

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, August 12, 2021

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor, Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas & Jim Weeks

Staff Present: Martha Newkirk – Zoning Administrator, Steven Dwight - Maintenance Operator, Lana Johnson – City Clerk, Philip Wright – City Attorney

Others Present: John Waner, Robert Harkrader, Colin Sleezer, Bob Saueressig, Ethan & Sarah Rice, Bobbi Gellhaus, Scot Jeffers, Sherri O’Keefe, Carla Hoch and David Christiansen

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2022 BUDGET HEARING:

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to enter into a Budget Hearing for the 2022 proposed budget.

Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Petterson explained the public hearing is open. The proposed budget for 2022, if approved, will raise \$151,333 from property taxes at a tax rate of 39.664 mills. No comments regarding the budget.

Haas moved, seconded by Taylor to close the Budget Hearing for the 2022 proposed budget. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Council Member Weeks added under New Business (A) a 10-minute executive session regarding non-elected personnel, moving City Council Position - Resignation/Appointment to (B).

Council Member Haehn added under Parks & Recreation (A) Basketball Courts.

Haehn moved, seconded by Croll, to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve meeting minutes of July 8, 2021.
- Move to approve the special meeting minutes of July 8, 2021
- Move to approve the Warrants dated July 6, 2021 through August 10, 2021 in the amount of \$87,435.44
- Move to approve the July, 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$13,269.01

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carried 5-0.**

APPOINTMENTS:

- TrustPoint Insurance - Bobbi Gellhaus, CISR, Insurance Agent presented a dividend check for \$4,225.60 from EMC Insurance.
- Coffey County Cancer Support Group

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to donate \$250 to the Coffey County Support Group. Funds to be used from General Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- Burlington Recreation Center – Scot Jeffers

Scot would like to have committee to evaluate the cost of developing city land by the baseball fields for soccer. Council Member Croll had spoken with Mike Skillman about the parking area. A corner of the Skillman property might be able to be added to the parking. A rough quote to develop the parking lot is around \$45,000. Mayor Petterson mentioned that Jim Schuessler will be speaking at the next board meeting regarding the Community Improvement Plan and the sports complex was in the plans. Council Member Croll mentioned a possible loan from the county.

Haehn moved, seconded by Taylor to form a committee with USD 244 to pursue the development of the New Strawn Sports Complex. **Motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Colin Sleezer informed the council that the cul-de-sac in front of his house on Algonquin Dr catches water and won't drain. Mayor Petterson told him that a stormwater survey is one of the items that is in the Community Improvement Plan. Clerk Johnson mentioned that the Sleezer property was already on the list for the survey.

Robert Harkrader – USDA Safety Training for southeast Kansas, would like to hold an ATV safety training in the field west of the ball diamond. A liability waiver is signed by all participants.

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll to allow Robert Harkrader the use of a lot west of the city ball field, contingent on approval of City Attorney, for safety training, September 8, 2021. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Sarah and Ethan Rice introduced themselves as the new owners of the former golf course property. They would like to help with community development and housing. 20 acres sold off very quickly. People enjoy fishing in the ponds and Sarah asked if the city would be interested in purchasing it for development. Council Member Croll said holes #1 and #9 would not be able to be used for anything and maybe it would be best if the city could purchase the area for a fitness trail. Mayor Petterson confirmed with Colin Sleezer that Mike Bauman owns the north end of the golf building and Mike Skillman owns the south end. Council Member Weeks asked about keeping the frontage area mowed and weed-eated. Sarah said they had just had a baby and had hired out the mowing of the property. Council Member Haas asked how much land (holes #1 and #9) to which Sarah said 8 acres. Sarah also mentioned that they are working with Bobby Skipper on lot sizes, electric and sewer. They are also working with Zoning Administrator Newkirk. They discussed possible access from 4th and Cheyenne. Mayor Petterson asked if they were working on ideas before they plat to which Sarah responded Yes, we only want to do it one time. Council member Weeks mentioned they could still develop #1 down to which Sarah said possible 5 acre lots. Council Member Weeks asked are we going to get it cleaned up to which Sarah responded, we are working on it Mr. Weeks. Council Member Taylor thanked the Rice family for coming.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- 2022 Budget Approval

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn to accept the 2022 Budget as published. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report:

Zoning books have been updated and ready for the Council. The 3 official copies in the office have been updated along with one for the library. Zoning Administrator Newkirk thanked Clerk Johnson for her help with the copying.

Council Member Haehn asked Zoning Administrator Newkirk if she inspects after the build to which Newkirk responded I don't measure it off. Council Member Haehn said according to the code it's supposed to be inspected. Maintenance Operator Dwight commented that she isn't a code inspector. Council Member Haas said the building code says Administrator would inspect. Zoning Administrator Newkirk informed the council that with proper tools she could measure from the street to the building at the time of construction.

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Golf Course Grass - Weeks

Council Member Weeks commented that since day one the golf course hasn't been mowed out front and people are tired of driving by and it not being mowed. City Attorney said you mow for self-pride. Council Member Weeks said to tell them they have two weeks to clean it up or the city will mow. Council Member Croll asked to whose standards? Council Member Taylor said we shouldn't pick on them with all of the other properties in town. Council Member Haehn is tired of talking and not doing anything. Council Member Taylor asked can you not see the progress? Mayor Petterson said don't expect it to be maintained like a golf course.

Maintenance Operator Report:

- Mulch Quote

Mayor Petterson asked if we had checked into possible waste tire grants from the State of Kansas for mulch.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to accept a bid for mulch from Recycled Rubber Products, in the amount of \$2,493 for four bags of rubber mulch plus shipping. Funds to be used from Parks.

Motion carried 5-0.

- Chlorine Building – is falling apart. It might be best if the building was replaced. We could take the building down and dispose of it. Would like to be able to get quotes for a 2x4 framed building and siding. Council Member Taylor asked Steven to get quotes for regulators also.
- Chlorine jetter for tower would turn the water in the tower, could be solar or electric.

Council Member Croll asked what happened today. Maintenance Operator Dwight said they were replacing a meter pit and the spade went through a schedule 20 pipe. There was no way to isolate it and the tower had to be shut down. Council Member Taylor said we need more isolation valves.

There is a small leak on Hillview and Johnny, dug for several days but still haven't located it. Hydrovac still isn't available.

There was a hobo about 3 weeks ago staying at the park. No Camping signs have been ordered.

City Clerk Report:

- ARPA funds of \$28,824.26 arrived on 7/21/21
- Stamps – price of stamps are going up. Plan to buy more before that happens
- KS/IIMC Certification Institute Year 2

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll to approve \$485 registration fee plus lodging and meal expense according to City policy for Clerk Johnson to attend training for Kansas/IIMC Certification Institute Year II in Wichita, November 8 – 10, 2021 to be paid from General Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- City Hall closed 11/11/21 – November Council meeting will be 11/18/21
- Community Building Calendar – rentals

August - 8th – Private Event, 10th – Private Event, 17th – IEBW, 24th – New Strawn Library
September – 11th – OK Kids, 21st - IBEW

City Attorney Report:

Council Member Haas asked City Attorney about a comment in the July 8, City Council Meeting Minutes “zoning should be zoning, not building”. Wright replied that for regulating building you should be trained in the city code. A special meeting may be needed to address building references as a building inspector. The city has a zoning administrator, not a building inspector.

Mayor’s Report: no report

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas – no report

Community Building Report: Richard Croll

- Metal siding

Still waiting on numbers for residing the community building. Will need to get a quote to replace the park restroom. The existing pad could be used but upgrade the electrical, plumbing and make ADA compliant. Also add a fish cleaning station on the back.

- Coffey County Library – New Strawn Branch

Croll moved, seconded by Taylor to waive fees for the New Strawn Branch Library to use the Community Building on August 24, 2021. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

Water Usage & Loss Report

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

- Waiting on Complete Pavement to do the maintenance on the roads and parking lot. They are running behind due to rain in other areas but have been keeping Steven up to date.

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas – no report

Parks and Recreation Report: Gary Haehn

- Added to agenda – Basketball Courts

Council Member Haehn said he wanted to ask Charlie Whitworth for a bid to paint basketball court and benches. Mayor Petterson asked for an update on the pickleball courts. Council Member Haehn said he would have more information for the September meeting.

Public Safety Report: - no report

New Business:

Added to agenda – Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with City Attorney not to exceed 10 minutes at 8:35. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Returned to open session at 8:45. Council Member Weeks explained it was not executive session information and could be discussed in open session. He was suggesting a monthly work focus (one month focused on parks, the next month focus on water, etc.). Mayor Petterson reminded the council that if there are issues with non-elected personnel the council is to meet with him and he would go to the non-elected personnel. Personnel issues do not have to be addressed in a council meeting.

- City Council Position – Resignation/Appointment

Mayor Petterson read a letter of resignation from Council Member Croll.

Weeks moved, seconded by Taylor, with regrets, to accept Richard Croll's letter of resignation effective immediately. **Motion carried 3-1.** Taylor opposed. Croll is serving an unexpired term as count treasurer.

Mayor Petterson appointed Johnny Hernandez to fill the unexpired term of Richard Croll as city council member.

Taylor moved, seconded by Haas to approve Mayor Petterson's appointment of Johnny Hernandez to fill in for the unexpired term for Richard Croll. **Motion carried 4-0.** Mayor Petterson said his appointment of Hernandez was intended to have a better representation of the city, since all but one of the city council members live in the north part of New Strawn.

Old Business:

- Zoning Ordinances

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to have a work session including Zoning Administrator Newkirk on September 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Correspondence: N/A

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.