

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 11, 2020**

Present:
Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas, Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor, and Jim Weeks.

Staff Present: Martha Newkirk, Zoning Administrator; Steven Dwight, Maintenance Operator; Joni Hernandez, City Clerk; and Tom Robrahn, City Attorney.

Others Present:
Bob Saueressig, Coffey County Commissioner
Nolan Strawder

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

Flag Salute:

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

New Business

- a. Library Services

Parks & Recreation Report

- a. Fishing Licenses

Public Safety

- a. Chickens at Large

Before Staff Reports

- Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve the May 14, 2020 council meeting minutes
- Move to approve the Warrants dated May 15, 2020 through June 11, 2020 for \$11,437.02
- Move to approve the May 2020 Payroll for \$8,047.18
- Move to approve Electrical License to Jeffrey D. Foster
- Move to approve Fireworks Permit to Radiant Life Church/Nolan Strawder
- Move to approve Fireworks Permit to Garretts Fireworks (RESCINDED/REFUNDED)
- Move to approve Haying Permit to Prairie Wind Golf Course

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comments:

Coffey County Commissioner Bob Saueressig reported that Coffey County is COVID-19 "clean" and that the last case reported was a false positive.

Financial Reports:

Haas moved, seconded by Taylor, to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$836.10. **Motion carried 5-0.**

ADDED ITEM Executive Session:

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to go into executive session at 7:11 p.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel job duties with the city attorney present in the back room of City Hall. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Returned to regular session at the council table at 7:16 p.m. **No action taken.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report

- Building Permits Approved:
 - ✓ Harold & Lois Keller – Accessory Building/Shop
 - ✓ Linsey Knipp – 10x12 Shed

Code Enforcement Officer Report (not present)

Council Member Haehn inquired about properties that received mowing violation letters. He stated there are others that need to be notified. He noted that some residents started clean-up or repairs to nuisance properties; however, progress is still needed.

The city clerk reported that Chris Allen, Code Enforcement Officer, previously told her he was staying in contact with property owners regarding clean-up efforts. He also continues to handle dog complaints. He received a phone call from a resident at 6:30 a.m. last week about a barking dog. It was noted that his position is part-time, and he will work when his schedule allows. Residents need to make contact during normal business hours which are from 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Maintenance Operator Report (written report submitted)

- Daily water samples/ Collecting chlorine residuals
- Monthly bacteria water samples
- Mowing grass
- List of yards to be mowed for Code Enforcement Officer
- A/C tune-up kit received for John Deere tractor
- Street signs installed; need to order a few more
- New Brush Pile Sign to be ordered
- Seeded/Planted island at City Lake and mowed
- Removed caution tape around parks
- Colorimeter received; report good, within standards
- Leaf blower needs to be replaced
- Water line repair/valve issue
- Temporary Laborer doing a good job
- Trimmed trees
- Marking Kansas One-Calls (dig safe)

City Clerk Report (written report submitted)

- Alcohol Tax (Quarterly distribution)
- 4th of July (Observed/Office Closed July 3)
- Bonded Indebtedness report due July 25
- Budget Workshop with CPA Phil Jarred scheduled for July 9 at 5:30 p.m.
- Audit Review scheduled for July 9 at 7:00 p.m.
- COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- Community Center
- Distribution (Ad Valorem deposit increase of \$8,600 from 2019)
- KPERS OGLI
- Letter to Residents regarding speeding sent with last water bills
- Special Highway (Quarterly distribution)
- TrustPoint (added Temporary Seasonal Laborer to insurance policies)
- Website

City Attorney Report

Taylor moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve Ordinance No. 2020-02 Forbidding Netting of Fish at New Strawn City Lake. (If person(s) caught, fine of up to \$750 may be imposed.)

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor's Report

Mayor's Appointments & Designations

Croll moved, seconded by Haehn, to elect Rhonda Taylor to serve as council President for 2020.

Motion carried 4-1. (Taylor abstained.)

COVID-19

The city clerk requested keeping the front door locked until Phase Out date of June 22. No objections from Council or Mayor.

Finance and Economic Development:

Council Member Haas reported ending balances of fund is on track.

Community Building Report:

Council Member Croll reported the need for janitorial cleaning until Marilyn can return to work. Council Member Haehn stated he was contacted about any temporary work. Croll said to have person contact him.

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve rental fee of \$500 for the Community Center for Radiant Life Church/Nolan Strawder as a non-profit event from June 26 through July 5. **Motion carried 4-1. (Haehn opposed.)** (Community Center Rental dates June 26 through July 5; Fireworks Sales allowed from June 27 through July 5)

Utility Report: Council Member Weeks reported on the following:

Water Usage & Loss Report: N/A

Haas inquired about meter Service at 145 N. Main Street (Advantage Autobody). Steven reported a request was made to have the meter turned off. He has also locked the meter. Payment arrangements for the past-due water bill have been made.

Street Report: Council Member Taylor reported on the following:

Council Member Taylor reported that Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight will get four new "No Netting" signs for the park in addition to the Brush Pile signs to help with direction for those who reside within city limits.

Public Relations: Council Member Haas reported on the following:

Strawnfest 2020

The Council unanimously approved at last month's meeting, postponing of Strawnfest 2020 and to continue to monitor and reevaluate this summer to decide a future date for the celebration.

Council Member Haas explained she has been in contact with Tammy Hughes of WCNO. There is no approval on funding yet. There is a concern about serving of food even if rescheduled for Fall.

It was a consensus of the council to plan a dedication/ribbon cutting of the Community Center remodel project and new playground equipment. Possible dates are September 12 or September 19.

City Logo

Council Member Haas presented more ideas to choose from for City Logo ideas to present to Artist Jim Stukey so he can work on the new logo.

Parks and Recreation Report: Council Member Haehn reported on the following:

Fishing Licenses

Council Member Haehn asked about requirements for fishing licenses. In addition to a current Kansas fishing license, a city fishing permit is required. City fishing permits are sold with a trout stamp through May 1. Cost is as follows: Residents of USD 244 Burlington and New Strawn area – Adult \$10, Youth \$4. Residents living outside of USD 244 – Adult \$15, Youth \$6. Anyone at least 16 years old must also possess a Kansas state fishing license. The Rec Commission contributes \$1,500 annually to New Strawn for the purchase of the trout. The daily creel limit is two. There is a 'No Catch and Release' provision in effect as once they have been hooked, the fish will die.

Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight noted for budgeting purposes, approximately 4 tons of rubber mulch will be needed for the playground equipment areas. He would prefer purchasing what is needed for this season or as soon as possible. He was instructed to obtain pricing for approval at next month's meeting.

Public Safety Report:

Speeding Update

Council Member Jeanne Haas commented the letter from the mayor that was distributed with the water bills was good information.

Chickens at Large

Council Member Haehn stated he saw chickens running at large in two different locations in New Strawn. City Attorney Tom Robrahn noted the City's code requires chickens to be penned.

A fine of up to \$50 per day may be imposed. The mayor will contact Code Enforcement Officer Chris Allen to have him take action.

New Business:

Library Services

Council Member Taylor reported her concerns that New Strawn kids were left out of the free-lunch distribution program. She also noted that New Strawn was left off the list for kids to be transported to and from the USD 244 swimming pool.

The Federal Summer Meal Program Kids Eat Free Grab & Go Meal Packs will be held every Monday, June 8th through 29th at the U.S.D. 244 Recreation Center from noon until 1 p.m. Meals are free for all children 18 & younger and no registration is required. Meal packs will only be served on Mondays and will contain items for the entire week. Each child must be present when picking up food.

The mayor offered to contact the Coffey County Library Administrator/New Strawn Library Director to make an inquiry.

Old Business:

Drainage

Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight contacted engineering firms for drainage proposals. Schwab Eaton Engineers will review pictures that are sent to them. Dwight is awaiting Cook Flatt & Strobel Engineers to return his call.

Nuisance Property Deadline

Council Member Haehn inquired if a moving violation letter had been mailed to a location on 1st Street where weeds are over 12 inches in height. He noted another nuisance property on 1st Street. He asked if parked cars are required to have tags. The city clerk stated that a mowing invoice of \$200 was mailed for a property on 1st Street since current owner did not mow by deadline.

Correspondence: N/A

Nolan Strawder asked the city clerk and again asked the council as to the location of Garretts Fireworks permit. He noted the location requested was within close proximity of a gasoline station. City Clerk Hernandez stated she would discuss with the mayor and the permit will be either rescinded or a new location obtained before approved.

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.