

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, December 9, 2021

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor, Johnny Hernandez, Jeanne Haas & Jim Weeks

Staff Present: Steven Dwight - Maintenance Operator, Randy Rogers - Code Enforcement, Lana Johnson - City Clerk, Philip Wright - Attorney

Others Present: Bob Saueressig, Heidi Harris

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

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Council Member Weeks asked about a special assessment that showed up on the Coffey County real estate tax statement. He wanted it on the agenda but didn't know where. Council Member Haas explained it was not assessed to the entire city but to a property that had not been mowed causing the City to have to mow the property for two years. Those expenses were passed on to that property. This item was not added to the agenda.

Council Member Weeks also asked to have Zoning – Occupancy Certificate to be put under Mayors Report. Council Member Taylor asked if it dealt with the house on Arrowhead and if that type of question should go to the Zoning Board. Council Member Haas explained that we don't do an occupancy certificate as the city doesn't have anyone to check it out. The Zoning Administrator checks set backs after the build. The code is being looked at to see if that certificate can be removed. This item was not added to the agenda.

Haas moved, seconded by Taylor, to approve the agenda as submitted. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve meeting minutes of November 18, 2021.
- Move to approve the Warrants dated November 16, 2021 through December 7, 2021 in the amount of \$14,998.20.
- Move to approve the November, 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$8,091.48.

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

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Coffey County Commissioner, Bob Saueressig reported that the county is looking at grants to help promote a trail connecting some of the cities, starting with a trail between Burlington and New Strawn. He also reported the County Treasurer asked, and the commissioners agreed, to pass on the interest

and penalties collected from properties listed on the tax sale to the taxing entities that had gone without that revenue.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: No report

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report:

Mayor Petterson reported that Randy Rogers decided to not take the position of Zoning Administrator. Council Member Taylor asked why the change of heart. Randy stated that at the last meeting the council seemed to have different agendas and there was too much controversy regarding zoning making it a hornet's nest. Zoning is complex and the administrator needs to know what they are doing.

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks, to accept Randy Rogers resignation. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Taylor moved, seconded by Haas to approve the mayor's appointment of Heidi Harris as interim Zoning Administrator contingent upon approval by her county supervisor, Bobby Skipper, with a base salary of \$80 per month, any additional hours over 5 hours to be paid at \$15 per hour.

Motion carried 5-0.

Council Member Weeks asked if the position had a maximum number of hours. City Attorney Wright said no. Council Member Haas asked for the definition of interim to which Wright responded no time frame as it is until the position is filled. Council Member Taylor wanted to clarify that Heidi and the zoning board would do their thing and that if she should have questions she is to go to the mayor, zoning board or city attorney. Council Member Hernandez asked if this is a posted position or the mayor just appoints. Attorney Wright confirmed it is a position appointed by the mayor. County Commissioner Saueressig confirmed that Heidi does not answer to the county commissioners or to the city.

Heidi left at 7:31.

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement Rogers reported he is getting his feet wet, working on an equipment list and working with Clerk Johnson to get a phone and laptop computer. He asked about additional identification by getting magnetic signs to go on the side of his truck with City of New Strawn – Code Enforcement. Clerk Johnson will look into it and possibly ask the New Strawn Branch Library for help with the lettering.

Taylor moved, seconded by Haehn to get code enforcement a cell phone as long as it doesn't exceed \$75 per month. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Maintenance Operator Report:

- Trout hatcheries won't be able to provide trout for the 2022 season. Spoke with Scot Jeffers who said we could hold on to the funds for a year or buy other fish. The consensus was to buy other fish.

Hernandez moved, seconded by Weeks to allow Maintenance Operator Dwight to purchase a 500-gallon fuel tank, pump, hose, nozzle and gauge not to exceed \$2,200, funds to come out of equipment reserve. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- The park restroom has an older thermostat that isn't working correctly. One has been found in Topeka and plans to pick it up.
- Water meters are on order

City Clerk Report:

- Notary Webinar – December 14th there have been a lot of changes for notaries so this is a must attend.
- Community Building Calendar
December
 4th – Private Event, 7th – New Strawn Library, 9 - 11th – Kurtz Auction, 15th & 16th – New Strawn Fire Department Dinner, 18th – Private Event, 21st – I.B.E.W., 25th & 26th – Private Event
January 2022
 8th – Private Event, 25th Life Line Screening

City Attorney Report: No Report

Mayor's Report: No Report

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas

- End of Year Transfers – there are two transfers to be completed by year end. Clerk Johnson will talk to the auditor about completing the transfer.
- 2021 Audit – March 15
- Christmas Gift/Bonus

Haas moved, seconded by Taylor to approve Christmas bonuses to employees as of October 31 as follows:

Full-Time Employees: Net \$75 Bonus (Steven Dwight, Lana Johnson)

Part-Time Employees: Net \$50 Bonus (Brenda Klubek, Martha Newkirk & Robert Williamson, Marilyn Bentley and Philip Wright)

Motion carried 5-0.

Community Building Report: Johnny Hernandez

- Still no response from Abendroth Builders. A plan needs to be drawn up for residing the community building and rebuilding the park restrooms making them ADA compliant with fish cleaning stations to put the project out for bid.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

Water Usage & Loss Report

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

- Cold patch will be picked up Friday, December 10, and used to put a band aid on road issues on the north end of town. It will have to do until next year.

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas

- Yard of the Month – judging will be December 17 – 19 for a total of 5 gift card winners.
- Congratulations – Great Plains Design Center, they received the Rookie of the Year at The JOCO Home + Remodeling Show on October 30th.

Parks and Recreation Report: Gary Haehn - no report

Public Safety Report: Mayor Petterson – no report

New Business:

- Employee Evaluations

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn to go into executive session at 8:30 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 evaluations in the back room at City Hall. **Motion carried 5-0.**

City Attorney Wright and Bob Saueressig left at 8:30.

Back in regular session at 8:45 at the Council board table.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to go into executive session at 8:48 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 evaluations in the back room at City Hall. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Randy Rogers left at 8:50.

Back in regular session at 8:58 at the Council board table.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to approve the following pay rates as of December 25, 2021:

Steven Dwight \$21.50 hourly
Lana Johnson \$17.15 hourly
Robert Williamson \$10.00 hourly
Brenda Klubek \$90.00 monthly

Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:

Correspondence: N/A

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.