

**CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
August 3, 2007**

A special meeting of the City Commission was called to order at 4:08 p.m. Those attending were Mayor Heck, Vice Mayor Nickel, Commissioners Harris and Thiesen, City Manager Heinicke, City Attorney Myers, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Administrative Services Werries, Chief Daily, Chief Denny, PIO McDaniel and Deputy City Clerk Duerksen.

1. Discuss the process for filling the City Manager position.

City Manager Heinicke reviewed the process used the last time for the selection of a City Manager and noted he was not too involved since he was a candidate for the position. Last time, Wichita State University was used to help with the search and to develop a profile to be sent out. A citizen's committee was used to go through the applications and narrow the applicants down to a handful to be interviewed. As it turned out, no interviews were done as Heinicke was named City Manager.

City Manager Heinicke noted that WSU is not interested in helping with the search this time, as their plate is already full. Information was distributed regarding communities about the size of Newton that recently went through a search process. A number of different firms were used. Heinicke discouraged doing this process internally.

Commissioners discussed the idea of using a search firm. Of the consultants used by different cities, the Commission picked Dick Chesney, Austin-Peters and Robert Saunders to receive quotes from. They felt the cost of \$6,500 to \$9,000 was reasonable. City Attorney Myers suggested receiving quotes from the Mercer Group and Waters Consulting to see what their proposal included and if the extra money was worth the cost. Consensus of the Commission was to include proposals from the Waters and Mercer group and then have the Mayor and Vice Mayor review the proposals and present them to the Commission. Mayor Heck will also meet with the department heads to get input on the process.

Heinicke then discussed the top issues facing the City in the next five years. Those of most importance included the south side and I-135 corridor development, the ethanol/waste-to-energy impacts, personnel succession, and protection of City assets relative to competition for resources with the school district and Rec Commission. Other issues of significance included a water/sewer rate hike, fire station location study, recreation facilities and intergovernmental cooperation.

MOTION: Commissioner Harris moved and Vice Mayor Nickel seconded to recess to executive session for 15 minutes to discuss matters pertaining to an economic development prospect which involves confidential

information regarding its financial affairs and trade secrets. Motion carried 4-0.

The Commission recessed to executive session at 4:45 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Heck announced no decisions were made and no action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk