**New Strawn City Council**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, September 11, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Jeanne Haas, council members: Stephanie Baker, Butch Gilkison and Dan Haller

Absent: David Christiansen and Johnny Hernandez

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

Others: Mark Petterson and Jaclyn Smith Nelson

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

**FLAG SALUTE:** The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of 9/11.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:**

ADD: Public Relations: C: October Yard of the Month

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*Haller moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the agenda with all additions and changes.*  **Motion carried 3-0.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**MINUTES:** Move to approve meeting minutes of August 14, 2025.

**WARRANTS:** Move to approve the Warrants dated August 9, 2025, through September 5, 2025, in the amount of $27,874.08.

**PAYROLL:** Move to approve the August 2025 Payroll in the amount of $11,580.63.

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

1. Additional Warrants – None

The US Cellular payment was entered twice in July. One was voided which changed the July numbers by $153.59.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **Zoning Administrator** 
  + BZA Meeting - August 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
  + Approved 2025-Z-08, a residence for Lee & Lindsay Baldwin located at 21 Hillside Dr
  + Review of Zoning Fees – Clerk is continuing to research
* **Code Enforcement Officer** 
  + Nuisance Property Update – went to court on the illegal fence. The judge

ordered it to be removed within 90 days. Met with the owner of a property at 331 N 4th St and went over exactly what needed to be done. She has made a lot of progress and is keeping in touch. 354 3rd St will receive a hand delivered notice explaining what needs to be cleaned up on his property. 315 N 4th St has a trailer and 2 junk vehicles sitting in the yard. The intent is to have these vehicles towed. Mayor Haas mentioned that Ray has been putting in extra hours so he will be turning in a timesheet reflecting those hours. Council member Haller inquired about the status of Jeff’s Towing. Ray hasn’t been able to catch up with him, but it doesn’t look as bad as it was. A letter was sent to the Nelsons regarding their property. They have been working on it, and it has improved.

* **Maintenance Operator**
  + State of Kansas provided 300 Catfish – ranging from a lb. to 4 lbs. a week

before OK Kids. It looks like OK Kids was a hit. Other than that, still mowing grass. Mayor Haas stated, “all of our employees have been putting in extra time and I do appreciate it”.

* **City Clerk**
  + Kwikom – gateway fiber – Attorney Wright requested that Clerk Johnson

reach out to gateway fiber for a copy of the purchase agreement and make sure they are aware of the agreement that is in place regarding the equipment on the city tower.

MT Networks is looking at a new franchise agreement which has been sent to Attorney Wright.

* + Community Center Rentals
  + *September – 6th OK Kids, 7th Radiant Life Potluck, 16th p.m. I.B.E.W*
  + *October – 5th Radiant Life Potluck, 21st p.m. I.B.E.W., 30th Private Event,* 31st *backup plan for Library Trunk or Treat*
  + City Attorney – Philip Wright – Gary Haehn was in court this evening. The judge gave

him 90 days to remove the fence but also suggested that he talk to a lawyer regarding the situation.

*Baker moved, seconded by Haller, to go into executive session at 7:16 p.m. for 5 minutes for matters deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship with regards to Seneca Circle to include the council, mayor, city attorney, maintenance operator and city clerk.* **Motion carried 3-0.**

Returned at 7:22

*Haller moved, seconded by Baker, to go back into executive session at 7:21 for an additional 5 minutes to include the city clerk, maintenance operator, mayor, council and city attorney.* **Motion carried 3-0.**

Returned at 7:27 with no action taken.

**Mayor’s Report**

**Finance & Economic Development Report – Stephanie Baker**

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

**Utility Report – Butch Gilkison**

1. Water Usage & Loss Report

Operator Dwight reported that Burlington is doing a chlorine burnout so there may be an odor and possibly a taste to the water into October.

**Street Report - Steven Dwight**

**Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas**

1. Radiant Life Fundraiser March 21, 2026

*Haller moved, seconded by Baker, to allow Radiant Life Youth to use the Community Center at no charge on March 21, 2026.* **Motion carried 3-0.**

1. Trunk or Treat, October 31, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

*Baker moved, seconded by Haller, to donate $250 to the Coffey County Library, New Strawn Branch to be used for Trunk or Treat and other events. Funds to be used from General.* **Motion carried 3-0.**

1. ADDED: October Yard of the Month

*Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to have October Yard of the Month judging from Oct 24-26, names to the clerk by October 27th. The top Fall Yard and the top Halloween Yard will receive $20 Coffey County Chamber Bucks.* **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez**

Operator Dwight is waiting on prices for the new sign. The trees in the park have been sprayed and are dying. Foot traffic in the parks and disc golf has increased.

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

1. City Hall Remodel – Three contractors and an electrician have picked up drawings

and met with Dwight and Johnson. They have been asked to have bids back by September 30, 2025.

**Adjournment:**

*Baker moved, seconded by HallerHernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.* **Motion carried 3-0.**