**New Strawn City Council**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Rhonda Taylor, Council members: Jeanne Haas (arrived 7:05), Johnny Hernandez, Stephanie Baker, and Butch Gilkison

Absent: David Christiansen

Staff: City Attorney Philip Wright (arrived 7:05), Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, Code Enforcement Ray Wards, Zoning Administrator Cody Collins and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Absent: None

Others: Wayde Thomsen and Mark Petterson

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE:** The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*Baker moved, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the agenda as presented.*  **Motion carried 3-0.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**MINUTES:** Move to approve meeting minutes of April 10, 2025.

**WARRANTS:** Move to approve the Warrants dated April 8, 2025, through May 5, 2025, in the amount of $29,517.02.

**PAYROLL:** Move to approve the April 2025 Payroll in the amount of $8,383.07.

**LICENSES:** Move to approve 2025-F-01 Fireworks Permit for Radiant Life Church.

*Hernandez moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the consent agenda as presented.* **Motion carried 3-0.**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

1. Additional Warrants - None

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **Zoning Administrator** 
  + Planning and Zoning Board Meeting May 14th
  + Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting May 21st
* **Code Enforcement Officer** 
  + Nuisance Property Update – Myers property on 3rd St is looking better and

have been released. There have been several complaints about tall grass, grass in streets and junk in yards. Those will or have been addressed.

* **Maintenance Operator**
  + Summer Help

*Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve hiring of Tucker Noonan for Temporary Seasonal Laborer position, not to exceed 30 hours per week at the rate of $15.00 per hour from May 12th, through the end of mowing season.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

* + 2025 Road Project

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker to extend the road project making it a total of $253,440.60. Funds to be used from Infrastructure.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

* + Fence – Midland has started on the fence and should be finished this week.
  + Trees – think about what trees will be used to replace the invasive pear

trees that are being removed from city property. This will need to be added to the 2026 budget.

* + Generator

*Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez to purchase the generator not to exceed $550 from Bomgaars. Funds to be used from Water.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

* + Comm-Tronix

*Hernandez moved, seconded by Baker to approve the purchase of a Sensaphone Sentinel Alarm Dialer/Data collection unit for $3,875.00 from Comm-Tronix including the yearly subscription. Funds to be used from Water.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

* + Trailer – add to the 2026 budget
  + Hydrovac – possibly add to the 2026 budget.
* **City Clerk**
  + QuickBooks Update – the QuickBooks subscription was to expire on April 26,

2025. After speaking with Mayor Taylor and Council Haas QuickBooks was upgraded to Enterprise 24.

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker to take the QuickBooks update at the rate of $1,646.90. Funds to be used from General.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

* + RVS Training

*Hernandez moved, seconded by Baker, to approve a trip for our clerk to go to RVS training in Little Rock AR on October 20 & 21, 2025, cost not to exceed $1,600. Funds to be used from Water.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

* + Municipal Services Budget Workshop, May 15 – there is a training opportunity

in Topeka on May 15. The session in Iola is already booked.

* + 2025 Election Information – there are 3 council seats up for reelection in

November. Please encourage the community to consider running for the council.

* + Community Center Rentals

*May– 3rd am Radiant Life, 4th Radiant Life, 5, 6, 7 Election, 10th pm Private Event, 16th & 17th Private Event, 20th I.B.E.W., 21st Private Event, 31st Private Event*

*June – 7th Strawnfest, 14th Private Event, 17th I.B.E.W., 21st Bob Mitchell Memorial, 24th – July 5th Radiant Life Youth Fireworks*

* + City Attorney – Philip Wright

**Mayor’s Report**

1. Mayor’s Appointments and Designations

**Community Center:** Stephanie Baker (Chair), Steven Dwight, Lana Johnson

**Finance/Economic Development:** Jeanne Haas (Chair), Butch Gilkison, Rhonda Taylor

**Park/Recreation:** Johnny Hernandez (Chair), Stephanie Baker, Steven Dwight

**Public Relations:** Jeanne Haas (Chair), Rhonda Taylor, Stephanie Baker

**Public Safety:** Butch Gilkison, Stephanie Baker

**Streets:** Rhonda Taylor (Street Chair), Steven Dwight

**Water/Sewer:** Butch Gilkison (Chair), Johnny Hernandez, Steven Dwight

**New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals**:

Effective June 1st, 2025, and expiring May 31st, 2028 - Jon Hotaling, Lee Jones and new member Cheryl Treptow.

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker, that the appointments that the mayor presented for the city and the Planning Commission be approved as presented.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas**

1. Budget

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker that on June 17th at 6:pm to have a budget workshop. Died due to lack of a vote. Haas moved, seconded by Baker to have a budget workshop on May 27th at 6 pm.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Community Center Report** – **Stephanie Baker**

**Utility Report – Butch Gilkison**

1. Water Usage & Loss Report

**Street Report - Dwight**

**Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas**

1. Personnel Policy Updates – taking time
2. Strawnfest

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker that we do catch and release fishing all day the day of Strawnfest on June 7th.* **Motion carried 4-0.**

1. Floyd Lewis Golf Classic Donation Request

*Baker moved, seconded by Haas, to donate $100 to the Floyd Lewis Golf Classic and be a hole sponsor. Funds to be used from General.*  **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez**

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

1. City Hall Remodel
2. Flag Poles

**Adjournment:**

*Baker moved, seconded by HernandezHernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.* **Motion carried 4-0.**