

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2022

PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

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

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight arrived at 7:06, City Attorney Philip Wright arrived at 7:08,

Code Enforcement Randy Rogers, Zoning Administrator Cody Collins and City Clerk Lana Johnson.

Others: Mark Petterson, Steve Laird and Jim Weeks.

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/CHANGES: None

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes: Move to approve meeting minutes of July 14, 2022.

Move to approve the special meeting minutes of July 14, 2022.

Warrants: Move to approve the warrants dated July 12, 2022, through August 8, 2022 in the amount of \$14,203.67.

Payroll: Move to approve the July 2022 payroll in the amount of \$14,597.40.

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

- a. Martha Newkirk – Coffey County Cancer Support Group – The 8th Annual Golf Classic will be held August 20th at the Rock Creek Country Club. Tournament proceeds will be used to help area cancer patients who are undergoing treatments. Some of the funds are for gas cards purchased at Lewis Oil so the families will have gas to go to their treatments.

Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to approve a donation of \$250 to the Coffey County Cancer Support Group for an "Eagle" white sign, hole sponsorship. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Weeks said he went to a County Commissioners meeting in June and it was mentioned that the county may have more funds for the cities. He encouraged the City of New Strawn to put a proposal together requesting more funds from the county.

Steve Laird asked if the council had looked into Livin Loud and what will be done. Mayor Taylor let Mr. Laird know that Public Comment was for the public to comment and the council was not to interact.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. No additional warrants.

STAFF REPORTS

Zoning Administrator no report

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

Code Enforcement Officer Randy Rogers reported having prepared letters to be send out for nuisance properties. He is trying to work with property owners on unregistered vehicles and tall grass. He also mentioned that the City of Burlington has an ordinance on vehicles that he would like to look into.

Maintenance Operator

Water Meters – 40 new water meters have been delivered.

CIP – Walking Trails, Maintenance Operator Dwight presented a map for the city and surrounding area. He asked that the council give suggestions for where they would like to see walking/running trails developed in the city. The engineers will be taking a look at the entire city for flooding issues.

Shelter House – Concrete, tree roots have moved concrete by the shelter house in Jones Park. The council gave approval to request bids to remove the broken concrete, remove the tree roots in the area and replace the concrete. He will include filling the horse shoe pits at the same time.

Backhoe Bids - Dwight presented bids from VLP/Equipment Share and Murphy Tractor & Equipment for backhoes and gave the council the pros and cons for each.
Hernandez moved, seconded by Gilkison to purchase a Case 580SN backhoe from VLP/Equipment Share not to exceed \$103,634 funds to be used from the Equipment Fund. Motion carried 5-0.

Water Pump Update – water pumps are on still on backorder and the company doesn't know if/when they may be in. They are also trying to locate a motor for a pump in stock. There was discussion on having a motor "reworked" to fit the pump.

The cpu card burnt out on the Comtronics telemetry radio for the water system. It has been replaced and working fine.

The trailer ramps that had been stolen from the shop several months ago have been located and returned.

City Clerk

2023 New Strawn Library – council members agreed that the New Strawn Library can continue using the Community Center for public programs.

The League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference – agenda to conference provided to council.

KOMA/KORAA – training schedule was presented. City Attorney Wright encouraged everyone to look into the training.

Baker moved, seconded by Haas to allow anyone that wants to participate in the Kansas League of Municipalities KOMA/KORA training. Motion carried 5-0.

Community Building Rentals - August 1st – 3rd Election, 5th Lifeline Screening, 6th Private Event, 7th Private Event, 11th WCNO Training, 12th I.B.E.W., 16th I.B.E.W., 29th – 31st WCNO September 1st – 30th half days WCNO, 10th OK Kids, 13th New Strawn Library, 16th Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers Auction, 20th I.B.E.W., 23rd – 25th Private Event

City Attorney

Personnel Rules and Regulations – will look at the changes the council is asking for but it might be best to check with an employment attorney.

Zoning – the council had asked about removing building inspector from the Zoning Regulations but it is such a big job it may need to be billed by the hour.

Mayor's Report

Marilyn Bentley - Resignation

Gilkison moved, seconded by Christiansen accept the resignation of Marilyn Bentley with regrets. Motion carried 5-0.

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison to run an ad for contract janitor in The Coffey County Republican. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance & Economic Development Report – No Report

Community Building Report

Council Member Christiansen presented a quote from Murray Electric for updating lights and ceiling fans. *Gilkison moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve replacing lights and fans at the Community Center cost not to exceed \$6,200 using Infrastructure Funds. Motion carried 5-0.*

Utility Report

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

Street Report

Killough should be in town for street repairs after they are finished with their Burlington projects.

Public Relations Report

Council Member Haas asked if Dead End Audio planned a notification of their next event. Clerk Johnson had a conversation with the owner on August 9th about notifying neighbors, advertising on Facebook and City Hall posting notice on the electronic board. Council Member Hernandez suggested putting notice on the next water bill. Their next event will be on September 10th.

Parks & Recreation Report

Eagle Project – A letter was received from Landon Myers with an update of his project. It has been approved and he will be starting to refurbish the basketball court and benches as soon as possible weather permitting.

New Business - None

Old Business

TrustPoint Insurance

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to contact TrustPoint Insurance to increase the insurance coverage for location #1 and #5. Motion carried 5-0.

Sell and Discharge of Fireworks – The council asked City Attorney Wright to change the ordinance regarding the discharge of fireworks to match the dates of the sale of fireworks.

City Owned Lots – County Appraiser GSI maps were provided for all lots owned by the city. Clerk Johnson also provided parcel search results with land descriptions and current tax values. The council will review and this will be added to old business for September.

Adjournment:

Hernandez moved, seconded by Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.