

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, January 9, 2020**

Present:  
Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas, Rhonda Taylor, Jim Weeks (Gary Haehn, not present)

Staff Present:  
Ron Parkey, City Superintendent  
Steven Dwight, Maintenance Worker II  
Joni Hernandez, City Clerk  
Tom Robrahn, City Attorney  
Chris Allen, Code Enforcement Officer  
Martha Newkirk, Zoning Administrator

Others Present:  
Bob Saueressig, County Commissioner

**Call to Order:** Mayor Mark Petterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:**

Under Financial Reports

- b. Annual Treasurer's Report

Under Mayor's Report

- a. Resolution No. 99 GAAP Waiver

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

- Move to approve the December 12, 2019 council meeting minutes
- Move to approve the December 27, 2019 council special meeting minutes
- Move to approve the Warrants dated December 13, 2019 through January 9, 2020 for \$25,804.03
- Move to approve the December 2019 Payroll for \$14,524.19
- Move to approve the 2020 Contractor/Plumbing License for Victory Excavating
- Move to approve the 2020 Contractor/Plumbing License for (Mark Harris) B&H Appliance, Plumbing Heating & Cooling
- Move to approve the 2020 Contractor/Plumbing License for Freeman Plumbing, Heating & A/C, Inc.
- Move to approve the 2020 Contractor/Plumbing License for Shoemaker Construction
- Move to approve the 2020 Contractor/Plumbing License for Cook's Plumbing, Inc.
- Move to allow employee Ron Parkey to attend KRWA Conference in Wichita, March 24-26, 2020 and pay registration fee of \$170, lodging, mileage and meal expenses
- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase diesel fuel in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$2,500.00, funds to be taken from General Fund
- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase fish food in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$3,000.00, funds to be taken from Special Park Fund
- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase cold patch in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$1,000.00, funds to be taken from Special Highway Fund
- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase weed killer in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$1,000.00, funds to be taken from General Fund
- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase road salt in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$4,000.00, funds to be taken from Special Highway Fund
- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase propane in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$500.00, funds to be taken from General Fund

- Move to allow City Superintendent to purchase gravel/rock in 2020, total cost note to exceed \$500.00, funds to be taken from Special Highway Fund

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Public Comments:** County Commissioner Bob Saueressig informed the mayor and council that the Coffey County Commissioners selected Cook Flatt & Strobel Engineers for the Vision 2020 project. He thanked the Council for its support. The Council announced its appreciation for the \$50,000 grant received from the County for the remodeling project of the Community Center.

**Financial Reports:**

Weeks moved, seconded by Taylor, to approve additional warrants for \$410.04. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Staff Reports:**

**City Superintendent Report** (written report submitted)

- Load of salt – chatt delivered
- Completed end of year water report
- Completed end of year sewer report
- Changed oil in equipment
- Completed yearly maintenance on equipment
- Repaired hydrostate on Grasshopper mower
- Water meters read
- Water samples sent to Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment (KDHE)
- Annual sewer maintenance completed in two days
- Vacation was taken in December to avoid loss of days
- Spread 5 tons of rubber mulch for area at new playground equipment
- Started removing piles North of baseball field area
- New tires installed on Case Skid Steer

City Superintendent Parkey presented a list of building repairs needed due to hailstorm damage. (SEE ATTACHED). The insurance check for \$2,502 was received in October. Recoverable depreciation after repairs are completed is estimated at \$2,000.

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll to authorize the city superintendent to obtain bids to complete building repairs as one project as presented. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**City Clerk Report** (written report submitted)

- Audit scheduled for February 27
- Cereal Malt Beverage Report
- Community Center Door repair cost to be paid by Jami Conkle
- Computer Update
- Correspondence/Lyon-Coffey Electric consolidation (Effective Jan. 1 will be 4 River Electric Coop)
- Franchise Fees (received from CenturyLink & Lyon-Coffey Electric) (4 River will begin paying 2020)
- Grant of \$50,000 received from Coffey County for Community Center remodel project
- KPERS – New employer rate of 8.61% effective Jan. 1 (2019 rate was 8.89%)
- KPERS Option Group Life Insurance
- Recycle Rubber Products – Incorrect color of rubber mulch shipped; received refund check for \$750 (City Superintendent negotiated \$150 per ton refund)
- Strawnfest 2020
- Tax Reports processed
- Terminix – Notification of rate increase of \$9 per treatment
- Water Software Program
- Website

**City Attorney Report** N/A

### **Code Enforcement Officer Report**

- Nuisance property violation letters sent certified mail
- Dogs at large – Will be issuing citations if dogs not vaccinated for rabies and tagged with City by January 13
- Sheds at golf course removed
- Bodycam equipment cost is \$375 if the Council is interested in purchasing versus cell phone

### **Zoning Administrator Report**

Building Permits Issued:

- New Strawn Community Christian Church – Sign
- US Cellular – Wireless Tower

### **Mayor's Report**

#### **GAAP Waiver**

K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) requires municipalities to use generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the preparation of their financial statements and reports. Except for community colleges, the governing body of any municipality may waive this statutory GAAP requirement.

Croll moved, seconded by Taylor to approve Resolution No. 99 GAAP Waiver for 2020. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Mayor Petterson reported that KDHE will be holding a public hearing for anyone interested in attending. It will be held at the Curtis State Office Building, Azure Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1000 S.W. Jackson in Topeka on January 16 at 10 a.m.

#### **Finance and Economic Development:**

Council Member Haas noted that finances are on track. She would like to hold a Finance Committee meeting with Council Member Croll, the mayor and the city clerk at a later date to discuss funds; in particular, the Special Highway Fund and if it should be charged for part of insurance in 2020.

#### **Community Building Report:**

Council Member Croll reported that the contractor for the remodel project has been delayed due to sickness and will resume the project Monday, January 13.

**Utility Report:** N/A

#### **Street Report:**

Council Member Taylor asked the city superintendent about roads and salt, etc. for inclement weather that is anticipated for the upcoming weekend. City Superintendent Parkey noted he and Steven Dwight have made necessary preparations and are ready.

Council Member Taylor noted a plan to replace the street signs and will have a report at next month's council meeting.

#### **Public Relations:**

Council Member Jeanne Haas reported on the following:

#### **Yard of the Month Contest**

The December winners were Mike and Deb Stukey. There have been suggestions to change the rules for future Yard of the Month contests, such as the same yard cannot win consecutive years, and more than first-place prize awarded.

Council Member Croll suggested a new, more colorful sign for "Yard of the Month". Council Member Weeks agreed and noted Vicki Stiner could be contacted to design one.

### Strawnfest 2020

Donations are starting to come in and plans continue for what promises to be an exciting 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration. T-shirt design ideas will be determined with up to 40 sponsorships. Vendors, medals, prizes, free breakfast, free dinner, raffle, newsletter, article for the newspaper, and several other ideas have been discussed. There will be a planning meeting Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

### **Parks and Recreation Report:**

Council Member Taylor asked about the mulch that was delivered for the new playground equipment area. City Superintendent Parkey noted he negotiated a lower price by \$150 per ton with Recycled Rubber Products. The city clerk received a refund check of \$750. Parkey noted after spreading the mulch, more may be needed.

### **Public Safety Report:** N/A

### **New Business:** N/A

### **Old Business:**

#### Employee Evaluations

Haas, moved, seconded by Haehn, to go into executive session for 10 minutes at 7:43 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) for the purpose of employee evaluations with employee Steven Dwight in the back room of City Hall. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The Council returned to regular session at 7:53 p.m. **No action taken.**

Haas, moved, seconded by Croll, to go into executive session for 15 minutes at 7:55 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) for the purpose of employee evaluations with employee Ron Parkey with the mayor and city attorney present in the back room of City Hall. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The Council returned to regular session at 8:10 p.m. **No action taken.**

Haas, moved, seconded by Croll, to go into executive session for 15 minutes at 8:11 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) for the purpose of employee evaluations with employee Ron Parkey with the mayor and city attorney present in the back room of City Hall. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The Council returned to regular session at 8:26 p.m. **No action taken.**

Council Member Taylor commented she would like the Council to receive updates from the zoning administrator via email noting the recent situation with the sheds that had been placed near the golf course on City property. City Attorney Tom Robrahn stated the intended purpose for a permanent structure is to be determined before a building permit is issued.

Council Member Weeks reported the City's website is not searchable regarding zoning regulations. He had asked the city clerk to look into resolving that issue so residents have easier access. The city clerk noted she had contacted Web Director Tracy Weltha with IM Design in Emporia. After the new computer is set up, she will be contacting her again to help with that task as well as getting the current codes removed and the disc with new codes and any newly approved ordinances uploaded.

### **Correspondence:** N/A

**Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.**