

**MINUTES – SPECIAL SESSION
NEOSHO CITY COUNCIL
August 13, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.
The Civic Center
109 West Main St., Neosho, MO**

6:01 p.m.

Councilman Hart stated before the public hearing and budget review started he would like to make a public statement.

Councilman Hart stated he wanted to apologize to the citizens he had offended after the city received an anonymous letter regarding his comments made at an earlier council meeting regarding an ADA compliance issue. He further stated it made him realize that sitting on the council he should be at a higher standard than what he is in day to day life. He also stated he is glad the City received the letter because it really doesn't matter if it's true or false, because if he offended them he wants to make sure that they know that was not his intent and apologized for anybody that he may have offended.

Councilman Hart then called forward a wheelchair-bound member of the audience, whom he identified as his friend and addressed his apology to him.

A quorum being present, Mayor Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT: Charles Collinsworth, Richard Davidson, Steve Hart, David Ruth (left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.), Tom Workman.

CITY OFFICERS PRESENT: Troy Royer, City Manager and Nora Houdyshell, City Clerk. Mike Eads, Fire Chief; Daphne Pevahouse, Finance Director; David McCracken, Police Chief; Mike Hightower, Public Works; Pam Baker, Human Resources Director; Amy Moritz, Parks and Recreation Director; Maron Towse, Golf Course Superintendent and Dana Daniel, Development Services Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Public hearing providing for the rate of taxation and the levy and collection of taxes for real property assessment for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2013.

Mayor Davidson opened the floor for public comment. There being no comments from the public, Mayor Davidson closed the public hearing.

Financial Work Session

City Council along with City Staff completed the review of the proposed budget starting with the Golf Course.

Councilman Ruth and Councilman Hart stated concerns regarding the reserve spending.

Councilman Hart requested the City Manager to bring back a new budget with cuts

Discussions continued including but not limited to:

1. Removing \$17,000 from the Golf Course Budget for two used work carts, driving range picker and ball washer.
2. Councilman Workman voiced concerns regarding monies being transferred from Parks Sales Tax to Golf Course.
3. Councilman Ruth stated he would like to suspend the TIF tax then questions were raised regarding the TIF Commission members.

City Clerk was directed to forward TIF Commission members to the City Council.

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Councilman Hart stated concerns regarding attorney fees being spent for the TDD appeal. He further inquired as to where it was in the budget.

City Manager Royer stated it was budgeted for in General Fund professional services.

Councilman Hart stated he wants to end the appeal against the TDD and let the TDD do what they can.

Motion was made to end the appeal with the TDD by Councilman Hart.

Mayor Davison stated this is a subject that has been discussed in closed and is not on the agenda to be discussed.

Councilman Ruth and Councilman Hart requested the TDD appeal matters be discussed in open session in the future.

Councilman Collinsworth stated the discussion needs to stick to the budget and the TDD issues can be discussed next week at the regular scheduled meeting.

Councilman Ruth stated he had a prior engagement and already knows his vote. (Councilman Ruth left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.)

Mayor Davidson stated Council and Staff has known for two years that the Safer Grant would be running out and planned for reserves to cover the expense in 2014.

Councilman Collinsworth stated he would like to see the reserve spending go down and encouraged Directors to find areas they can cut. He further stated he does not want to see fire, police or animal control cut.

Mayor Davidson stated the City is carrying good balances with City employee insurance and retirement and complimented the City Manager and Directors for watching funds.

Further discussion was held.

Mayor Davidson stated there are two more scheduled budget work sessions and noted they are ahead of schedule.

Councilman Hart stated until the \$1.2 million dollars is paid back, we cannot say we have a surplus.

Mayor Davidson stated the \$1.2 million dollars was borrowed to pay the general fund back to replace cost overruns that the prior council already spent.

Mayor Davidson stated the Council is expected to have a budget ready to vote on in September and should have one in place by the fiscal year beginning October 1. He further explained if the budget were not in place the current year's budget would carry over until a new one is in place.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Councilman Workman and seconded by Councilman Collinsworth to adjourn the August 13, 2013, Special Session City Council meeting. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

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There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Davidson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

NEOSHO CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk