

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2019**

Present were: Mayor Mark Petterson

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

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

Patrons present: None

**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:**

After Public Comments

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

Under Public Relations Report

- c. Strawnfest
- d. Halloween

Under Parks & Recreation Report

- a. Playground Equipment Update
- b. Jones Park Sign
- c. Ball field/Soccer field

Under New Business

- a. Litigation

Under Old Business

- a. Drainage (Health Concerns)

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

- Move to approve the August 8, 2019 council meeting minutes
- Move to approve the Warrants dates August 9, 2019 through September 12, 2019 in the amount of \$16,937.64
- Move to approve the August 2019 Payroll in the amount of \$17,714.30

Crroll moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Executive Session to discuss Non-elected Personnel Work Performance:**

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to go into executive session for ten minutes at 7:07 p.m. in the back room of City Hall to discuss job performance of non-elected personnel with the city attorney present. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The Council returned to regular session to the board table/room at 7:17 p.m. **No action taken.**

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to go into executive session for ten minutes at 7:20 p.m. in the back room of City Hall to discuss job performance of non-elected personnel with the city attorney and city superintendent present. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The Council returned to regular to regular session to the board table/room at 7:30 p.m. **No action taken.**

**Public Comments:** None

**Financial Reports:** No additional warrants

**Staff Reports:**

**City Superintendent Report**

- Explained Tower Condition Assessment Report (coax equipment from MT Wireless is out of compliance – Will get with MT Networks employees regarding ladder to bring into compliance – Ladder cannot be used for attachment point – Touch up painting needed)
- Cleaned up tree limbs
- Placed new brick mold on back bathroom door
- Painted parking lines and handicap parking space
- Painted lake shelter house at Community Center
- Prepped for OK Kids event
- Mowed several areas of grass (highway right of ways, parks, other city property)
- Mowed lagoons
- Mowed ball field area
- Closed old burn pile as required by KDHE (notified public via website: new burn pile is on Sorg Street)
- Removed old railroad ties and filled with gravel
- Serviced new electric master meter vault

Council Member Haehn thanked the city superintendent for power washing playground equipment.

**City Clerk Report**

- Discussed possible lifetime animal tags beginning year 2020 (**It was a consensus of the Council to keep current tag requirements in place**)
- Community Building
- Correspondence
  - Library thank you (Movie Night at Community Building)
  - Utility Service Co. (Water System)
  - Atmos Energy (Public Hearing scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. Overland Park)
  - Coffey County Health (Cleaning up Properties: Meeting scheduled Thursday, Sept. 26 at 1 p.m. in courthouse economic development room)
- Fall Clean Up
- Franchise Fees/Century Link (check received)
- Haying Permit
- Kansas Set-Off Program
- Mowing Violation Letters
- Nuisance Properties (article from Legal Forum/League of Kansas Municipalities)
- OK Kids (Mike Roney at Coffey County Sheriff's Office is new contact)
- Playground Equipment Update (Invoice to be sent after installation)
- Trash Pickup (Problems with late pickups)
- Veterans Banners (3 new applications for 2019)
- Website updated

### **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 prepared and submitted for Council's review.

Weeks moved, seconded by Croll, to adopt the 2019 Uniform Public Offense Code 2019-04 regulating public offenses within corporate city limit of the City of New Strawn, Kansas; incorporating by reference "Uniform Public Offense Codes for Kansas Cities," Edition 2019; providing certain penalties and repealing Ordinance 2018-06. **Motion carried by a show of hands 4-0.**

Weeks moved, seconded by Croll, to adopt the 2019 Standard Traffic Ordinance 2019-05 regulating traffic within corporate city limit of the City of New Strawn, Kansas; incorporating by reference "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities," Edition 2019; providing certain penalties and repealing Ordinance 2018-05. **Motion carried by a show of hands 4-0.**

### **Zoning Administrator Report**

Building Permits Issued:

- Jackie Mitchell – In-ground swimming pool
- Roger Wagner – Pole shed
- Wolf Creek Resorts – 3 cabins to be set on resort property

### **Mayor's Report**

The mayor stated that he is still trying to recruit a zoning administrator.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn, to appoint Council Member Richard Croll as the voting delegate for the League of Kansas Municipalities 2019 Annual Conference to be held in Overland Park, October 12-14 with registration and mileage to be paid from the General Fund. **Motion carried 4-0.**

City Attorney Tom Robrahn will be attending the convention with registration through the City of Burlington.

**Finance and Economic Development:** N/A

**Community Building Report:**

Council Member Richard Croll discussed list of ideas. It was a consensus that the kitchen and bathrooms need to be priority. He will obtain quotes. (SEE ATTACHED LIST)

Council members Haehn and Weeks reported they are working on grant applications through the Jones Foundation. Council Member Weeks commented when applying for a grant for the Community Center to include the playground equipment for the park if possible.

**Utility Report:** N/A

**Street Report:** N/A

**Public Relations:**

Veterans Banners

Council Member Jeanne Haas gave an update regarding Veterans Banners. There will be three additional this year for a total of twelve. She and City Superintendent Parkey noted he will coordinate with Lyon-Coffey Electric to have the banners up October 15 through the end of November

Lawn of the Month Contest

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to declare "Lawn of the Month" contests for 2019 in October and December with judging to take place from October 18-20; winner to be announced on October 23, and judging from December 14-16; winner to be announced December 20 with each winner to receive \$25 in Coffey County Chamber Bucks to be paid from the General Fund.

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Strawfest 2020

Council Member Haas explained Strawfest 2020 will be held June 20, 2020. There will need to be a lot of planning, ideas and budgeting to make it a special celebration. She asked the city clerk to make Strawfest a continuing agenda item for monthly updates.

Halloween

The Council discussed need for event insurance or additional liability insurance for the Halloween Party to be hosted by a new group of local volunteers. It was a consensus that the City will obtain quotes from TrustPoint Insurance "with" and "without" a hayrack ride. The City is willing to pay the cost of the additional insurance. The city clerk will contact TrustPoint.

**Parks and Recreation Report:**

Council Member Gary Haehn gave an update on the new playground equipment. It is scheduled to be here the first week of October. It was thought earlier that the quote included removal; however, the City will now be required to remove the old equipment. He is willing to help with removal that will need to be completed as soon as possible. He also stated he will be in contact with USD 244 regarding used tires/mulch that may be used at the City Park/Jones Park.

Council Member Haehn noted the possibility of planting Bermuda grass in the islands at the City Lake.

He also reported the Burlington Recreation Center is interested in improving the City of New Strawn ball field and utilizing that area for soccer games. He stated BRC will provide portable toilets. Parking will need to be addressed and made possible by the City.

Council Member Weeks received quotes for a new sign and supplies needed to have it installed. It was a consensus of the Council to select the "red" vinyl option of many he made available. Total cost should be less than \$400.

Council Member Haehn will contact the Jones Foundation representative he has been talking to and let her know the cost will be \$400 or less.

**Public Safety Report:** N/A

**New Business:**

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to go into executive session at 8:41 for ten minutes in the back room of City Hall to discuss possible litigation with city attorney. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The council returned to regular session at the Board/Council table at 8:51 p.m. **No action taken.**

Mayor Petterson reported on a meeting he attended at Coffey County Courthouse regarding grant opportunities. Ideas were discussed on ways to improve communities. There is a possibility that the County may hire an engineering firm to help develop a plan.

Council Member Weeks stated a city-wide meeting with refreshments could be held in the future to hear from residents on ways to improve the looks of the community.

**Old Business:**

Drainage/Health Concerns

Council members Haehn and Weeks reported that the culverts on Apache Street do not drain properly. City Superintendent Parkey explained there are sump pump issues that need to be piped to the culverts. Council Member Haas noted this subject has been an issued for six or seven years. It was agreed the ditch needs to be reshaped. The city superintendent will follow up.

**Other Business:** N/A

**Correspondence:** N/A

**Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.**