

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2023

PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council members: Jeanne Haas, Stephanie Baker and Butch Gilkison

Absent: David Christiansen and Johnny Hernandez

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

Others: Greg Holmquist, Mark Petterson, Jaclyn Smith-Nelson, Ryan Nelson, Ryan Akers and John Hickman.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

2024 Budget Hearing:

Gilkison moved, seconded by Haas to enter into a budget hearing for the 2024 proposed budget.

Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Taylor: This is an open public hearing, The proposed budget for 2024, if approved, will raise \$151,293 from property taxes at a tax rate of 37.176 mills. Are there any public comments regarding the 2024 proposed budget?

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison to close the budget hearing for the 2024 proposed budget. **Motion carried 3-0.**

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

Maintenance Operator: Coffey County Highway Dept Request at the end of report

Financial Reports: b: 2024 Budget Approval

CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

*Baker moved, seconded by Haas to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 3-0.***

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes: Move to approve special meeting minutes of July 13, 2023.

Move to approve meeting minutes of July 13, 2023.

Warrants: Move to approve the Warrants dated July 11, 2023 through August 7, 2023 in the amount of \$32,983.08.

Payroll: Move to approve the July, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$10,973.68.

Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

a. John Hickman, Benefit Consultant – HIC Agency, Inc – Employee Health Insurance
John Hickman introduced himself and presented information on Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance options for the city employees. The council thanked him for his time and planned to discuss this more in the insurance portion of the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Additional Warrants – None
- b. 2024 Budget Approval

Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the 2024 Budget as published. Motion carried 3-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Zoning Administrator

- Zoning Administrator Collins reported that one Zoning Application has been turned in and is being reviewed.

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

Code Enforcement Wards reported there has been some property cleanup but it’s moving slowly. What does he need to do to get this moving? **City Attorney Wright:** Cite them, give them notice, public meeting and the council chooses to do so they can be found in violation and the city can pay to have the property taken care. It would be added to their taxes as a special assessment.

There is an abandoned vehicle that is being dealt with.

Maintenance Operator

- Water Pump Update – Started removing old pumps on Tuesday, August 8th. When they started removing pump 3 there was a large section of the pipe column rusted out and gone. The new pumps are in and about ready for use. The council approved *Steven* to get bids for a switch box for the pump building.

- Rip Rap Update – probably won’t be completed in 2023.
- Annual Sewer Clean Out – sewer clean out went well. There is one pipe that has rust

and a liner is needed. The council approved *Steven* to get quotes.

- Culverts – the county isn’t going to order until fall. The motion didn’t say we had to order from the county, would the council be ok with ordering direct? Storage isn’t an issue. He is to check pricing.

- Bradford Pear Tree Replacement – would like to see the city purchase a couple of good trees to replace some of the pear trees that had been removed. Council Member Haas mentioned having *Steve Strawder* put together a tree plan.

- Coffey County Highway Dept reached out. The county has a blade and bushhog

parked behind the fire department. The fire department needs that area so the county asked about parking their equipment by the city shop. The county would set their own pad and can access their own power. There would be no cost to the city.

Baker moved, seconded by Haas to allow the county to park in the city shop parking lot at no cost to the city. Motion carried 3-0.

City Clerk

- City of Burlington - Water Rate Increase – City Attorney Wright: The City of Burlington will be passing an ordinance raising the water rates.
- Request for More Handicapped Parking at the Community Center – There was a request after Strawnfest that the city have more handicapped parking spots at the community center. Steven mentioned he can add one more spot in the north west corner. The council asked that be taken care of.
- QuickBooks Training August 17 & 24
- Resident Appreciation of Paul’s Good Work – a resident brought a Hometown pie in to give to Paul Richister in appreciation of all of his hard work. City Attorney Wright asked that Paul be told to not volunteer his time on city property in the future. He is to stick with his work schedule.
- Community Building Rentals
 - August – 15th I.B.E.W, 23rd John Redmond CORPS Training*
 - September – 9th OK Kids, 19th I.B.E.W.*

City Attorney

Has not heard back from the employment attorney on the employee handbook. Council Member Haas asked about Kwikom up-date listed under old business. Kwikom has not provided a revised agreement or a list of equipment they have on the city tower.

Mayor’s Report

- a. Contract Janitor – Update

No applications have been received.

Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas - no report

Community Center Report – Stephanie Baker

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve the appointment by the mayor of Stephanie Baker to chair of the Community Center Committee. Motion carried 3-0.

Utility Report – Butch Gilkison

- a. Water Usage & Loss Report

Council Member Gilkison presented the Water Usage and Loss Report. Maintenance Operator Dwight reports that there is a small leak around one of the valves and that will need to be addressed. Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, Dwight Center lagoons are low. They will be purchasing more water to get the lagoons at the correct levels.

Street Report- Rhonda Taylor – no report

Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas

- a. Coffey County BBQ Donation

Gilkison moved, seconded by Baker to approve the donation of \$100 to the Smoke on the River BBQ Competition. Motion carried 3-0.

Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez

- a. Disc Golf Update – City Clerk Johnson reported having set up an account with Dynamic Distribution so the order can be placed. She is waiting for the Council Member Hernandez to let know what is to be ordered.

INSURANCE/PERSONNEL: - Stephanie Baker/Lana Johnson

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to hold a special meeting on August 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm to discuss health insurance for employees. Motion carried 3-0.

New Business

Old Business:

- a. Kwikom Tower Lease - Update

Adjournment:

Baker, seconded by Haas, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.