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Press Release

City Commission authorizes KDOT Project Programming Request

Form 1302 accepts award of funds for South Summit St. resurfacing project

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (February 5, 2016) — The City Commission of Arkansas City voted 5-0 during its regular meeting last Tuesday night to authorize City Manager Nick Hernandez to execute and submit a Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) form that would accept highway resurfacing funds.

The commissioners' resolution approves the completion and submission of a Project Programming Request Form 1302 to KDOT's Bureau of Local Projects, which would allow a project to be scheduled.

The form also would constitute acceptance of an award of funds from KDOT's City Connecting Links (KLINK) highway resurfacing program. The City has been approved for up to \$300,000 in 2017.

If the project is accepted and scheduled, funds would be made available next year for resurfacing South Summit Street (U.S. 77) from the Arkansas River bridge at the south City limits to the intersection of Summit and the U.S. 77 bypass. It would be a standard 2-inch mill-and-overlay resurfacing project.

The City will have to provide at least \$300,000 in matching funds for the project to go forward.

Those dollars could come from either its special highway fund, which is derived from state gasoline taxes and only can be used for road improvement projects, or from federal exchange dollars that have been banked previously and can be redeemed at a rate of about 90 cents on the dollar.

City officials do not anticipate using any of the remaining street sales tax money on this project.

They also are considering redoing the Summit-U.S. 77 bypass intersection as a concrete interchange. The current intersection is asphalt on top of brick and is prone to frequent potholing.

Other improvements planned as part of the project include concrete patching on the base of South Summit Street, pavement marking and sidewalk ramp improvements at interchanges to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Eight side-avenue concrete approaches also are slated to be replaced.

For immediate release

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The current total projected cost for the project is \$656,999, with \$128,919 in non-participating costs that will not be eligible for the 50-50 match. This estimate does not include redoing the intersection.

In other business Tuesday, the City Commission:

- Heard from citizens Ken and Rebecca Harader regarding their concerns about traffic on First Street due to the new Family Dollar store at 1313 N. Summit St., which opened last month. The Public Works Department was instructed to install a “right turn only” sign in the middle of the concrete “pork chop” at Family Dollar’s west entrance that is supposed to guide traffic in a “right in, right out” pattern. Harader said people are disobeying the traffic control device and some older drivers can’t see it. Public Works Director Eric Broce said his crews also would paint the pork chop bright yellow to increase visibility. Ken Harader also complained of continued parking violations on the east side of the street, between Arby’s and Family Dollar, mainly involving large tractor-trailers whose drivers are eating at Arby’s. Mayor Chad Giles instructed Harader for the second time to contact the Arkansas City Police Department when such violations occur.
- Unanimously approved the following consent agenda items: the Jan. 19 regular meeting minutes as written; and a resolution scheduling a study session at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Hogan, 324 E. Poplar Ave., to discuss a proposed purchasing policy and procedures manual.
- Unanimously approved a resolution appointing a local Freedom of Information Officer (FIO) for the City and providing for that officer’s duties. The resolution transfers the FIO duties from the office of City Clerk Lesley Shook, which has held them since 2000, to the office of Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson, whose position was created last March in part to promote public education regarding the Kansas Open Meetings and Kansas Open Records acts.
- Heard a financial presentation from South Central Kansas Medical Center officials Holly Harper, Clayton Pappan and Virgil Watson, followed by a discussion that lasted for more than an hour. SCKMC requested a \$275,000 loan to help to cover its bond payment that must be certified by this week. Sales taxes and hospital revenues were insufficient to make up the shortfall. The City previously loaned the medical center \$300,000 last August to help to make the prior bond payment, with terms that include repaying the money back in monthly installments of \$25,000. Commissioner Dan Jurkovich made a motion, which Commissioner Jay Warren seconded, to loan the money to SCKMC until an anticipated Medicare reimbursement of \$300,000 for “meaningful use” arrives, at which time SCKMC would repay the loan in full. But after further discussion, Jurkovich withdrew his motion and Warren his second. Commissioner Brandon Every made a motion not to loan the hospital any additional money and instead draw on the

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\$1.9 million bond reserve established for this purpose, but it died for lack of a second. Jurkovich said he did not want to use the bond reserve because it would have negative implications for the City's credit, which is sound, and damage its ability to refinance the bonds in 2019 and hopefully achieve a lower interest rate. Finally, Mayor Giles made a motion to loan \$275,000 to the medical center with the same repayment terms as before, which Commissioner Duane Oestmann seconded. The motion was approved 4-1, with Every casting the dissenting vote.