Special Governing Body Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2017

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Topeka, Kansas, Friday, November 6, 2017. The Governing Body members of the City of Topeka met in special session at 5:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Hiller, De La Isla, Jensen, Schwartz and Coen -5. Mayor Larry Wolgast presided -1. Absent: Councilmembers Clear, Ortiz, Emerson and Harmon -4.

Mayor Wolgast announced the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the Wheatfield Village Redevelopment Project. He stated after calling the meeting to order, it is expected the Governing Body will recess into executive session for 60 minutes with no action taken by the Governing Body after it reconvenes the special meeting.

Councilmember De La Isla moved to recess into executive session for a time period not to exceed 60 minutes for consultation with the City’s legal counsel to discuss attorney-client privileged matters related to contract negotiations regarding the Wheatfield Redevelopment Project as justified by KSA 75-4319(b)(2). In order to aid the discussion, the following individuals should be present: Governing Body members, City Manager Brent Trout, Deputy City Manager Doug Gerber, Administrative and Finance Director Nickie Lee, City Attorney Lisa Robertson and City Financial Advisor Jeff White. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jensen.

Councilmember Ortiz entered the room.

Mayor Wolgast noted Victor Miller signed up to speak to the matter.

Victor Miller expressed concern with public perception of discussing public improvement projects in executive session and referenced the Heartland Park Project which was handled in the same manner. He requested the Governing Body refrain from discussing the Wheatfield
Redevelopment Project in executive session and questioned how the City’s position would be compromised if the information discussed was presented in a public forum.

The motion to recess into executive session for a time period not to exceed 60 minutes for consultation with the City’s legal counsel to discuss attorney-client privileged matters related to contract negotiations regarding the Wheatfield Redevelopment Project as justified by KSA 75-4319(b)(2) carried. Councilmember Ortiz voted “no.” (6-1-0)

Councilmember Emerson entered the room.

Following a 60 minute time period, the Governing Body reconvened into open session and Mayor Wolgast announced no action was taken.

Councilmember Emerson moved to recess into executive session for a time period not to exceed 20 minutes to continue consultation with the City’s legal counsel to discuss attorney-client privileged matters related to contract negotiations regarding the Wheatfield Redevelopment Project as justified by KSA 75-4319(b)(2). In order to aid the discussion, the following individuals should be present: Governing Body members, City Manager Brent Trout, Deputy City Manager Doug Gerber, Administrative and Finance Director Nickie Lee, City Attorney Lisa Robertson and City Financial Advisor Jeff White. The motion seconded by Councilmember Jensen carried unanimously. Councilmember De La Isla was out of the room. (7-0-0)

Councilmember De La Isla entered the room.

Following a 20 minute time period, the Governing Body reconvened into open session and Mayor Wolgast announced no action was taken.
NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Brenda Younger
City Clerk