

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 8, 2017
New Strawn City Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the regular monthly meeting of the New Strawn City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Those present were: Council Member Jim Weeks
 Council Member Kraig Kirchner
 Council Member Bobby Bryant
 Council Member Gary Haehn

Absent: Council Member Jeanne Haas

Others present were:
 City Superintendent Ron Parkey City Clerk Kerry Templeton
 Arlo Payne Russ Taylor

Flag Salute: The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Additions:

Staff Reports:

City Clerk:

- a. **ADDED:** Hageman Hay Permit

Mayor's Report:

- b. **ADDED:** Open Burning Ordinance

Finance & Economic Development Report:

- a. **ADDED:** 2018 Budget

New Business:

- a. **ADDED:** Post Office

Old Business:

- a. **ADDED:** Comprehensive Plan

Consent Agenda Additions:

Licenses:

A. **ADDED:** Move to approve 2017-F-02 for the sale of fireworks in New Strawn by Roger Strawder

Other:

A. **ADDED:** Move to allow OK Kids to use the New Strawn City Lake on September 9, 2017, and to waive fishing permit fees for participants that day.

Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve the minutes of May 11, 2017 regular council meeting
- Move to approve the May 2017 warrants in the amount of \$9,472.00
- Move to approve the May 2017 payroll in the amount of \$12,621.15
- Move to approve 2017-F-02 for the sale of fireworks in New Strawn by Roger Strawder
- Move to allow OK Kids to use the New Strawn City Lake on September 9, 2017, and to waive fishing permit fees for participants that day

Council member Bryant moved to approve agenda with additions as presented. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comments:

None

Council member Kirchner moved to approve the consent agenda with additions as presented. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Financial Report:

Council member Weeks moved to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$9,578.92. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Staff Reports:

City Superintendent Parkey discussed the annual water tower tank inspection report and noted that it was found to be in good condition. Parkey stated that the tank will receive a complete wash-out and sanitization in 2018.

Parkey reported that he and Dwight had been busy applying wood stain at the City Lake Park and the bridge was almost complete. The new fountain for the City Lake had been installed and some large tree stumps had been removed. Parkey also reported that the air conditioning at both the community building and City Hall had stopped working but had been repaired by Swank Heating, Cooling & Plumbing.

Clerk Templeton reported that one 2017 Haying Permit had been issued to Brad Hageman at 711 W. Decker Street.

Zoning Administrator Carl Ware reported that five building permits had been issued. Permit 2017-B-04 to Dan & Ashley Haller to erect a fence at 622 Arrowhead Drive; Permit 2017-B-05 to Jim & Illa Weeks to replace existing fence at 536 Arrowhead Drive; Permit 2017-B-06 to Jim & Illa Weeks to erect a storage shed at 536 Arrowhead Drive; 2017-B-07 to Michael Rouse to add on to existing fence at 330 N. 4th Street; 2017-B-08 to Mike Baumann to erect a fence at 427 Arrowhead Drive.

Mayor's Report:

Code enforcement and animal control were discussed. Mayor Petterson reported on the two options currently being explored. Option one would be to hire an off-duty law enforcement officer as a part-time employee of the City which would require the City to purchase a vehicle to be used as a patrol car as well as other equipment utilized for the position. Option two would be to contract with the city of Burlington to have one of their on-duty law enforcement officers come out to New Strawn once or twice daily to patrol and/or check on nuisances. The mayor

noted that several details would need to be clarified with Burlington, such as what would be expected of officers and how 'after hours' calls would be handled, before such a contractual agreement could move forward. Mayor Petterson stated that once parameters have been established on New Strawn's specific requirements and needs, the matter could be presented to the Burlington Police Committee and then to Burlington City Council for approval. There was discussion. Council did not feel there was a need to hire a part-time law enforcement officer or to have the City patrolled on a regular basis at this time. They also felt that the expense involved would be too great. The mayor will check into a 'per call' contractual agreement with Burlington and report back to Council.

Council discussed current City Code pertaining to open burning within city limits. The item had been discussed previously at the April and May regular council meetings and it was felt that New Strawn's current code should be amended. A copy of Waverly's Open Burning Code had been provided by City Attorney McNabb for Council to review and compare with New Strawn's. After lengthy discussion on the matter, it was felt the following changes should be incorporated into Article 2, Fire Prevention, of New Strawn's City Code:

1. Waverly's definition of 'Open Burning' as outlined in section 8-401(e) which states "The burning of any materials wherein air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. For the purpose of this definition, a chamber shall be regarded as enclosed when, during the time combustion takes place, only such apertures, ducts, stack, flues or chimneys are open as are necessary to provide combustion air and to permit the escape of exhaust gases. A 55 gallon metal drum or wire trash burner or similar vehicle does not qualify as a proper combustion chamber." This definition of 'open burning' will be incorporated into New Strawn's definition as defined by Section 7-201(a).
2. Definitions of a bonfire, rubbish and garbage
3. Omitting Section 7-201(b) of New Strawn's current Code which states "It shall be unlawful for any person to kindle or maintain any bonfire or any rubbish fire or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on or in any public sidewalk, street, ally, road utility easement, or other public ground except in authorized fire places in park locations, unless permission from Coffey County shall have first been obtained." It was felt this section was unnecessary as New Strawn does not allow open burning in any of the locations as mentioned with the exception of fire places in park locations.
4. Adding Waverly's Section 8-405 pertaining to exemptions to the Open Burning rules; (a) Fires set in connection with agricultural operations related to the commercial growing or harvesting of crops or for the purpose of clearing brush or trees for agricultural purposes from areas zoned for agriculture; (b) Fires set for the purpose of instruction and training of city firefighters in the methods of fighting fires; (c) Fires used for noncommercial preparation of food, such as barbecuing; (d) Campfires in approved camping areas, provided that the fire is not more than four feet in diameter at the base.
5. Including two more exemptions not included in Waverly's code: fire pits, a pit dug into the ground or a freestanding metal vessel, in which a contained outdoor fire is made; chimeneas, a freestanding earthenware or metal fireplace.
6. Outlining what zones are allowed to conduct open burns which would only be agricultural.

Council member Weeks moved to have the city attorney amend Article 2, Fire Prevention by providing definitions of a bonfire, rubbish and garbage, omitting section 7-201(b), including

exemptions as defined and outlining what specific zones are allowed to conduct open burning, agricultural only. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 3-1 with Council member Haehn opposed.

The proposed amended City Code will be reviewed at the July meeting before final approval is voted on.

Finance and Economic Development:

2018 Budget preparation was discussed and the need to hold a special meeting for the purpose of setting a budget hearing date. Several items presented by council members to be included in the budget planning were Strawnfest & fireworks show for 2018, sewer projects, playground equipment, community building and remodeling City Hall. Mayor Petterson reminded Council that if additional projects needed to be included in the 2018 budget, the expenditures should be presented to him or the city clerk before the meeting. Council member Weeks moved to hold a special meeting on June 28, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. for 2018 budget preparation and possible discussion of additional agenda item, code enforcement and animal control. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Community Building Report:

None

Utility Report:

None

Street Report:

None

Public Relations Report:

Strawnfest plans were finalized. Council member Bryant moved to block off a portion of Neosho Street between 3rd and 4th Street on June 24 for Strawnfest activities. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Park & Recreation Report:

As proposed at the May meeting, Council member Haehn had checked on the cost of new playground equipment for the Jones Park area through Playscape Recreation in Yates Center. The cost of a structure geared towards 2-5 year old children, plus two 'music therapy' items, would be \$20,924.00. That price did not include cement and labor which would bring the total cost to \$22,124.00. There was discussion. Haehn had hoped to be able to purchase the equipment immediately, but the Park Fund cannot support the expenditure at this time. Other options were discussed such as budgeting for the equipment to be purchased in 2018, soliciting donations from area businesses, fundraising events and the possibility of receiving a Jones Trust Grant to renovate and update New Strawn's current Jones Park. Kirchner will contact the Jones Trust Foundation to see if grant funding of that nature is available.

Public Safety Report:

None

New Business:

The New Strawn Post Office and recent temporary closure due to the illness of the postmaster was discussed. The post office has been maintained for several years by Lonnie Hoskins, who has a contractual agreement with and is paid by the US Postal Service. The City of New Strawn has provided space at City Hall to Mr. Hoskins at no cost to him in order to ensure New Strawn could continue to have a post office. However, after a lengthy discussion, it was felt that the best course of action at this time would be to inform Mr. Hoskins that City Hall will no longer be available to house the post office. Council member Weeks moved to notify Lonnie Hoskins, postmaster of the New Strawn Post Office, New Strawn City Hall will no longer be available to house the post office as of July 1, 2017, and to add New Strawn Post Office to the agenda for the special meeting to be held on June 28, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Several options were discussed as to how and where City Hall will receive mail and it was felt that the best choice would be to place a mailbox out front so that the physical address, 215 N. Main Street, can be utilized for mail delivery. That choice would alleviate a need for a complete address change for the City.

The poor condition of a house on 4th Street was discussed. Council member Bryant stated that he had visited with concerned neighbors about the increasingly dilapidated stated of the house and unkempt yard. The property will be monitored closely and it is possible actions to condemn may need to be explored.

Old Business:

Council member Weeks voiced concern over the fact that the Comprehensive Plan has still not been completed and also stated that he feels the New Strawn Planning Commission needs to carefully and meticulously review the new proposed zoning regulations and sub-division regulations to ensure the new regulations are a good 'fit' for the City. Clerk Templeton noted that the completed Comprehensive Plan had been received that day from Foster & Associates via email, but the regulations with amendments as recommended by the NS Planning Commission at a previous meeting had not been received yet.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.