MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Policy and Finance – May 19, 2014, 3:00 p.m., Executive Conference Room, City Hall

Committee Members present: Chad Manspeaker, Nathan Schmidt, and Elaine Schwartz

Staff present: City Manager Jim Colson, City Attorney Chad Sublet, Human Resources Director Jacque Russell, Topeka Police Capt. Darin Scott, and Council Office Manager Ginny Burghart

Agenda item: Election of Chair

Councilmember Schmidt’s nomination of Councilmember Manspeaker to chair the Committee was seconded by Councilmember Schwartz. Councilmember Manspeaker accepted the nomination.

Agenda item: Discussion - code of ethics/transparency

Mr. Sublet provided a power point handout. The Committee discussed the current Code of Ethics Resolution, aspirational versus mandatory, and what other cities and states have implemented.

Chairman Manspeaker would like to have a code of ethics and transparency policy that is aspirational and mandatory. He suggested having a town hall meeting to have citizens define what transparency is.

Councilmember Schwartz thought more research should be done before presenting something to the Council to vote on. She suggested contacting the League of Kansas Municipalities to determine if they have done research. She encouraged posting a survey or information on the city’s website for citizens. She thought there would be more citizen input if they had a choice on how to participate.

Councilmember Schmidt would like to pursue with media partners and a poll.

The Committee agreed to hold the town hall meeting in the fall and in the meantime have the city attorney do more research and begin drafting a policy with definitions.

Councilmember Schwartz would like to see an educational training for candidates and elected officials. She believed that would help clarify the roles of elected officials. Chairman Manspeaker agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.