THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBERAL CITY COMMISSION
December 10, 2013

The regular meeting of the Liberal City Commission was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located at 325 North Washington on Tuesday, December 10, 2013.

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

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Hall, Public Works Director Joe Sealey, Finance Director Chris Ford, City Clerk Debbie Giskie, Human Resources Director Sheena Schmutz, Housing & Community Development Director Karen LaFreniere, Chief of Police Al Sill and City Attorney Shirla McQueen.

Mayor Harrison declared the meeting called to order and City Clerk Giskie read the roll call declaring all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the invocation was given by Ann Holman of the Risen Glory Church.

1. Awards/Proclamations/Presentations. *No items were presented.*

2. Approval of Agenda.

- Commissioner Denoyer questioned if an item could be added to the agenda tonight to discuss the possibility of scheduling a special Joint City/County meeting in the near future to discuss the future of the shooting range. City Manager Hall advised he would schedule a special Joint City/County meeting in the near future and get back with the Commission.
- Commissioner Warren requested that an agenda be added to discuss the building trades board and housing board tonight. *The Commission concurred.*

Mayor Harrison requested approval of the amended agenda.
Commissioner Denoyer moved to approve the agenda, as amended by adding Item 12 to discuss the two boards as discussed. Vice Mayor Willimon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes.
Vice Mayor Willimon moved to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2013 regular meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren and carried unanimously.

***4. Items from Citizens*.**
Mayor Harrison read the rules of the Commission and requested members of the audience approach the podium to address the Commission. *No items were presented.*

5. Items from Groups.
Mayor Harrison read the rules of the Commission and requested members of the audience approach the podium to address the Commission. *No items were presented.*

6. Consent Agenda:
a. Acknowledge Receipt of Minutes:

1. Liberal Housing Authority, October 9, 2013.
2. Liberal Memorial Library, November 9, 2013.
3. Liberal Convention & Tourism Board, November 21, 2013.

b. Approval of Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses:

1. Carniceria Moreno	604-606 North Kansas Avenue
2. Dao's Convenience Market	208 East Eighth Street
3. Express Lane #20	Highway 54 & Western
4. Express Lane #21	343 East Pancake Boulevard
5. Express Lane #22	1421 North Western Avenue
6. Fruteria Ojinaga	621 South Kansas Avenue
7. Mi Tierra	601 South Kansas Avenue
8. Rash's Sinclair	563 East Pancake Boulevard

Mayor Harrison inquired if the Commission wished to remove any items for further discussion. *Commissioner Denoyer moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with Vice Mayor Willimon) seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

7. Final Reading of Ordinance No. 4417 – Rezoning in Park Properties First Addition.

Mayor Harrison requested Commission consideration of the final reading of Ordinance No. 4417, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP" OF THE CITY OF LIBERAL, KANSAS BY REZONING ALL OF LOTS 2 – 5 AND PORTIONS OF LOT 6 AND PARK PLAZA BUSINESS PLAT OF PARK PROPERTIES FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITYOFLIBERAL, SEWARD COUNTY, KANSAS, FROM "C2" GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, TO "PUD", PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

Vice Mayor Willimon moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4417, as presented, with Commissioner Denoyer seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. 2014 Housing Programs.

Housing & Community Development Director LaFreniere reviewed the proposed 2014 Housing Programs. She reviewed the programs; including the Housing Incentive Program, the First-Time Homebuyer Program, SAFE at HOME Program, Senior Housing Opportunities and Paint the Town Program.

- She noted all the programs would remain the same, except for the First-Time Homebuyer Program, which decreases from $3,000 to $2,500; so that 48 qualified applicants could be provided down payment assistance next year.

Commissioner Denoyer moved to approve the 2014 Housing Programs, as presented. Vice Mayor Willimon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Lot Purchase for Self-Help Housing.

Housing & Community Development Director LaFreniere requested permission to make an offer to purchase six lots in the Doll Addition for an amount up to $50,000 for the self-help housing program. She explained the lots are developed and have the utilities.

- Vice Mayor Willimon asked how many homes have been completed under the self-help housing program. Ms. LaFreniere advised 48 units have been completed and have five more and the program will be completed with the six lots being discussed.
- Commissioner Denoyer questioned if it was correct that when the lots are sold, the funds go back into the Housing budget. Ms. LaFreniere advised that was correct.
- Vice Mayor Willimon expressed appreciation to Karen for doing a great job.

Commissioner Denoyer moved to approve the purchase of six (6) lots in the Doll Addition for the Self-Help Housing program, in an amount not to exceed $50,000, as presented. Vice Mayor Willimon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Rosel Field.

City Manager Hall referred to the history gathered of Rosel Field in the packet. He noted the field was never officially named as "Rosel Field" but it has always been recognized throughout the community and region as a quality ballpark to be enjoyed by all. Mr. Hall explained the family of George D. Rosel (1926-1995) assisted in gathering the history of the field and will place a copper plaque at the site.

- Mr. Hall recommended the City formally name the field "Rosel Field" and dedicate the field with a plaque paid by the Rosel family.
- Mayor Harrison advised this is a tremendous idea.

Commissioner Warren moved to formally name the field as "Rosel Field" and dedicate the field with a plaque paid by the Rosel Family. Commissioner Aragon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

11. Conceal Carry Plan.

City Manager Hall referred to the state law change and noted the Conceal Carry Plan with reference to City buildings would be submitted to the State. He advised most of the City buildings aren't designed to deal with the general public on a daily basis and would continue to have the exempt signs posted and allow City employees to enter or exit. Mr. Hall noted the others buildings listed will allow conceal carry; including City Hall, Recreation Center, Air Museum, Visitors Center, Golf Course and the Water Park.

- Mr. Hall reported the employees will receive training and have already received one training session. He indicated this issue has been researched and the costs have been estimated to be less than $10,000.
- Vice Mayor Willimon questioned if the employee can carry a conceal carry weapon. Mr. Hall advised it would be their choice, but they have to carry a conceal carry weapon.
- Commissioner Denoyer thanked City staff for their work on this issue and noted it seems discriminatory.
- City Manager Hall indicated a person cannot tell people they have a gun or brandish the weapon.
- Commissioner Denoyer felt the signs should all be taken down now, except in secure buildings such as the police department.
- Mr. Hall advised the State legislature does allow the exemption and noted at the entrance of a non-public building it would be a keyed entrance. He further noted the employee cannot carry a gun while performing their normal duties unless they are a law enforcement officer.

Mayor Harrison moved to approve the Conceal Carry Plan, as presented. Vice Mayor Willimon seconded the motion. The motion failed, with the vote as follows:

Aye: Mayor Harrison, Vice Mayor Willimon
Nay: Commissioners Aragon, Denoyer and Warren

Commissioner Denoyer moved to remove all the signs and make all buildings non-exempt. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren.

- City Manager Hall advised by doing this the Commission is changing the personnel policy by allowing City employees to carry concealed weapons.
- Commissioner Denoyer asked legal counsel for an opinion on this issue.
- City Attorney McQueen advised she was supportive of the policy brought before the Commission this evening.
- Commissioner Aragon advised he was somewhat confused and asked for further clarification and that it be brought back at the next meeting.

The motion failed, with the vote as follows:

Aye: Denoyer and Warren
Nay: Aragon, Harrison and Willimon

Mayor Harrison suggested the city manager clarify the Plan further and bring it back at the December 23, 2013 meeting.

12. BOARD CREATION (building trades advisory and housing advisory)

Commissioner Warren advised in thinking about this issue, he felt the better way to accomplish this instead of the Commission deciding if they want to create the building trades and housing boards, is to ask the public if there is interest by advertising the positions. Hel felt there are interested people wanting to help serve in these two areas and we could determine the makeup and type of people to be put on the Boards.

Commissioner Warren moved to advertise that the City is accepting applications for a construction/building trades board and a housing advisory board.

- Commissioner Denoyer felt the solicitation to see if there is interest is one thing. He noted they are going to need some direction when they are applying; what is there function; what is the makeup of the board, etc., and felt more direction is needed before we can move forward.
- Mayor Harrison advised the City has a housing department and a building department and we have a city manager who manages those departments. He explained we have plenty of information available, including State and Federal laws and that the public is welcome to come to the Commission with concerns at anytime.

Commissioner Warren withdrew his motion.

- Vice Mayor Willimon advised she would like to see more definition and the specific purpose of the Boards, before making a decision.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

City Manager Hall reminded the Commission that the date of the next City Commission meeting will be on Monday, December 23 instead of Christmas Eve.

- Mr. Hall reported in reference to the shooting range reservation system, City staff has visited with the www.rangeresevations.com would be launched in the near future.
- City Manager Hall advised in the meantime, he would set up a special City/County meeting to discuss the future of the shooting range. He also noted some the shooting range improvements are critical before the ground is frozen and advised this would depend on the meeting with the County.
- Mr. Hall referred to the new reporting method to report street lights that aren't functioning to Southern Pioneer. It was suggested that the phone number should be advertised in the newspaper and also on Channel 15.

- City Manager Hall reported this could be the largest sales collection in the nineteen years of the sales tax program. He indicated the Commission should receive an update from the school system at the next meeting.
- Mr. Hall expressed appreciation to City staff for all their hard work and noted we are closing the year on a good note with all departments pinching pennies.

14. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Denoyer expressed condolences to the Dean Aragon family on the loss of his mother and also the family of Michelle Meek who passed away recently. He thanked the City departments for their efforts during the recent snow and ice event.

Commissioner Aragon expressed condolences to the Michelle Meek family.

Commissioner Warren apologized for not being better prepared to discuss the creation of the two boards. He advised he runs into people working in the building fields who are interested in clearing up things on the codes and ordinances. He noted he would visit with City staff to explain how a board could be useful to them. Commissioner Warren also offered condolences to Commissioner Aragon on the loss of his mother.

Vice Mayor Willimon expressed condolences to Commissioner Aragon. She thanked City staff for the holiday lights at the pool and thanked the Commission for honoring the Rosel family by the naming of Rosel Field. Vice Mayor Willimon thanked the Commission for working together even though there are times when we agree to disagree on some issues. She looked forward to embracing the changes and moving forward.

Mayor Harrison expressed his condolences to the Commissioner Aragon on the passing of his mother and also to the family of Michelle Meek.

15. VOUCHERS.

$720,361.13, dated December 10, 2013. *Commissioner Denoyer moved to approve the vouchers, as presented, with Vice Mayor Willimon seconding the motion.*

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Commissioner Denoyer.

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Dave Harrison, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Debra S. Giskie, CMC, City Clerk