

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023

PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council members: Jeanne Haas, Butch Gilkison, David Christiansen (arrived 7:12) and Johnny Hernandez

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, Code Enforcement Ray Wards, Zoning Administrator Cody Collins, and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Others: Greg Holmquist, Mark Petterson and Wayde Thomsen

ABSENT: Council Stephanie Baker, City Attorney Philip Wright

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

New Business: A. Council Work Session

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the agenda with addition. Motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

- A. **Minutes:** Move to approve meeting minutes of March 9, 2023.

- A. **Warrants:** Move to approve the Warrants dated March 7, 2023, through April 10, 2023, in the amount of \$58,949.93.
- A. **Payroll:** Move to approve the March 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$9,141.71.

OTHER:

- A. Move to approve the attendance of Mayor, Council and/or Clerk of MTI: Grant Research and Proposal Writing, in Lawrence, KS May 10, 2023, at a cost of \$115 per League member and related mileage reimbursement.
- B. Move to approve attendance of Mayor, Council and/or Clerk of Municipal Services 2023 Budget Workshop at a cost of \$75 per person and related mileage reimbursement.
- C. Move to approve USDA Safety Training for southeast Kansas, to hold an UTV safety training in the field west of the ball diamond on April 25th.

Hernandez moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Additional Warrants – \$5,473.75

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the additional warrants of \$5,473.75 Motion carried 3-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Zoning Administrator

- Approved 2023-Z-1 Zoning Permit, Derek Moyer, 24' x 40' Shop, 213 N 4th St.

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

- Living in Camper Code/Zoning

Suggested the code be updated to match the zoning regulations regarding living in a camper. This will be added to the May agenda.

- Violation Letters Update

There has been some movement on clean up. Code Enforcement Wards has also spoken to a few business owners about cleaning their properties.

Maintenance Operator

- Spring Clean-up Update

4 ½ loads of trash was hauled to the Coffey County Landfill during City Wide Cleanup

- Summer Help

*Hernandez moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve advertising in The Coffey County Republican for a seasonal laborer at \$12 per hour up to 25 hours per week. **Motion carried 4-0***

- Water Meter Update

All but 7 water meters have been installed. There has been a lot of meter pit maintenance while replacing the water meters. A new meter pit has been ordered for the fire station.

- Valnet/Kwikom Equipment Update – no update
- Water Pump/Valve Update

The water valves are in and there is no word on the pumps.

- Rip Rap Update – no update
- CIP – meetings have stopped.

Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez to purchase fish from Leonard Jirak, contingent on the USD 244 Burlington Recreation Commission donating \$2,000, not to exceed \$2,500. Funds to be used from Parks.

Motion carried 4-0.

EMP Shield has hired Kendall Gunlock to finish installing the surge protectors the county provided for the cities.

City Clerk

- Water Bill Due Date

Even with the water bill due date being on the 10th of every month, residents are paying later and getting upset with a late fee appearing on their water bill. The council agreed that anything paid after the 10th should have late fees applied.

- Valuation Notice – Correction

A corrected valuation notice was received from the county for the property located at 1233 17th Rd. The previous appraised was listed at \$867,930 and the corrected notice listed it as \$1,067,550.

- Community Building Rentals

April – 6th – 8th Fire Department picking up chairs for breakfast on the 8th, 8th NSCIO Easter backup, 15th Private Event, 18th I.B.E.W, 22nd Private Event

May – 6th Private Event, 12, 13th Private Event, 14th Private Event, 16th I.B.E.W., 26th Private Event, 27th Old Strawn

City Attorney

- Employment Attorney/Personnel Manual Update

In City Attorney Wright's absence, Greg Holmquist presented several dates Jennifer Hill, employment attorney may have available to meet with the council.

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to have a Zoom special meeting with Jennifer Hill to go over personnel book on May 11, 6:00 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Taylor has been attending the quarterly LEPC meetings with emergency management and plans to attend their meeting on recovery, after a disaster. NIMS training will start after the Wolf Creek Training.

Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas

- a. Water Rate Update

Council Member Haas provided data comparing the New Strawn water rates to 4 other local cities. She had attended a meeting with Mayor Taylor and in the presentation, they were told that if a city is not charging \$50 for the first 1,000 gallons of water the city would not be eligible for funding. The city has several projects going and the rates can be reevaluated in July at the finance meeting.

Community Building Report – David Christiansen

An inventory list has been provided for the community center to help decide what may be needed for supplies.

Utility Report – Butch Gilkison

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

Street Report- Rhonda Taylor - None

Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas

- a. Strawnfest 2023 Events

Planning for Strawnfest is moving right along. Ideas for new events are welcome.

- b. Veterans Banners

Banners will now be hung for 5 years. A letter will go out to the 5-year banners letting them know this is the last year and their banner can be picked up they are taken down.

Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez

Council Member Hernandez said there has not been dirt added to the ballfield yet. The USD 244 Burlington Recreation Commission has mowed the ballfield twice this year. Thank you very much. There may be some enhancements made to the field so it can be used as a practice field. They will also investigate getting a porta potty.

INSURANCE/PERSONNEL:

- a. Employee Insurance Option Update

Darren Booth with Theel Insurance presented several insurance options from Freedom Claims Management, Inc. Clerk Johnson reported that Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) sent out a survey indicating they may have insurance options. Research for insurance options will continue.

New Business

a. Work Session

Hass moved, seconded by Christiansen to hold a special work meeting to discuss where the city wants to go with development on May 18, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at City Hall. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

Adjournment:

Gilkison moved, seconded by Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.