met in a Work Session on July 26, 2016 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Council Room, City Administration Center, with Mayor Shelley Hansel presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hansel.

Council members Bill Butts, Kip Etter, Jan Korte, Jim Valentine and Vince Wetta were present at roll call. Kelly Hawley was absent.

Members of the Staff present were Interim City Manager / Finance Director Shane Shields and City Clerk Carol Mericle.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Contract, City Manager Search. Anna-Marie Keena, Member Services Manager with the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) was onsite to answer questions about the contract for the City Manager search during Council review. Mayor Hansel opened the floor for questions. Council member Korte requested additional information about the cost for background checks. Ms. Keena responded that the contract covered two background checks and any additional would be paid by the City. Council member Korte also expressed concern about the verbiage regarding the early termination clause. There was discussion about changes in the verbiage and Ms. Keena replied she would take requested changes back to the League staff for discussion there. There was discussion if spending money to contract with LKM was the right thing to do for the citizens of Wellington and the potential candidates, including the current interim manager. Consensus of the Council was to move forward with the contract with LKM to ensure the right person would lead our City. Ms. Keena explained LKM's next steps and shared advertising examples. The council discussed LKM working with the City HR Coordinator, Jerry Zoglmann with the candidates, as well. Mayor Hansel informed Ms. Keena that the Council would make a formal decision at the next council meeting on Tuesday, August 2nd.

Budget 2017. Interim City Manager / Finance Director Shields presented the Council with the draft copy of the Notice of Budget Hearing. He highlighted some of the areas and key points for the Council to note. He opened the floor for discussion and questions.

Council member Korte asked to discuss contribution funding to other agencies. Director Shields said he wanted to make sure everyone understood the intent from the consensus of the last budget meeting, which was to reduce three of the requests by twenty-five percent: the Chisolm Trail Museum, the Sumner County Genealogical Society and the Wellington Senior Center. He shared that since the last budget meeting, Council member Korte further explained that her intention was only to reduce by twenty-five percent the amount rewarded to those three entities in 2016. He went on to say that the calculations in this scenario would only affect the Chisolm Trail Museum, as the other two entities requested amount for 2017 was at or below the reduced amount. Director Shields asked the Council for verification on their intent as changes would affect the figures on the drafted Notice.

Council member Wetta asked to discuss the Humane Society. Kim Woodrow, representing the interests of the Sumner County Humane Society, was onsite to answer questions. There was discussion about the roles of the veterinarians, both private practice and Humane Society. There was also discussion about the effect to the local veterinarians involving both current and future services. Mayor Hansel explained to the Council that the intent of this budgeted money is to allow the Humane Society to hire a director so that down the road, there can be a Sumner County Humane Society. She continued that staffing of the Humane Society would include an Executive Director to run the business and a veterinarian or vet technician would come in as needed and hopefully work with the local veterinarians. Director Shields reminded the Council that this point they are only budgeting the monies and when it came time to pay it out, there would be additional questions at that time.

Mayor Hansel asked if there were any questions about the Library, as there were two representatives, Lisa Vargas and Jo Plumb, there ready to answer questions. Council member Wetta asked what the Library was going to do with the additional money. Ms. Vargas discussed the proposed needs, changes and improvements they wanted to make to the Library. She shared that the new director and Board were progressive thinking and wanted to provide many services to our community. Mayor Hansel discussed the need to preserve areas of the library and commended the staff and Board on their excellent work.

Director Shields requested consensus from the Council regarding the contribution amount for the Chisholm Trail museum. There was more discussion about City funding versus public funding and how we could educate the community on the importance of public support of these entities. He also reminded the Council that the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail and was concerned this might be the wrong year to start. Stacy Davis, Sumner County Economic Development Director added that 300,000 to 500,000 people are expected to travel from Texas to Kansas with the celebration. There was more discussion and a consensus for the requested amount.

Director Shields informed the Council that the budget will be published next week, ten days prior to the public hearing.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Director Shields also gave an update on the property at the building at Lincoln & Washington, 107 W. Lincoln. He added the City is still waiting on an engineering report and the concerns are increasing. The City Attorney is involved in discussions, as well. Director Shields said the City has made contact with the gas company and our own electric company about the possibility of shutting these services off. He added the City Inspector is in contact with the owner every day, and he is not sure that they will be able to take action to stabilize the building and it continues to be a public safety concern. Stacy Davis shared that the owners had reached out to her office as well and explained there is no money available for historical preservation.

Stacy Davis also reminded the Council of the two County Town Hall meetings scheduled for 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on August 1st to discuss campus plans for Cowley College campus in Sumner County. Cowley College does not want this issue on the November ballot due to potential of voter confusion so they are willing to pay for a special mail-in election in February. At this time the resolution has been tabled. She added that the Cowley campus will focus on industries such as agriculture, technology, general education and nursing, which will be important to industry, community growth and retention of people to work in our area.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk