

August 27, 2015

The Board of Aldermen, City of Kearney, Missouri, met in special session at Kearney Commercial Bank meeting room, 950 West 92 Highway, August 27, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. with Mayor Dane presiding. Members present were Dan Holt, Marie Steiner, Gerri Spencer and Eric Shumate. Staff members present were David Pavlich and Shirley Zimmerman.

NEW BUSINESS

LISA BRISCOE, VIREO, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE Mayor Dane said Lisa Briscoe, who is in charge of Comprehensive Plan Review, will be conducting a Stakeholder Interview process with the Board of Aldermen and Mayor today.

Lisa Briscoe said the purpose of this meeting is to go over an agenda to get an understanding of the direction we will be going with the planning process. She said you need to think about the future, which usually covers the next twenty years. She said she has met with the various segments of the community and then will compile all the information together.

Context Setting: Lisa asked what factors influenced your decision to live or locate a business in the community. The top choices were schools, quality of life, Police Department and family friendly.

Strengths: Strengths, strong points or assets to encourage others to choose Kearney were not land locked, Interstate access (must develop use of it), high tech capable and have small airport in our City limits.

Key Issues: Single most pressing issue the community must address or change in next five years.

Mayor Dane said we need to get a major size employer with the correct type of retail that will stay in the community.

Alderman Holt said we need to think ahead with infrastructure and we need to “PR” our notoriety (such as Jesse James).

Alderman Shumate said we need to keep pushing for another access to Interstate 35.

Alderman Spencer said we need to continue to focus on preserving the downtown area and find some form of tourism.

Mayor Dane said we need to know what the developers/builders are thinking about for the future so we can get infrastructure to those areas.

Alderman Holt said we need some true condo housing and mixed use housing.

What should not change in Kearney.

Alderman Holt said we should strive to maintain our tax rates.

Alderman Spencer said we should continue to maintain our friendly atmosphere.

Alderman Steiner said we should work towards helping maintain our school standards and keep the forward motion going.

Mayor Dane said we need to keep our historical image going. He said we are trying to keep us connected with trails and sidewalks. He said we have planted lots of shrubs and trees. We must maintain our small town atmosphere – we can think small but act big.

Alderman Holt said we need the philosophy of stay here, live here and eat here. We must continue to grow at the pace we want to grow.

Aspirations:

Kearney known for: The general consensus was Jesse James and our schools (sports, music, academic teams).

Mayor Dane said anytime you go to a meeting in the City other City leaders know us.

Known for in the future: Alderman Spencer said the best place to live and have us become more walk able. Alderman Steiner said for the small town feeling. Alderman Holt said for us to develop easy high tech access. Mayor Dane said he wants people to feel the charm and history of the community and be surprised at what we offer when they come here.

Comparable community that Kearney should aspire to: Lenexa blew up and done so in a leading and controlled atmosphere. Blue Springs exploded and they did good job of having sidewalks, retail and industrial in controlled manner. Boulder, Colorado and San Antonio, Texas were also mentioned.

If live anywhere other than Kearney: Mayor Dane said he would choose Boulder, Colorado. He said they have a quality of life and are attuned to health and a good life style. They have the draw of the mountains. He said they have controlled housing and the downtown area.

Alderman Spencer said she likes Omaha, Nebraska. She said they have lots of neighborhood pocket parks.

Alderman Steiner said she likes North Kansas City. She said they have lots of walking areas and a lovely community center.

Alderman Holt said he liked Camden Beach, Oregon. They have lots of dual use buildings with retail in the bottom and residential on the top. He said they have lots of mixed use areas.

Transportation: It was the general consensus that we need to push for a second interchange to the Interstate. There was talk about a taxi service in town and continue to make sidewalks five foot wide so they can be used.

Alderman Shumate said we need to look at traffic flow in the neighborhoods as we continue to grow.

Alderman Holt said we will need to stay abreast with developing 19th Street to handle traffic.

Economic Development; Mayor Dane said the focus of the role of the City should be to promote building houses. He said we can talk to big box retail but they won't come until you have the proper number of roof tops. He said growing residential will result in retail following.

Alderman Shumate said we must maintain codes for building and development to have the community to remain the way we want it.

Mayor Dane said we must stay abreast of where and what direction the developers and builders are going.

Creating successful downtown: Alderman Spencer said we need to try and get every building occupied in the downtown. She said we also need to look for things to do in the downtown area to draw people there.

Alderman Holt said we have talked about obtaining the two houses to the East of City Hall as they become available so we can develop that area to become the hub of the town.

Mayor Dane said we need to start creating a visual for the North side of Washington Street.

Neighborhoods:

Why great place to live: Alderman Steiner said the people take pride in their property.

Alderman Holt said we have building codes which help us to build nice homes and people want to keep them that way. Neighborhood pools help people to get to know each other.

Alderman Shumate said we have lots of kids in the neighborhoods and that helps the neighbors to know each other.

Alderman Holt said we need parks that kids can walk to and maybe be maintained by the Homeowners Association.

Mayor Dane said the developers always want to donate land that is undevelopable. He said the problem with pocket parks is when we become a city of over 20,000 the parks become a hangout for the bad people. He said we do need to look to buy land to the West to develop for parks.

Goals for Housing: There was discussion that we need housing for 55 and older that is not income based.

Mayor Dane said we always need to look at different types of housing but always need to look at the impact on the schools at the same time.

Alderman Holt said sometimes lot sizes control the size of house that can be built.

Parks & Recreation: Alderman Holt said if we build an aquatic center they will have their own programs.

Mayor Dane said in the future we need to do trails on the West side and then have them connect to the East side. He said when we get the trail over Clear Creek then we need to start on the West side.

Environmental: Alderman Holt said we are a Tree City. We are building a detention pond in Innovation Park and can let it have native grass. We have the pond in Jesse James Park. We have solar panels at Platte Clay Electric and are doing some Geo Thermal with HVAC.

Alderman Spencer said we already have some nature areas in some of the neighborhoods and she would like to see that process continue.

Mayor Dane said green environmentalists can kill housing if you aren't careful because it drives up the cost of homes. He said we are looking at putting a wind turbine in the Sam Barr round about.