

## **Proposed city budget reviewed, hearing date set**

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Friday, 07 September 2012 14:11 -

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### **Quorum finally happens to conduct business**

Twice was a charm Tuesday morning when a quorum gathered in city council chambers to approve a proposed budget for publication and a hearing date.

The council met at 9 a.m. and opened a public hearing about granting the new Shopko Hometown a liquor license but didn't have a quorum.

As a result, members kept the hearing opening and reconvened at 10:30 p.m. when council member Gary Fritch was available.

Members Tim Strauser and Jeff Kennedy were also there but Jeff Whiting was out of town.

Shopko Hometown, which will be in the former Pamida building, was granted a Class D license to sell beer, wine and spirits.

In other action, the council reviewed the 2012-13 budget and set Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. as the date for the budget and tax request hearing.

The city is proposing a \$20,703,428 budget and is asking for 570,527 in property taxes.

Unused budget authority is proposed at \$154,604.

Council members also raised boarding fees for the care of animals impounded at Eastside Animal Center.

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Daily boarding for large dogs increased from \$11 to \$11.50 and from \$10 to \$10.50 for small dogs and cats.

Disposal of large dogs rose from \$45 to \$49.50 and from \$35 to \$39.50 for small dogs and cats.

In other business, the council:

approved a \$2,980 payment to Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers of Kearney for observation and management of the south Lake Avenue street improvement project.

okayed payment of \$41,000 to Miller & Associates for design of a Lake Helen rehabilitation project.

discussed a request by Five-Star Flooring to vacate a portion of city right of way at where their store will relocate at 915 Lake Avenue.

Store owners want to rebuild the front of the store with new windows, stone and stucco that's likely to encroach on city right of way.

Council members said they want to work with Five Star because store owners are making improvements.

The council will take action once members know how much area is needed.