

JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSIONS
April 4, 2006

City Commission Work Session

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Dona Stebbins, Bill Beecher, Sandy Hinz, Diane Jovick-Kuntz and John Rosenbaum. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Directors of Community Development, Planning, Fiscal Services, Interim Police Chief, Fire Chief, Acting Directors of Park and Recreation and Public Works Director and the City Clerk.

1. MANSFIELD THEATER FEES.

Assistant City Manager Cheryl Patton stated that the Commission was asked to set a public hearing for April 18, 2006, on Resolution 9549, Mansfield Theater Fees. Ms. Patton explained that Staff had been working closely with theater users and the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board on the fee structure and what was submitted represented input from all the entities.

The important changes to the fee structure that Mrs. Patton pointed out was the cost to use the theater would be based on eight percent of the gross revenues for the event with minimums and maximums rather than a pre-set fee. The fee would be inclusive of the box office and equipment use.

Commissioner Beecher stated it appeared to be a simpler more user friendly fee structure.

2. ANIMAL ORDINANCE.

Chuck Tourtillott, Executive Director for the Humane Society, reviewed the proposed animal control ordinance as submitted by the Blue Ribbon Committee. He focused on several of the controversial items which included:

Leash Law: He explained that while the proposed ordinance did not require cats to be on a leash, it did require that cats could not run at large. If a cat was found off the owners' property, the owner could be cited for a violation of the ordinance.

Cat Registration: Mr. Tourtillott explained that the initial proposal required that all cats be registered. However, the Committee recommended changing that requirement because they did not believe people would comply with the law. The goal for the Blue Ribbon Committee was to identify cats, preferably through micro-chipping and voluntary registration.

Nuisance Animal Noise: Mr. Tourtillott explained that the proposed ordinance gives residents additional methods to document nuisance animal noise besides the barking log. He added that the ordinance also defines what nuisance barking was making it easier to enforce.

(04/04/06)

Number of animals: The Blue Ribbon Committee recommended a maximum of five animals per household, three of which could be dogs. However, there was just as much support in the community for a maximum of two dogs per household. He added that if a resident wanted a third dog, he/she could apply for a multiple animal permit. The permit would be granted if the applicant proved to be a good pet owner which included no citations and or complaints from neighbors.

Fine Schedule: Finally, the proposed ordinance included a fine schedule which was designed to encourage spaying/neutering, registration and adherence to the ordinance.

After a brief discussion, the Commission thanked Mr. Tourtillott for his report and asked that he provide them with information regarding the cost for care for the cats and the dogs. Mr. Tourtillott advised he would provide that information shortly.

3. ENERGY UPDATE.

City Manager John Lawton and Fiscal Services Director Coleen Balzarini reviewed a PowerPoint slide depicting each electricity element the City was involved with.

Highwood Power Station: SME received the draft air quality permit which initiated the public comment period. Mr. Lawton thought that perhaps the final permit would be issued in the fall.

On April 10, 2006, SME would be opening the bids for the boiler which equated to half the cost of the plant or about \$200,000,000.

SME applied for funding for four 1½ megawatt wind generators to be located at the plant.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Co-Generation: The City received one proposal for the co-generation project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The engineer was reviewing the proposal and would make a recommendation to the City Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Beecher requested that Mr. Lawton update the Commission on the pollutants of the coal powered plant. Mr. Lawton stated it would be timely and agreed to schedule it for the next work session.

Electric City Power: Coleen Balzarini stated that Electric City Power was building its customer base with the goal to sell 65 mega watts of power. She added that the City requested the Public Service Commission transfer the license from the City to Electric City Power. They denied the request without prejudice and Staff was working on a re-submittal. Additionally, Staff was working on a pilot program for small customer supply. Mrs. Balzarini reported that the City was the first entity to apply the new statute providing for this so the PSC was treating it as a contested case. The goal for the City was to give consumers a choice.

ADJOURN

There being no further information for the Commission, Mayor Stebbins adjourned the work session of April 4, 2006, at 6:55 p.m.