

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2022

PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council members: Jeanne Haas, David Christiansen (arrived at 7:04), Stephanie Baker and Butch Gilkison

Absent: Johnny Hernandez

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, City Attorney Philip Wright (arrived at 8:03), and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Others: Bob Saueressig and Greg Holmquist

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

Gilkison moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:

License: B: 2023-P-01 Plumbing License for Mason Plumbing

C: 2023-P-02 Plumbing License for Victory Excavating, LLC

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

Minutes: Move to approve meeting minutes of November 10, 2022.

Warrants: Move to approve the Warrants dated November 8, 2022 through December 5, 2022 in the amount of \$43,158.34.

Payroll: Move to approve the November, 2022 Payroll in the amount of \$8,936.72.

LICENSE: Move to approve 2023-C-01, Contractor License for Abendroth Builders.

Move to approve 2023-P-01 Plumbing License for Mason Plumbing

Move to approve 2023-P-02 Plumbing License for Victory Excavating, LLC

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

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Additional warrants

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$525.85. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Zoning Administrator

Approved Zoning Permit 2022-Z-05, Frank Beyer for a 24' x 30' accessory building.

Approved Zoning Permit 2022-Z-06, Andrew Trupin, manufactured home on 5th St.

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

Mayor Taylor reported that she dropped off job info to both Burlington Police Department and the Coffey County Sheriff's Office. There are a few code issues that she is working on.

Maintenance Operator

CIP - Walking Trails – no meeting

Electric for Salt Bin – received permission from the council to request bids.

Road Salt – should be delivered soon.

Pocket color meters came in today.

Furnace at City Hall has needed more repairs. We will need to plan to replace it.

Banner Bands – more have been ordered.

City Clerk

A veterans wife called City Hall to thank the city and employees for hanging the veteran's banners. It is much appreciated.

Community Center Key Pickup

*Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison Move to charge a \$25 fee for after-hours calls to pick up keys for the Community Center. **Motion carried 4-0.***

Several residents called to borrow or rent the tables and chairs from the community Center for Thanksgiving. The tables and chairs are for rent with the center but are not to be removed from the property.

Community Building Rentals

*December 2nd – 4th Private Event, 7th New Strawn Library, 13th New Strawn Library, 14th & 15th New Strawn Fire Department, 17th Private Event, 20th I.B.E.W., 25th Private Event
January - none*

City Attorney – No Report

Mayor's Report

Salary Caps

Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to increase the average salary caps set in May 2015 by 24.6%.

Motion carried 4-0.

Days Office Closed for Christmas

*Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to close city Hall an additional day on Friday, December 23rd and pay employees. **Motion carried 4-0.***

City Owned Lots – Update – Mayor Taylor and Maintenance Operator Dwight met with the realtor to sign the agreement to place 2 city lots on the market. No other updates.

Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas

Christmas Gift/Bonus

*Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve Chamber Bucks of \$100 to full-time employees, Steven Dwight and Lana Johnson. **Motion carried 4-0.***

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker to approve Chamber Bucks of \$50 to part-time employees, Brenda Klubek, Cody Collins, Robert Williamson and Philip Wright. **Motion carried 4-0.***

Community Building Report – David Christiansen

In 2022 the community center was updated with new siding, new lights and fans. What should the next updates be?

Utility Report – Butch Gilkison

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

Council Member Gilkison and Dwight to go over the Emergency Water Plan.

Maintenance Operator Dwight reported that water at the tower had been losing the chlorine residual. He would like to look into a system to add chlorine at the tower for summer. Council approved looking into a system.

Street Report- Rhonda Taylor

The street cracking appears to have stopped for now.

Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas

Yard of the Month – Judging will be December 17th and 18th and votes should be turned in to City Hall on the 19th.

New Strawn Library Donation

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve a donation of \$50 to the New Strawn Library to help support their Christmas activities. Motion carried 4-0.

Parks & Recreation Report

The concrete guys will be working on the shelter house when they can work it into their schedule.

New Business -

Employee Reviews

Gilkison moved, seconded by Haas to go into executive session at 7:53 pm for 15 minutes pursuant to non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and to discuss personnel for the purpose of performing employee evaluation with Mayor and Council. Motion carried 4-0.

Back in regular session at 8:08 at the council table.

Haas, seconded by Christiansen to go into executive session at 8:10 pm for 5 minutes pursuant to non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and to discuss personnel for the purpose of performing employee evaluation with Mayor and Council. Motion carried 4-0.

Back in regular session at 8:15 at the council table.

Haas, seconded by Christiansen to go into executive session at 8:20 pm for 10 minutes pursuant to non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and to discuss personnel for the purpose of performing employee evaluation with Mayor, Council and City Clerk Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

Back in regular session at 8:30 at the council table.

Haas, seconded by Christiansen to go into executive session at 8:31 pm for 10 minutes pursuant to non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and to discuss personnel for the purpose of performing employee evaluation with Mayor, Council and Maintenance Operator Dwight. Motion carried 4-0.

Back in regular session at 8:40 at the council table.

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison that starting December 26, 2022 the city clerk's rate of pay be increased to \$17.90 and the maintenance operators rate of pay be increased to \$22.75. Motion carried 4-0.

Maintenance Operator Dwight and City Clerk Johnson thanked the mayor and council for the rate increases.

Mayor Taylor thanks Maintenance Operator Dwight and City Clerk Johnson for their service to the city and jobs well done.

Mayor Taylor thanked the council for making 2022 easier for her as they have been great to work with.

Council Member Christiansen thanked council members Gilkison and Baker for their work "you didn't ask for this".

Old Business - None

Adjournment:

Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.