

New Strawn Notes

April/May 2018

Mayor's Message:

What's happening in New Strawn?

By Mayor Mark Petterson

It sure has been busy at City Hall since the first of the year. A 5-plus year process culminated in March with the passage of a 20-year comprehensive plan, updated zoning regulations and subdivision regulations. However, the city is faced with new challenges with the resignation of City Clerk Kerry Templeton, effective April 9. Kerry served as city clerk for just shy of five years and has kept day-to-day operations running smoothly.

Kerry has been lending a hand by providing additional training to assistant city clerk, Doris McBride, and former city clerk, Kathy Payne, who will be serving as city clerk until a new city clerk is appointed and trained, hopefully by the end of May.

I personally want to thank Kerry for everything she has done the past five years, and I wish her well in her future endeavors. City clerk is not an easy position. Kathy and Doris are doing a good job learning what needs to be done, and every once in a while, there are some hiccups trying to figure out new situations. I certainly appreciate their efforts and hope the public will be patient and understanding as we eventually transition to a new city clerk.

The New Strawn Planning Commission held a public hearing Feb. 27 to hear public comments and answer questions concerning the proposed New Strawn Comprehensive Plan (2014-2034), subdivision regulations and zoning regulations. The planning commission recommended sending all three documents to the New Strawn City Council for approval. The New Strawn City Council held a special meeting March 15 and approved all three documents – the subdivision regulations unanimously and the other two on split 3-2 votes.

The comprehensive plan is a leadership tool, and when properly executed, guides policy making decisions in both the public and private sector. The plan establishes an extraterritorial area up to three miles outside of the city limits. State statutes allow the city, through zoning regulations, to regulate the use of land and structures, including in the extraterritorial zoning area. Coffey County has zoning regulations, so anyone outside the New Strawn city limits and within New Strawn's extraterritorial area previously had to comply with county zoning regulations; now, they will have to comply with New Strawn's zoning regulations, which are very similar to the county's zoning regulations.

The city recently contracted with Marilyn Bentley to provide janitorial services at the community building, park restrooms and city hall. She is making a noticeable difference in the short time she has been on the job.

As the city prepares in June to draft a 2019 budget, making improvements at the community building will definitely be a priority. Reskinning the building,

replacing air conditioner and furnace units, and remodeling the kitchen (and general remodeling of the building) have all been discussed by the council. Plans are to asphalt the parking lot this summer. In fact, the governing body would like the public to come to the community building for a freewill breakfast the morning of Strawnfest, June 23. The governing body will be serving the breakfast. Please come and visit with your elected officials and fellow citizens and share any ideas you may have. (See story/schedule for Strawnfest elsewhere in this newsletter)

Several weeks ago, the city participated in Coffey County's Spring Cleanup Week by picking up residential trash items and hauling them to the Coffey County Landfill, where the county allows the items to be disposed of at no cost during the designated cleanup week. The city participates in the countywide cleanup in the spring and the fall to give residents an opportunity to help keep our city clean. We are aware several areas in town need attention and we are trying to work with the property owners to achieve a neat, welcoming appearance. Your efforts to keep your property neat are greatly appreciated.

Not only do residents need to keep their property mowed, but trees overhanging the streets must also be trimmed to allow plenty of room for equipment and larger campers and RV's to pass. A city ordinance addresses the trimming of "street" trees. Reminder letters are being sent to property owners with trees identified as needing to be trimmed. Trimming trees is the responsibility of the property owner. In case the city must trim the trees, the cost will be invoiced to the property owner and any unpaid invoices eventually will be attached to the property's real estate tax.

On another "appearance" note, at the March 8 regular meeting, the city council approved spending up to \$800 to purchase Maiden Grass to be placed on the two islands at New Strawn City Lake. This is intended to improve the appearance at the city lake.

In February, the governing body worked out an agreement with MT Networks to lease space on the water tower. MT Networks is installing equipment that will allow the company to offer high-speed internet service to customers not close enough to connect to its fiber line. MT Networks anticipates to make a public announcement soon about the service.

Check out stories about New Strawn offering a Farmers Market 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays from May through October on the east side of the city hall parking lot. A veterans' banner project is also underway and funds have been approved for the 2018 asphalt street project this summer.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer!

Strawnfest is June 23

Several activities have been planned for Strawnfest on Saturday, June 23, including a breakfast, car show, fishing, money hunt, water gun fights and fireworks. Most activities will be held at the city lake. At least one food vendor plans to be at the park most of the day. Watch for flyers on update events.

Here is the schedule, so far:

7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Freewill breakfast at the New Strawn Community building (served by the governing body)

8 a.m. Trail Walk

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free catch and release fishing at New Strawn City Lake (no city permit required)

1 to 4 p.m. Putt Putt Golf (sponsored by New Strawn Branch Library)

2 p.m. Hot Wheels racing

3 p.m. Money hunt

3:30 p.m. Water gun fights (sponsored by New Strawn Fire Station)

3:30 p.m. Car show awards

9:30 p.m. Fireworks

Veterans Banner Project

The New Strawn City Council voted in February to pursue the Veteran Banner Program in conjunction with the Floyd Lewis Foundation. Members of the New Strawn Council Public Relations Committee met March 29 with representatives from other cities in Coffey County to be informed on the steps to set up a Veteran Banner Program in each city. The city also procured permission from Lyon-Coffey Electric to hang the banner holders on the light poles in the city.

Through the Veterans Banner Project, you have the opportunity to honor a veteran or someone currently active in the military while at the same time celebrating Veterans Day.

Each large banner will cost \$200 and feature your chosen military member. The banners will hang within the New Strawn City limits along Main Street for one month in conjunction with Veterans Day activities for three consecutive years. After the three-year term is completed, we will contact you to see if you would like a new banner to be hung for an additional three years or if you would like the banner returned to you.

A good quality picture is required along with a short biography on your veteran. Forms are available at New Strawn City Hall. Completed forms must be returned with a tax deductible payment (checks payable to Floyd Lewis Foundation) to New Strawn City Hall, 215 N. Main St., New Strawn, KS 66839. Placement of the Banner will be chosen when application and payment are returned to New Strawn City Hall.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Jeanne Haas (620) 364-5893 or Rhonda Taylor (620) 364-2463.

City Clerk applications

The City of New Strawn will be taking applications for city clerk until noon Thursday, May 10.

Kerry Templeton resigned as city clerk, effective April 9. Kerry had been city clerk just shy of five years.

Mayor Mark Petterson appointed Kathy Payne as city clerk, effective April 10. Kathy served about 15 years as New Strawn City Clerk in the 1980s and 1990s. She agreed to serve temporarily as city clerk until a new city clerk is appointed. Former city clerk Kerry Templeton has spent some time helping Kathy and assistant clerk Doris McBride learn various procedures.

The city council met last week and decided to make some changes to the city clerk position, namely moving the hours from full-time to a part-time position, 26 to 30 hours per week. Office hours will remain the same, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. weekdays.

The classified ad running in The Coffey County Republican reads: **CITY CLERK:** The city of New Strawn is accepting applications for the part-time position of City Clerk, 26 to 30 hours per week. Under the supervision of the mayor/city council, the City Clerk performs administrative and financial duties. The City Clerk maintains all municipal, fiscal and legal records. The City Clerk acts as contact between the citizens and the government of the city. This position is vital to the day-to-day operations of the city. The City Clerk attends work sessions and council meetings. Technical or college degree preferred. Candidate must have working experience/knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel, Quickbooks and the ability to operate office equipment. Starting salary based on experience. Benefits include vacation, life insurance and KPERS. Applications can be obtained from New Strawn City Hall, 215 Main, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Applications will be accepted through May 10 at noon.

GOVERNING BODY: Mayor Mark Petterson; council members Jim Weeks, Jeanne Haas, Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor and Richard Croll.

City Clerk: Kathy Payne

Assistant City Clerk: Doris McBride

Office Assistant: Robert Williamson

City Superintendent: Ron Parkey

Maintenance/Water Operator: Steven Dwight

City Treasurer: Brenda Klubek

Zoning Administrator: Carl Ware

NEW STRAWN PLANNING COMMISSION: Robert Harkrader, chairman, Doug Feldhausen, Mike Skillman, Kyle Hinterweger and Dale Williams.

NEW STRAWN CITY HALL

(620) 364-8283

cityclerk@newstrawn.org

www.newstrawn.org

CITY HALL HOURS

8 a.m. to noon; 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

2018 Asphalt Street Project

At its April 12 regular meeting, the council approved spending approximately \$126,000 for the 2018 asphalt street project, which includes an overlay of the City Hall parking lot and adding 4 inches of asphalt to the community building parking lot, which is currently gravel. The project involves approximately 1,708 tons of asphalt. Streets involved in the project include: 1½" asphalt overlay to Third Street – Lake Road to Cherokee, Huron Circle at Cheyenne St., Choctaw Street – Arrowhead Drive to Mohawk, Osage – Neosho to First Terrace (all streets include edge milling); 4" asphalt patch – Payne and Sorg streets. The council also approved a \$5,841 bid from Mike Schmidt Excavating for old asphalt removal and preparing the surface for the community building parking lot.

The council awarded the asphalt bid to Killough Construction. Work will be done after July 4, likely in August or September.

As funds allow, a plan exists to address other streets over the next two years.

The council previously approved adding rock to Industrial Drive, up to \$6,000. The council also approved applying for dust control for Industrial Drive by the Coffey County Highway Department, not to exceed \$2,400, starting at the north end of Industrial Drive and proceeding 1,600 feet south. Dust control is an annual expense on Industrial Drive.



NEWSTRAWN.ORG: As a reminder, the city has a website where you can go to pay your bill online, read minutes from past council meetings, peruse city ordinances or check out upcoming community events. You can also find forms, such as new account applications, community building reservation forms and other licensing forms.

Farmers Market Rules

Who May Sell

Only growers or producers may sell. A grower or producer is any person offering for sale articles such as fruits, honey, vegetables, edible grains, nuts, berries, plants, flowers, arts, crafts, preserves, jellies, jams, or baked goods, such as breads, cookies, or pies (ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFRIGERATION MAY NOT BE SOLD) which have been raised, grown, or created by his/herself, members of his/her family, or by persons in his/her employ. Sellers must be 18 years of age.

What May Not Be Sold

- Shipped-in farm products which cannot be grown or are not in season in Kansas and which are not in competition with local products, may be sold.
- Baked goods which require refrigeration (i.e. cream pies) MAY NOT be sold.
- Homemade salsa MAY NOT be sold.
- Meat MAY NOT be sold.
- Guns & Knives MAY NOT be sold.
- Rummage/Garage sale items MAY NOT be sold.
- Hazardous Items/Materials (i.e. fireworks, ammunition) MAY NOT be sold.

What May Be Sold

Fresh agricultural produce, arts and crafts, preserves, jams, jellies, honey, bread, and baked goods such as breads, cookies, or pies may be sold. Produce is defined as fruit, vegetables, preserves, honey, bread products, baked goods, flowers, and plants. Produce should be mature but not overripe, void of decay, have good external and internal appearance, and must be clean and free of contamination. Arts and crafts are defined as hand-made arts and crafts.

Fresh farm eggs may be sold as nest-run (i.e. ungraded). Such eggs must be sold ONLY to household customers. The eggs must be clean and free from checks. If containers are used for the sale of eggs, they MUST either be new or the old labeling must be removed or marked out completely. If you are selling fertilized eggs, you must advise the buyer of this. While farm fresh eggs do not require immediate refrigeration, you should use common sense in this

situation. Be prepared to refrigerate or otherwise keep the eggs cool (not frozen) during long, hot markets. Further, you might consider taking orders from consumers. NOTE: the eggs must be from the producer's (i.e. Seller's) own flock of hens.

How Produce May Be Sold

Produce may be sold by weight, volume or count. If selling by weight, your scales are subject to inspection by the Division of Weights and Measures. Only oil-balance and spring scales (stating "Temperature Compensated") are certified for trade. Therefore, selling by count or volume may prove to be easier. However, you may want scales to give the customer an idea of the weight of the volume being sold. Such a scale should be marked "For Estimate Only".

Each producer will have the privilege and responsibility to establish prices on his/her own products.

Producer should provide containers (i.e. bags/ sacks) for the consumers.

Each producer should post a sign in a conspicuous manner in his/her area, identifying the producer by name. Lettering must be clearly legible.

All producers should prepare on poster board or cardboard in large print a list of their products and prices, or in some other way indicate the prices of various products.

Just as a reminder, be prepared to make change for the customer.

Exchange and Refunds

Exchange of produce and/or refunds on produce will be left to the discretion of the producer.

State Taxation

Each producer and seller will be responsible for their collection and payment of sales tax.

Schedule

The Farmers Market will begin the third Wednesday in May and will run through the last Wednesday in October.

The Market is open Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

NO EARLY SET-UPS