

CITY OF NEW STRAWN
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, August 8, 2019

Present were: Mayor Mark Petterson

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

Others Present: Ron Parkey, City Superintendent
Joni Hernandez, City Clerk
Tom Robrahn, City Attorney
Bob Saueressig, County Commissioner
Wade Bowie, County Attorney

Patrons present: Marc Chester
Amber Dittrich
Sue Haehn
Joyce Hopkins
Steve Hopkins
Mike Stuart
Illa Weeks

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.

2020 Budget Hearing:

Haehn moved, seconded by Croll, to enter into a Budget Hearing for the 2020 proposed budget.
Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Petterson explained the public hearing was open. The proposed budget for 2020, if approved, will raise \$153,543 from property taxes at a tax rate of 40.546 mills which is a slight decrease of approximately .3 mills from last year. (SEE ATTACHED 16 PAGES/BUDGET)

The mayor asked if anyone present had any comments regarding the budget.

No comments.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn, to close the Budget Hearing for the 2020 proposed budget.
Motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Under Financial Reports

- b. Approve 2020 Budget

Before Public Comments

- Executive Session to discuss Job Performance of Non-elected Personnel

Under Staff Reports/Zoning Administrator

- Building Permit - Swimming Pool – Jacquie Mitchell

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve auditor proposal letter of engagement for services with Jarred, Gilmore, Phillips, PA for the purpose of performing the Audit for the year ended December 31, 2019, not to exceed \$4,900.00
- Move to approve the auditor proposal letter of engagement for services with Jarred Gilmore, Phillips, PA for the purpose of performing Budget Preparation for years ended December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020, not to exceed \$1,300.00 for each year.
- Move to approve the July 11, 2019 regular council meeting minutes
- Move to approve the July 19, 2019 council special meeting minutes
- Move to approve the Warrants dates July 12, 2019 through August 8, 2019 in the amount of \$13,145.08
- Move to approve the July 2019 Payroll in the amount of \$12,336.04

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

Executive Session to discuss Non-elected Personnel Work Performance:

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to go into executive session for ten minutes at 7:06 p.m. to discuss job performance of non-elected personnel with the city attorney present. **Motion carried 5-0.**

The Council returned to regular session at 7:16 p.m. **No action taken.**

Public Comments:

Mayor Petterson noted that patrons with questions or comments would each be given a three-minute timeline.

The Council heard from residents Steve Hopkins, Sue Haehn, Marc Chester, and Mike Stuart regarding land acquisition.

Financial Reports:

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$3,912.43. **Motion carried 5-0.**

2020 Budget:

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve the 2020 Budget as printed in the City's official newspaper. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Reports:

City Superintendent Report

- Burn pile (required to move – need KDHE permit – need to notify public of change)
- Painted sign frame at Jones Park (wind destroyed frame after painted)
- Filled automatic fish feeders
- Washed shelter house at City Lake
- Washed shelter house floor at Jones Park
- Removed old railroad ties and filled with gravel
- Hauled millings to area east of horseshoe pits and smoothed out
- Worked on storm water drainage (Huron Circle, Seneca Circle, Kiowa Circle, and easement at 222 Shawnee Street)
- Dug out dirt and filled with rip rap
- Hauled rock from quarry
- Need to replace weed eater

Croll moved, seconded by Taylor, to allow City Superintendent to purchase a commercial grade weed eater from the Equipment Reserve Fund for an amount up to \$500. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Council Member Jeanne Haas inquired about clarification regarding last month's bid from Trophy Fisheries for City Lake treatment with years listed for 2018, 2019 and 2020. The city clerk noted that it was not a bid; rather an invoice and bid had been previously approved in early 2018.

City Clerk Report

- City-Wide Garage Sale update (13 residents listed on New Strawn map)
- Dogs at Large update (letters mailed to residents)
- Franchise Fees from Century Link (they were still using P.O. Box and will be sending check to City's correct address)
- League of Kansas Municipalities 2019 Survey of Municipal Practices Revenue
- Mowing Violation letters mailed
- Nuisance Properties/Violations letters mailed
- Storm (from July 31 – tree limbs/damage – Coffey County Emergency Management)
- Trash Pick-up (notified Republic Services that trash was not picked up on Saturday, July 6. Trash was taken care of on July 8.)
- Website updated

Haas moved, seconded by Croll, to waive fishing fees/catch and release for OK Kids and their activities slated for September 6-8 at City Lake. **Motion carried 5-0.**

City Attorney Report

City Attorney Tom Robrahn discussed the 2019 STO and UPOC. Since New Strawn deviates from portions due to golf carts allowed within city limits, ordinances will be prepared and ready for discussion and/or approval at next month's regular meeting.

Zoning Administrator Report

There was discussion regarding permit fees for roofing. City Attorney Tom Robrahn will research and a decision as to whether to charge per the fee schedule approved in May will be determined.

There was discussion regarding a request for an in-ground swimming pool for Jacquie Mitchell. The city clerk noted that she had spoken to Jacquie on two occasions as well as several times with the contractor from Town and Country Pools. The City just received the drawing the

afternoon of the council meeting. The mayor will make a determination after a drainage question by a neighbor is addressed.

Mayor's Report

The mayor stated that he has one person interested in being new zoning administrator; however, his contact has not yet committed.

Coffey County Attorney Wade Bowie was present to meet the Council. He gave a brief introduction and information of his background. He wanted everyone to know he has an open-door policy and is here for the Council and citizens of Coffey County.

Finance and Economic Development: N/A

Community Building Report: N/A

Utility Report: N/A

Street Report:

Council Member Rhonda Taylor inquired when Killough Construction will be doing touch-up repair work in New Strawn. City Superintendent Parkey stated it will be next month.

Public Relations:

Council Member Jeanne Haas thanked Council Member Richard Croll for setting up and taking down the City's booth during the fair. The booth showcased next year's 50th Strawnfest Celebration ideas.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Council Member Gary Haehn asked the city superintendent to contact the Jones Foundation regarding possible replacement of the damaged sign at City Lake. Council Member Rhonda Taylor noted that placing the sign in a different location may be an option. The city superintendent noted the sign has been there since 1989 and a new sign and/or location may be better to prevent future damage.

Council Member Gary Haehn stated he would like to see the north island weeds be taken care of at the City Lake by weed-eating or with weed kill.

Public Safety Report: N/A

New Business: N/A

Old Business:

Land Acquisition

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks, to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. for ten minutes for discussion relating to the acquisition of real property pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319 (b) (6) with the city attorney present. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

Playground Equipment

Croll moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve purchase of playground equipment and installation in the amount of \$21,700 from Park Planet with \$15,000 to come from Parks and Recreation Fund and \$6,700 to come from General Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Nuisance Properties

There was discussion regarding violation letters mailed to residents with nuisance properties in need of attention. The mayor and/or city clerk have heard from the residents who are attempting to make needed repairs.

Other Business: N/A

Correspondence: N/A

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