

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

April 6, 2014

The special meeting of the Liberal City Commission and U.S.D. 480 Board of Education was held at 3:00 p.m. at McDermott Elementary School located at 439 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Liberal, on Sunday, April 6, 2014.

City Commissioners Present: Mayor Dave Harrison, Vice Mayor Janet Willimon, Dean Aragon and Joe Denoyer. Absent was Ron Warren.

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Hall, Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Debbie Giskie and City Attorney Shirla McQueen.

U.S.D. 480 Board of Education Members Present: President Delvin Kinser, Vice President Chris Jewell, Crystal Clemens, Matt Friederich and Nick Hatcher. Member Steve Helm joined the meeting via cell phone. Absent was Tammy Sutherland-Abbott.

U.S.D. 480 Staff Present: Superintendent Paul Larkin, Deputy Superintendent Renae Hickert, Director of Business and Finance Jerry Clay and legal counsel Rick Yoxall.

Mayor Harrison declared the City Commission meeting called to order and declared a quorum present.

President Kinser declared the Board of Education meeting called to order and declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the invocation was given by Matt Friederich.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

City Commissioner Denoyer moved to approve the agenda, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Aragon. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with City Commissioner Warren absent.

USD 480 Vice Chairman Jewell moved to approve the agenda, as presented, with Board Member Friederich seconding the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0, with Board member Sutherland-Abbott absent.

1. FIRST AND FINAL READING OF CITY ORDINANCE NO. 4425.

Mayor Harrison requested Commission consideration of the first and final reading of Ordinance No. 4425, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS, AND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 480, SEWARD COUNTY, KANSAS (LIBERAL) RESPECTING THE FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND CITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS."

- City Clerk Giskie reported the Mayor has executed the letter waiving the first reading of the Ordinance and calling for adoption on the first and final reading.

Commissioner Denoyer moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4425 on first and final reading, as presented, with Vice Mayor Willimon seconding the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with Commissioner Warren absent.

2. U.S.D. 480 RESOLUTION NO. 04-06-14 .

President Kinser requested Board consideration of Resolution No. 04-06-14, entitled, “A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 480, SEWARD COUNTY, KANSAS (LIBERAL), AND THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS, RESPECTING THE FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND CITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.”

U.S.D. 480 Board Vice President Jewell moved to adopt Resolution No. 04-06-14, as presented, with Member Hatcher seconding the motion.

- U.S.D. 480 Board member Helm made the following statement via cell phone:

“I would like to put this in the minutes, Mr. Clay:

Our board president or superintendent called for a special meeting on Friday night, April 4, 2014, at 10:30 p.m. for a Sunday meeting (today) with no consideration of this board members schedule and I’m sure other board members. We are being asked to vote on an interlocal agreement which:

1. I did not receive the document until after noon on Saturday April 5, 2014 for my review and it is a 15 page document; and
2. I did not have any discussions with the board attorney on the interlocal agreement to determine what the workings are or what the ramifications are; and
3. I did not have any discussions or board approval on the listed city infrastructure improvements to be paid with money from the U.S.D. 480 bond funds, should this bond issue pass.

According to an email from Mr. Paul Larkin on April 4, 2014, Mr. Larkin and Mr. Kinser proposed scheduling this special board meeting so they could get a final “PR push” in the newspaper. This meeting could have been scheduled and conducted on a regular workday, such as Monday. School board meetings, whether regular or special, are to conduct school business, not to create a partisan political event. This tactic is truly a new low in local politics.”

The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0, with Member Sutherland-Abbott absent and Member Helm abstaining. Mr. Helm explained he was abstaining because he did not know what the ramifications of the Agreement are and noted he was neither for or opposed, but because it has not been explained to him in any fashion, he would abstain.

City Commissioner Denoyer stated that this afternoon is a historic moment, not only for the City of Liberal and U.S.D. 480 school district, but actually for the entire State, as never before has this happened in a community of our size and it is historic for the future of our community. He thanked all those involved; Shirla McQueen, Rick Yoxall, Mark Hall, Chris Ford, Mr. Larkin and Mayor Harrison from the inception for bringing this together to both Boards so we can move forward in the future of the community and with the future of our children. He noted it a good feeling to know that people looked at our leadership to provide ways to improve their community. He thanked everyone for their efforts and noted this took a lot of hours, evening hours and weekend hours to accomplish this and noted and their efforts didn’t go unnoticed.

U.S.D. President Kinser noted that last night and this morning we experienced that slow rain and when we woke up this morning the birds were singing and the sun was shining. He had the thought that today is a new beginning for Liberal. He indicated he was praying for a lot more rain this spring and he believed our community is ready to step forward and do some awesome things together as we have done today. He expressed congratulations to Mayor Harrison and the City Commission, as well as fellow U.S.D. 480 Board members for moving forward and noted it was going to be good.

The USD 480 Board of Education meeting was adjourned by motion of Member Friederich, seconded by Member Clemens. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0, with Member Sutherland-Abbott absent.

The City Commission meeting was adjourned by motion of Commissioner Denoyer.

Dave Harrison, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk