

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION

May 7, 2014

The special meeting of the Liberal City Commission was scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at the Girl Scout Building at Light Park, located at 111 W. 7th Street, Liberal, Kansas, on Wednesday, May 7, 2014.

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

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Hall, Director of Finance Chris Ford, Director of Human Resources Sheena Schmutz and Director of Economic Development Jeff Parsons.

Mayor Denoyer declared the meeting called to order at 3:45 p.m., due to Mr. Chuck Pratt's delayed travel plans, and a quorum of the Liberal City Commission was declared present.

1. USCIS Discussion.

Mr. Chuck Pratt, Community Relations Officer, for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Kansas City office, attended the meeting, as well as community representation from Seward County, Seward County Community College, Cinco de Mayo Committee, Liberal Chamber of Commerce, United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries and National Beef Packing Company.

An informal discussion was held with regard to the efforts of the Southwest Kansas Coalition of Cities, with special recognition given to Cherise Tieben, City Manager of Dodge City, who have a common goal for immigration process being made easier for the constituents of all three cities and our citizens. Through Ms. Tieben's efforts, working with and sponsored by U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, all three cities have offered to provide funding and support services for a Southwest Kansas USCIS presence, to be based out of the Wichita, Kansas regional office.

Mr. Pratt indicated that the need for USCIS mobilization would be driven by the consistent utilization numbers and that they currently have plans to do a trial mobilization in Dodge City for three days in June. He also indicated that he is not a decision maker, but as far as he was concerned, that all three cities had a good opportunity to participate, should things develop.

Those in attendance relayed our interest of having the presence in Liberal and that we have people from Garden City, Dodge City and the entire Southwest Kansas Area, as well as Southeast Colorado, and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles who all come to Liberal for assistance in citizenship skills from SCCC's Colvin Adult Learning Center and the United Methodist-American Ministries that are not offered anywhere else for quite some distance.

Mr. Pratt provided Mr. Fletcher's contact information, who is the Regional Director of the Wichita, KS USCIS Field Office for anyone to contact, as well as himself, and that they have both committed to do what they can to assist the endeavor.

Mayor Denoyer inquired if the Commission wished to take any action as a result of the Special Meeting. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Denoyer.

Joe Denoyer, Mayor

Attest: Christopher L. Ford, Finance Director