

CITY OF NEW STRAWN
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, July 9, 2020

Present were: Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Richard Croll
Jeanne Haas
Gary Haehn
Rhonda Taylor
Jim Weeks arrived

Staff Present: Martha Newkirk, Zoning Administrator
Chris Allen, Code Enforcement Officer (not present)
Steven Dwight, Maintenance Operator
Joni Hernandez, City Clerk
Tom Robrahn, City Attorney

Others Present: Bob Saueressig, County Commissioner
Dennis Svanes, 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative CEO & General Manager
Mark Doeble, 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative COO

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. Approval of Publication of Notice of Budget Hearing
- c. Approve 2019 Audit Report as Presented

Under Mayor's Report

- a. Executive Session to discuss Non-elected Personnel regarding code enforcement
- b. SPARK (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas)

Under Utility Report

- b. Corps of Engineers Sewage

Under Parks and Recreation Report

- b. Fishing Licenses

Under Safety Report

- b. Speed Control Device

Haehn moved, seconded by Croll, to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve the June 11, 2020 regular council meeting minutes
- Move to approve the Warrants dates June 12, 2020 through July 9, 2020 in the amount of \$13,424.09
- Move to approve the June 2020 Payroll in the amount of \$9,399.96

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

Public Comments:

Dennis Svanes, 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative CEO & General Manager introduced himself and explained that they had consolidated with Lyon-Coffey Electric in January. He explained there have been some outages and problems with underground cable and that materials have been difficult to receive. It may be August before they receive shipment. He and Mark Doeble, 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative COO encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to them.

Coffey County Commissioner Bob Saueressig reported that an eleven-person committee will be formed under the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act). The County is awaiting information and detailed guidelines.

Financial Reports:

Weeks moved, seconded by Taylor, to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$5,370.71. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Croll moved, seconded by Taylor, to approve the 2021 Budget as proposed for publication and to set the Budget Hearing for August 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Croll moved, seconded by Haas, to approve the 2019 Audit Report as presented by Philip A. Jarred, CPA of Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report

- Building Permit Issued:
 - ✓ Lila Winterringer – Fence
- Taken several phone calls

Council Member Haehn inquired about a greenhouse for his personal residence if it was placed on a skid. Zoning Administrator Martha Newkirk explained it is not for allowed use to prevent it from becoming a business. A special use application could be submitted to the planning commission.

Code Enforcement Officer Report (not present)

Maintenance Operator Report (written report submitted)

- Daily water samples/ Collecting chlorine residuals
- Monthly bacteria water samples
- Marking for Kansas One-Calls
- Preparing for Budget Workshop
- Hauling rock and concrete
- Spraying weeds at Park, Lagoons and City Hall
- Washing benches, sidewalks, staircase to prepare to be stained

- Mowing and worked on lawnmower (Temporary Seasonal Laborer Brett Bober doing a good job. Found oil leak on mower.)
- Salt spreader low bid is \$5,524
- Snow plow parts estimated cost is \$575 from American Equipment
- Shop needs 18 new lights (there are 24 8' lights) LED will cost approximately \$80 each installed – need to be completed before winter
- Master Meter reading is at 99 million gallons. Bid for census turbine is \$2,285.00
- Replacing water meter pits
- Digging up water lines
- Problems due to no valves requiring shutting off water to entire town
- Bid for sewer jetter is \$189,000
- Can continue with current and purchase smaller for \$45,000 or borrow from City of Burlington if possible but will need to inquire about rental cost
- Sewer system could fail – found clay (Mayor noted discussed during Budget Workshop)
- Salt Bin bid \$10,000 for cover and frame installed (could store three loads)
- Mulch - more needed for playgrounds
- Hone Mini Truck – Suggested taking to local auction

Weeks moved, seconded by Taylor, to approve purchase of new salt spreader and part for the snow plow from American Equipment of Kansas City not to exceed \$6,700 to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Council Member Haehn recommended placing old equipment that cannot be traded in, online with Buy/Sale/Trade.

Weeks moved, seconded by Croll, to approve purchase of new master meter from Core & Main in Olathe for \$2,285.00 to be paid from the Water Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Steven explained that water valve exertion can be costly. Council Member Weeks noted valves are needed to prevent turning water off to entire community; otherwise, local fire department is at risk.

Council Member Taylor inquired if salt bin would prevent loss. Steven explained there would be minimal loss.

Weeks moved, seconded by Taylor, to authorize Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight to sell Honda Mini Truck at August 15 Auction in New Strawn. **Motion carried 5-0.**

City Clerk Report: (written report submitted)

- Budget
- City-Wide Garage Sales – August 1
- Coffey County Distribution Received
- Coffey County Health Dept. July 2 Release
- Fireworks Permit rescinded/refund issued
- Thank You to Arthur Williamson for annual donation to Community Center
- Website

Council Member Taylor thanked the city clerk and maintenance operator for doing a great job.

City Attorney Report: N/A

Mayor's Report:

Executive Session to discuss Non-elected Personnel regarding - Code Enforcement

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to go into executive session for five minutes at 7:45 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel regarding code enforcement with City Attorney Tom Robrahn in the back room at City Hall. **Motion carried 5-0.**

The Council returned to regular/open session at the council table at 7:50 p.m. **No action taken.**

SPARKS (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas)

Mayor Mark Petterson noted that SPARKS is similar to what County Commissioner Bob Saueressig reported on earlier in the meeting. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Finance and Economic Development: N/A

Community Building Report:

Council Member Croll reported the building is being rented more since June. He has been doing janitorial duties since Marilyn Bentley has not been able to work. She intends to resume her duties as soon as possible.

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve temporary hiring of Paige Dittrich for janitorial duties at the community building at the rate of \$10 per hour. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Utility Report: Council Member Weeks and Mayor Petterson reported on the following:

Water Usage & Loss Report N/A

Corps of Engineers Sewage

The mayor received an inquiry from Eugene Goff, regarding sewer options for the COE building, Riverside East and Dam Site campgrounds. Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight noted he had contacted Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) and is gathering more information such as how many campers, etc.

Street Report: Council Member Taylor reported waiting on Killough Construction to begin laying asphalt.

Public Relations: Council Member Haas reported on the following:

Dedication of Community Center Remodel Project & New Playground Equipment

Council Member Jeanne Haas reported that September 26 is available. She noted that WCNOC will donate \$1,000 towards the dedication. Citizens State Bank will host the Hot Wheels event for kids. Raymer Enterprises will host a car show and possibly music. If possible, the council may be able to have treats or food for attendees. Changes may be needed depending on COVID-19 and safety issues.

City Logo

Jim Stukey will work on the logo as soon as he receives information. Council Member Haas will report at next month's meeting.

Parks and Recreation Report:

OK Kids Donation Request

It was a consensus of the council to continue to allow OK Kids to fish for free at the New Strawn City Lake during their annual September event.

Fishing Licenses

Council Member Haehn suggested raising the price for adult fishing licenses. It was a consensus of the council to keep current rates in place as a draw for the community.

Public Safety Report:

Speeding Control Device

Council Member Haehn reiterated that speeding is still a concern on Arrowhead Drive. There was discussion regarding pricing of a portable speed control device. Maintenance Operator Dwight contacted Wavery City Hall. He will follow up on pricing.

New Business: N/A

Old Business:

Drainage

Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight reported that Schwab Eaton Engineers reviewed pictures he sent. They do not recommend a French drain; however, it appears to be a surface flow run-off/sump pump problem. Dwight is awaiting Cook Flatt & Strobel Engineers response.

Nuisance Property Deadline

Council Member Haehn noted some empty houses need to be taken care of. He also commented that the golf course club house needs attention. Council Member Weeks inquired if the other end of that building (Skillman's) has been notified. Haehn stated he had spoken with Mike Skillman about it and would follow-up.

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.