

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2025

PRESENT:

Mayor Jeanne Haas, council members: Stephanie Baker, David Christiansen, Butch Gilkison, Dan Haller and Johnny Hernandez

Staff: City Attorney Philip Wright, Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, Code Enforcement Ray Wards and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Others: Wanda Chaffin, Mark Petterson, Chari Bauman, Brian Hanson and Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn

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

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

2026 BUDGET HEARING

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to enter into a budget hearing for the 2026 proposed budget. Motion carried 5-0.

This is an open public hearing. The proposed budget for 2026, if approved, will raise \$151,298 from property taxes at a tax rate of 25.637 mills.

Public comments regarding the proposed 2026 budget only. No public comments.

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to close the budget hearing for the 2026 proposed budget. Motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

ADD: Maintenance Operator: Master Meter

ADD: Financial Reports: b: 2026 Budget

ADD: Mayor: h: Voting Member for the League of Kansas Municipalities

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Hernandez moved, seconded by Haller, to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

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

Move to approve the special meeting minutes of July 17, 2025.

Move to approve the special meeting minutes of July 24, 2025.

WARRANTS: Move to approve the Warrants dated July 8, 2025, through August 8, 2025, in the amount of \$33,250.36.

PAYROLL: Move to approve the July 2025 Payroll in the amount of \$9174.29.

LICENSES: Contractor License 2025-C-03 for Bruce Davis Construction

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion carried 4-0. Christiansen had stepped out.

APPOINTMENTS:

a. Wanda Chaffin – Hometown Pie – Wanda is having another freezer installed and would like to be able to paint the parking lot in front of the freezer as a “loading zone” at her cost. *Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to take a 10-minute recess to look at the area for the loading zone. Motion carried 5-0.*

Christiansen moved seconded by Baker to allow on the Main Street side of plot R2712 the painting of the loading zone/no parking. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Kimberly Skillman-Robrahn – TrustPoint Insurance – the city portion of the EMC dividend is \$\$3,000.87.

c. Chari Bauman – Coffey County Chamber Director – Chari introduced herself as the new Coffey County Chamber Director. She handed out materials showing the member benefits and Visit Coffey County.

Mayor Haas thanked Chari for making the flyers for Strawnfest and helping promote the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

a. Additional Warrants – None

b. ADD: 2026 Budget

Baker moved, seconded by Haller to approve the 2026 Budget as published and have the mayor and council sign 3 copies. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Zoning Administrator**

- BZA Meeting - August 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
- Approved 2025-Z-05, a fence for Ray Graf located at 804 Mohawk
- Review of Zoning Fees – Clerk Johnson is to send the council a comparison of other cities fees.

- **Code Enforcement Officer**

- Nuisance Property Update – Grass is getting too high on several properties.

Verbal warning has been given on several, but no action has been taken. Letters will go out next week.

- **Maintenance Operator**

- BannerFlex Metro

*Baker moved, seconded by Haller to purchase BannerFlex Metro not to exceed \$1,100. Funds to be used from General. **Motion carried 5-0.***

- ADD: Master Meter

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve the purchase of a Sensus 3" master meter from Core & Main, not to exceed \$1,500. Funds to be used from Water. **Motion carried 5-0.***

It's been too windy to spray the trees at the park, but it will be done soon.

- **City Clerk**

- Health Plan/Insurance – BCBS has increased the rates to the point the employees aren't interested in continuing the policy.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to change the insurance policy from the city paying 85% to \$800 stipend per fulltime employee, per month beginning the next pay period.

Motion carried 5-0.

- USPS – USPS changed pickup time from 2:15 p.m. to 9:15 a.m. and may eliminate the blue drop box that is in the city parking lot.

- Golf Carts – a resident questioned the city ordinance not allowing golf carts to be operated on city streets after sunset. The council did not make changes to the current ordinance. Golf carts are still not to be operated on city streets after sunset.

- Community Center Rentals

August – 1st & 2nd COF Training Services, 3rd Radiant Life Potluck, 8th & 9th S & S Sales Auction, 15th New Strawn Library Cyber Security Presentation, 19th p.m. I.B.E.W.

September – 6th OK Kids, 7th Radiant Life Potluck, 16th p.m. I.B.E.W

- City Attorney – Philip Wright – was contacted about a possible class action lawsuit over water contaminants. New Strawn is probably too small to participate.

Mayor's Report

- a. Cereal Malt Beverage Sale Hours

*Baker moved, seconded by Haller to approve Ordinance 2025-03 as written. **Motion carried 5-0 by show of hands.***

- b. City Clerk, Lana Johnson 5 Year Anniversary – according to policy Clerk Johnson is to receive a 3% increase. It will be effective the September 19, 2025 pay date.
- c. Appointment of Zoning Administrator

Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to approve the appointment of Brian Hanson as Zoning Administrator with a base salary of \$80 for the first 4 hours and after mayoral approval \$25 for additional hours. Motion carried 5-0.

d. Engagement Intent Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2027 Budget

Baker moved, seconded by Christiansen to allow Mayor Haas to sign the engagement letter of intent with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2027 Budget. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Engagement Intent Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2025 Audit

Baker moved, seconded by Christiansen, to allow Mayor Haas to sign the engagement letter of intent with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2025 Audit. Motion carried 5-0.

f. HUD Meeting – There are opportunities for local businesses through HUD/Sam.gov.

g. Land Sale – the property at Osage and Neosho did sell for \$3,400 and half of the taxes were taken out of it.

h. The League of Kansas Municipalities Voting Member

Baker moved, seconded by Hernandez to have Jeanne be the voting member at The League of Kansas Municipalities conference in October. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance & Economic Development Report – Stephanie Baker

Community Center Report – Stephanie Baker

Utility Report – Butch Gilkison

a. Water Usage & Loss Report

Street Report - Steven Dwight

Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas

a. Coffey County Cancer Support Golf Classic – Rescheduled

Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez – asked Dwight to check pricing on a new, updated sign for the park.

New Business:

Old Business:

a. City Hall Remodel – One contractor has picked up drawings and met with Dwight and Johnson.

Adjournment:

Baker moved, seconded by Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.