

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2022

PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council members: Jeanne Haas, Johnny Hernandez, David Christiansen, Stephanie Baker and Butch Gilkison.

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, Code Enforcement Officer Randy Rogers, Philip Wright (arrived around 8 p.m.).

Others: Mark Petterson, Landon Myers, Angela Myers, County Commissioner Bob Saueressig and Greg Holmquist (arrived with Wright).

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

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS:

Mayor's Report

c. Kansas League of Municipalities workshops

d. Work Session

Public Relations Report

c. Fire Department – Silent Auction Items

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes: Move to approve meeting minutes of March 10, 2022.

Warrants: Move to approve the warrants dated March 8, 2022, through April 11, 2022, in the amount of \$56,648.03.

Payroll: Move to approve the March 2022 payroll in the amount of \$8,846.64.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion carried 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

- a. Landon Myers – Eagle project – Landon Myers proposed refurbishing the basketball court in Jones Park as his Eagle Scout project. He said a requirement of an Eagle Scout project is that it must benefit the community. He is proposing repainting the 3-point lines and free throw lines, installing a metal chain net on the rims, sanding and repainting the courtside benches and other benches. Landon will pay for the project and others in the troop will help with tasks. Landon plans to do the project sometime during the summer; it will be finished by the first week of August.

Hernandez moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve Landon Myers' Eagle Scout project, as presented.

Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Commissioner Saueressig reminded the council about the breakfast and silent auction Saturday, April 16, at the Station 8 - New Strawn Fire Station.

STAFF REPORTS

Zoning Administrator

Mayor Taylor introduced Cody Collins, who she intended to appoint as New Strawn Zoning Administrator. Collins is a New Strawn resident, a graduate of Kansas State University and a farmer who also runs cattle.

Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the appointment of Cody Collins as New Strawn Zoning Administrator with a base monthly salary of \$80 for up to 4 hours and, after the mayor's approval, \$25 for any additional hours within the month. Motion carried 5-0.

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

Code Enforcement Officer Randy Rogers told the council he participated in the Chamber of Commerce's After 5 Business Showcase hosted March 30 by the City of New Strawn. He also had a person get an animal registration during an after-hours event at city hall. He said residents have been given several chances to register animals; now it is time to enforce the city's animal ordinances. Rogers also is working on some nuisance properties and nuisance animals. He suggested the city register for a League training session and asked about the purchase of several minor items.

Gilkison moved, seconded by Haas, to pay a \$50 register fee for a League virtual training session, 1 to 4 p.m. April 20, addressing nuisance property abatements. Motion carried 5-0. City Clerk Lana Johnson will initially attend the session and Rogers will be able to watch it later.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez, to authorize the mayor to approve the code enforcement officer's purchase of various items, up to a cumulative \$300. Motion carried 5-0.

Maintenance Operator

Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight took four loads to Coffey County Landfill during Spring Cleanup Week. He has discovered on several occasions lumber being tossed on the city's burn pile. The state permit for the burn pile strictly prohibits lumber. Dwight plans to have "No Lumber" signs made to place at the burn pile.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): Dwight and Hernandez attended the countywide CIP meeting last month. Two topics the committee is focusing on is trails and stormwater drainage. Phase 1 of the trail study involves establishing a trail between Burlington and New Strawn, including a pedestrian bridge over the Neosho River. Cook, Flatt and Strobel (CFS) Engineers estimated the cost of the trail study to be \$50-\$70,000 and the stormwater study about \$60,000. Dwight said even though the trail will run along existing city easement for the water line, separate easements will be obtained for the trail. When considering stormwater drainage in New Strawn, Dwight asked CFS to physically have a person look at drainage. Part of the stormwater drainage will involve cleaning ditches and replacing culverts.

Summer help:

Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to hire Reece Morgan for the temporary seasonal laborer position for approximately 25 hours per week at the rate of \$12 per hour from May 23 through mid to late August 2022. Motion carried 5-0.

Lagoon Maintenance: The council agreed Dwight should solicit bids for rip rap for certain areas at the city sewer lagoons.

Salt Bin: Due to escalating construction costs, Dwight plans to get new bids for a salt bin. He said costs are about 30 percent higher than when building a salt bin was first discussed.

Chemical Purchase: Dwight said suppliers are beginning to run out of chemicals, so he suggested getting chemicals earlier than normal, before he can't get them.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas, to authorize Dwight to spend up to \$2,000 for chemicals with payment divided among appropriate funds. Motion carried 5-0.

Security Cameras: – Dwight will solicit bids for security cameras and bring back to the council.

Glass Lane Survey: - The survey pins have been located for Glass Lane. Dwight requested getting a survey to ensure the pins are correctly placed.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to contact Fred Walrod about surveying Glass Lane, up to \$800.

Motion carried 5-0.

Roads: Dwight is awaiting street asphalt bids from Killough Construction and APAC – Shears. The council may need to have a special meeting to approve bids and lock in prices. Oil prices have been causing asphalt prices to continually increase. The council tentatively agreed April 20 as a possible special meeting date.

Park Restroom: D & R Builders, Garnett submitted an estimate for a new restroom building at the city lake; however, no plumbing or electric appeared to be included with the bid. The city is looking to replace the current restroom building.

Dust Control on Industrial Road: Coffey County is once again offering dust control for those applying by May 2. The price increased from \$1.50 per linear foot in recent years to \$1.70 per linear foot.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to authorize spending up to \$3,000 for dust control on Industrial Road. Motion carried 5-0.

City Clerk

City Clerk Lana Johnson was not present at the meeting; however, she submitted a written report.

City Attorney

City Attorney Philip Wright presented Ordinance No. 2022-01, which amends the MT Networks contract franchise agreement.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve Ordinance No. 2022-01, a contract franchise ordinance granted to MT networks, LLC, a telecommunications local exchange service provider providing local exchange service within the City of New Strawn. This ordinance repeals and replaces Ordinance No. 2015-09. Motion carried 5-0 with a show of hands.

Vacate Road Easement: Wright said vacating portions of streets in the south part of the city, as requested by adjoining landowners at a previous meeting, will not be as easy as first thought. Wright said a survey description will be required to draft an ordinance.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to provide up to an additional \$600 (taking into consideration the Glass Lane survey motion) to have Fred Walrod draft legal descriptions for streets in Arrow Park Addition the city wants to abandon. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor's Report

Committee Appointments:

Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the 2022 Mayor's Committee assignments. Motion carried 5-0.

The 2022 Committee assignments follow:

Community Building: David Christiansen (chair), Steven Dwight, Stephanie Baker.

Finance/Economic Development: Jeanne Haas (chair), David Christiansen, Butch Gilkison.

Park/Recreation: Johnny Hernandez (chair), Stephanie Baker, Steven Dwight.

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas (chair), Rhonda Taylor, Lana Johnson.

Public Safety: Randy Rogers (chair), Butch Gilkison, Stephanie Baker.

Streets: Rhonda Taylor (street commissioner/chair), David Christiansen, Steven Dwight.

Water/Sewer: Butch Gilkison (chair), Johnny Hernandez, Steven Dwight.

League of Kansas Municipalities Governing Body Institute: The LKM Governing Body Institute and Mayor's Conference will be held April 29-30 at the Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center, Manhattan. It will include a selection of workshops and general sessions designed to provide insight into local government issues, as well as provide useful strategies. Council members were offered the opportunity to attend. *Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez to authorize Gilkison to attend, and to pay a one-day only \$145 registration fee for Gilkison to attend Saturday, April 30, and to pay mileage. Motion carried 5-0.*

Work Session: The city council will meet 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 29, for a work session.

Finance & Economic Development Report

Council members were presented the 2021 audit as prepared by Jarred Gilmore and Phillips, CPAs.

Community Building Report

Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez, to have D & R Builders, Garnett, remove 4,800 square feet of sidewall metal on the community building and replace with 29-gauge metal, as well as replace the windows, not to exceed \$18,000. Motion carried 5-0.

Utility Report

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

Christiansen told the council he would like to proceed with rebuilding or replacing the third pump, which is not in use now.

Dwight said he fixed a small water leak in Hillview Subdivision.

Street Report

No report

Public Relations Report

Haas said New Strawn businesses and organizations had 16 tables at the March 31 Business Showcase, which was sponsored by the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce. About 75 people attended.

Haas gave a brief update on plans for Strawnfest on Saturday, June 11.

Haas suggested the city donate something for the New Strawn Fire Station silent auction on Saturday, April 16.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to donate 2 adult city fishing licenses, one large 2021 Strawnfest T-shirt and a \$10 Casey's gift certificate for the New Strawn Fire Station silent auction. Motion carried 5-0.

Parks & Recreation Report

Hernandez talked to USD 244 Recreation Director Scot Jeffers about the ball fields and possibly holding youth soccer at the fields. The biggest issue will be parking. He will keep the council updated about the issue.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Adjournment

Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.