

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, August 10, 2017  
New Strawn City Hall  
7:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Mark Petterson called the regular monthly meeting of the New Strawn City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Those present were:            Council Member Jim Weeks  
   Council Member Kraig Kirchner  
   Council Member Bobby Bryant  
   Council Member Jeanne Haas  
   Council Member Gary Haehn

Others present were:

City Clerk Kerry Templeton	City Superintendent Ron Parkey
County Commissioner Bob Saueressig	Sue Haehn
Rhonda Taylor	Jeff Chandler
Alisa James	Glenda Perkins
Liz Alford	

**Flag Salute:** The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Additions:**

Financial Report:

- c. **ADDED:** Special Tax Assessments

Staff Reports:

City Superintendent/Code Enf/Animal Control:

- b. **ADDED:** Mowing Letters

City Clerk:

- e. **ADDED:** Yearbook Ad

Community Building Report:

- b. **ADDED:** Waiver of Rental Fee for Charity Events

Park & Recreation Report:

- a. **ADDED:** Playground Equipment/Grant
- b. **ADDED:** Staining

**Consent Agenda Additions:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

- Move to approve the July 2017 warrants in the amount of \$57,049.26
- Move to approve the July 2017 payroll in the amount of \$12,642.09

Council member Haehn moved to enter into a Budget Hearing for the 2018 proposed budget. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Petterson stated that the City of New Strawn had published the proposed budget for 2018 in the Coffey County Republican and the purpose of the Budget Hearing was to hear any comments and answer questions the public may have in regards to the budget. He then asked for public comments or questions. There were none.

Council member Haehn moved to close the Budget Hearing for the 2018 proposed budget. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council member Haehn moved to approve agenda with additions as presented. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comments:**

Sue Haehn was of the opinion that Council should not waive rental fees for charity events that would like to use the community building.

Alisa James stated that perhaps Council could offer the rental of the community building for charity events at a reduced cost.

Council member Weeks moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

**Financial Report:**

Council member Weeks moved to approve the 2018 budget as published. Bryant seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Council member Bryant moved to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$17,071.96. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Templeton stated that the Coffey county clerk's office had been notified that the City is assessing an additional amount to the property taxes of two property owners in New Strawn. Both assessments are for the recovery of funds that the City expended to remove nuisance weeds and grass on the properties.

**Staff Reports:**

Superintendent Parkey conveyed to Council that Leonard Jirak had inquired if Council might consider trading a portion of the money he owes, \$1,700.00 for fish cages the city sold to him, for fish to stock the City Lake in 2018. Council was not interested in the trade.

Parkey reported that a chlorine burn-out had been performed on the water system and that people may have noticed a strong chlorine smell and taste to the water recently. He said that the burn-out was nearing the end so the smell and taste should start to dissipate. The purpose of the burn-out is to clean the pipes.

Parkey stated that five certified letters had been mailed to property owners reminding them of the City's ordinance regarding the height of grass and weeds. Three had already abated the problem.

Parkey reported that he had been in contact with Bettis Asphalt & Construction regarding a start date for the proposed street work for the City. He stated he was told that Bettis is running behind on a project and anticipated being able to begin New Strawn's work within the next one to two weeks.

Parkey discussed some street damage that occurred on Cheyenne Street during construction of a building project. Parkey said he was notified of the damage approximately ten minutes after it had happened and was told that when the curb was cut and the contractor went to remove equipment from the property, the edge of the asphalt was broken. Parkey discussed repair of the damage with the contractor and it was felt that a hot mix of asphalt would be the best method to use, as opposed to cold patch. When Bettis Asphalt & Construction is in town performing the asphalt street work Parkey will have them repair the damage on Cheyenne Street. He was not certain of how much asphalt would be needed but felt it would not be very much. Cost to repair the damage is the responsibility of the property owner per City Code.

Clerk Templeton discussed recent KOMA, Kansas Open Meetings Act, legislative changes for executive sessions with Council.

Templeton stated that two requests for donations had been received; one from the Coffey County Cancer Support Group's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Classic, and one from Life Care Center for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alzheimer's Glow Run/Walk. Burlington High School had also inquired about the City purchasing a yearbook ad. Templeton noted that the City had not donated to the golf classic in recent years, but had donated to the Life Care Center event last year, as well as purchasing an ad for the yearbook. Council member Bryant moved to donate \$25.00 to Life Care Center for the Annual Alzheimer's Glow Run/Walk and to purchase a \$25.00 yearbook ad from Burlington High School. Haehn seconded. Motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Haas voting nay.

Templeton reported that she had recently performed another address audit for New Strawn after discussions with Coffey County Emergency Management. Templeton said that the audit was prompted by several issues, including the fact that the City's platted streets were depicted as numerical and not alphabetical. All data bases should match the platted information; 'First Street' should be 1<sup>st</sup> Street in the data base. Another issue was directional designations such as 'North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street' or 'West Neosho Street'. Those have been removed in the data base. Templeton noted that these changes should have no effect on postal deliveries.

Zoning Administrator Carl Ware reported that one building permit had been issued, Permit 2017-B-12 to Mark Hall to erect a deck at 365 3rd St.

Ware also stated that the New Strawn Planning Commission will meet on August 24 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to continue review and work on the proposed new zoning and sub-division regulations. He stressed that there was a lot of work to do before the planning commission would be ready to present anything at a public hearing or to council.

#### **Mayor's Report:**

Council member Haehn moved to approve the July 13, 2017 regular council meeting minutes. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council reviewed proposed Ordinance No. 2017-06, an ordinance amending the code of the City of New Strawn regarding fire prevention and open burning in the city. The ordinance defined

'open burning' and outlined several exemptions such as fires set for the purpose of clearing brush or trees in agricultural zones, barbecue grills, campfires in approved camping areas, fire pits and chimeneas. All other open burns must have permission from Coffey County and must comply with the Coffey County burning requirements. There was discussion. Council member Haas noted that the minutes from the June regular council meeting reflected that the motion voted on and approved by a 3-1 vote indicated that no open burning would be allowed outside of an agricultural area within city limits. However, the ordinance as written would still allow open burns if permission was obtained from Coffey County. Weeks and Bryant agreed that the intent of the motion at the June meeting was to prohibit any open burning from occurring outside of an agriculturally zoned area. Haehn was of the opinion it was ridiculous that the council was trying to prohibit residents from burning leaves, grass clippings, etc. and felt Council was trying to be too restrictive. Mayor Petterson was of the opinion the City's current ordinance should not be amended and that open burning should continue to be allowed as long as a burn permit is obtained from the county. The mayor went on to state that if Council attempts to pass an ordinance prohibiting all open burning within city limits outside of an agricultural area he will veto the ordinance. The item was tabled and will be revisited at the September regular council meeting.

No voting delegate was appointed for the League of KS Municipalities Annual Conference in Wichita as no council member plans on attending.

Council member Weeks moved to recess into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception for five minutes. Open meeting will resume at 8:01 p.m. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular council meeting resumed at 8:01 p.m.

Council member Haehn moved to recess into executive session to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception for five minutes. Open meeting will resume at 8:08 p.m. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular council meeting resumed at 8:08 p.m.

#### **Finance and Economic Development:**

None

#### **Community Building Report:**

Clerk Templeton stated that Radiant Life Church had inquired about the possibility of having the rental fee waived for the rental of the community building on October 21. The church will be hosting a men's event with guest speaker John Godwin from *Duck Dynasty* and will be charging a small fee for attendees to cover the cost of the speaker. The City discounts the rental fee by 50% for all non-profit groups but Templeton noted that she recently had several inquiries about waiving the rental fee completely for certain charity events to be held at the community building. There was discussion and Council did not feel the rental fee should be waived for Radiant Life Church, but they should be given the 50% discount. Council agreed that charity events should have rental fees waived.

**Utility Report:**

Council member Weeks discussed reseeding the grass along the drainage ditch near Shawnee and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He had contacted Danny Hess regarding the issue and Mr. Hess had conveyed to Weeks that reseeding could be done for about \$250.00.

Superintendent Parkey stated that the area in question looked as if weed killer may have been used on it. Parkey could not say with any certainty who may have sprayed it but the dead areas appeared to be too neat and orderly to have appeared randomly. The area is on private property so the owner may have chosen to do so. There was discussion. Council member Weeks moved to have Danny Hess reseed the area, cost not to exceed \$250.00, and to speak with the property owner about his intentions regarding the grassy area. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Haehn voting nay.

**Street Report:**

Possible violation of an approved building permit was discussed. A building permit was issued to Richard & Susan Croll to build a shop at 104 Cheyenne Street; however the application did not include a driveway. Council member Bryant was of the opinion that since a building permit must be obtained to pour a driveway, the Crolls were in violation of their approved permit and would need to apply for a separate permit for the driveway and pay a \$50.00 fee. Council was in agreement. Council member Weeks noted that per City Code Article 2, Section 13-203 the Crolls also failed to obtain a permit to cut the curb. There was discussion. Council member Bryant moved to waive the \$5.00 excavation permit fee for the Crolls and to strike Section 13-203 from the New Strawn City Code. Motion failed for lack of a second. Council member Bryant moved to strike Section 13-203 from the New Strawn City Code. Motion failed for lack of a second.

**Public Relations Report:**

There was discussion concerning the progress of the City's proposed Comprehensive Plan and new zoning and subdivision regulations. Council member Weeks stated that some residents were upset over certain proposed changes. Mayor Petterson stated that the New Strawn Planning Commission is still reviewing and revising the proposed new zoning and subdivision regulations and once they have completed that task there will be a public hearing.

**Park & Recreation Report:**

Council member Haehn discussed moving forward with pursuing a Jones Trust Grant for new playground equipment. The item had been discussed at the July regular council meeting and it was felt that a committee needed to be formed to work on the grant. Mayor Petterson was of the opinion that the committee should consist of council members as well as members of the community. Volunteers will be sought for the committee.

Haehn discussed the need to finish staining items located in the City Park before winter sets in.

**Public Safety Report:**

Council briefly discussed parking boats on city streets. There is nothing in the City Code that prohibits it unless an emergency snow route is being blocked.

**New Business:**

A possible nuisance violation at 238 3<sup>rd</sup> Street pertaining to abandoned/junked vehicles was discussed. Parkey will investigate.

**Old Business:**

The dilapidated state of the Siebuhr house on 4<sup>th</sup> Street was discussed.

Council member Weeks and Haehn were concerned with the amount of vehicles that are beginning to accumulate on the Chandler property at 110 Decker Street.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.