

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 10, 2022

Present: Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council Members: David Christiansen, Gary Haehn & Jeanne Haas

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

Others Present: Mark Petterson, Greg Holmquist, Stacy Mowry, Craig Mowry, Russ Taylor, David Alford, Heidi Harris & Leslie Mahoney

Call to Order: Mayor Rhonda Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Salute: The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Add: City Attorney a. Executive Session, Mayor d. Weeks Resignation

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. **Motion carried 3-0.**

APPOINTMENTS:

- a. Craig Mowry – Vacate Road Easement

Craig Mowry requested that the city vacate or abandon Main St along Hwy 75 from E Lake Rd to Brown St and Sorg St south of Payne St. Maps were provided and all landowners involved are in favor. City Attorney Wright will look into it and will be placed on the March agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Additional Warrants - none

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report:

- Wage increase request

Heidi Harris had submitted a letter requesting compensation of \$80 for the first 4 hours of work and \$25 per hour for additional time. Council Member Haehn suggested that anything over 4 hours just wait until the next month. City Attorney Wright said that doesn't work when someone sues the city. Council Member Haas asked that anything over 4 hours be approved by the mayor.

Christiansen moved, to accept the terms of letter, \$80 for the first 4 hours and after mayoral approval \$25 for additional hours. Motion was withdrawn.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas to accept the terms of letter from permanent zoning administrator Harris, \$80 for the first 4 hours and after mayoral approval \$25 for additional hours.

Motion carried 2-1. Haehn opposed.

Zoning Administrator Harris left at 7:37

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement Rogers reported that his office equipment was in and he was working on forms, reading up on the City Code and would be getting an article together for the next newsletter. He plans to be working with residents on getting their pets registered. Maintenance Operator Dwight will purchase the sheetrock to complete a wall in the code enforcement office and repair some lights.

Maintenance Operator Report:

- Fire Station meter pit – still working on quotes, COVID has everyone behind.

City Clerk Report:

- Training Opportunities

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve the city clerk attending the CCMFOA 2022 Spring Conference March 16 – 18, 2022 in Manhattan at \$335, 3 nights of hotel at \$250 plus travel and meals not covered by the conference. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- Community Building Calendar
February - 5th - Private Event, 8th - New Strawn Library, 15th - IBEW
March – 5th Ducks Unlimited, 8th – New Strawn Library, 12th Private Event, 15th IBEW, 31st Showcase of New Strawn

City Attorney Report:

- Executive Session

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to go into executive session at 7:55 for 10 minutes pursuant to discuss matters that are privileged under attorney client relationship regarding potential litigation against the city under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) in the back room of City Hall including city council, city clerk, city attorney and city attorney's assistant. **Motion carried 3-0.** Returned at 8:05.

City Attorney Wright explained that MT Networks had collected from their New Strawn customers and paid the City of New Strawn \$2,324.60 in franchise fees. A letter will be mailed out to those customers who will be able to sign a release and received their refund.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to grant authority to payback a sum up to \$2,324.60 to come out of the general fund. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Mayor's Report:

- a. Work Session Potential Date

Mayor Taylor asked that everyone look at their calendars for dates. This will be tabled until the city has a full council.

- b. City Shirts

Mayor Taylor advised the council that the city employees would be getting shirts with the City of New Strawn embroidered on them for meetings and conferences. She also asked the council if they would like to provide their own shirts for embroidery at their own cost.

- c. Two Year Goals – Each Department

Will be discussed at the work session.

- d. Weeks Resignation

A letter of resignation was dropped off at City Hall by Council Member Weeks this afternoon.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to accept the resignation of Weeks, with regret, thanking him for his service. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas

- a. Finance Update – 2021 Totals

New 2021 spreadsheets should be available at the next council meeting.

- b. Tax Exemption – Property Tax

The city was denied exemption because it was an empty lot and there were no plans to use it. Add this to the March agenda.

Community Building Report: David Christiansen

Council Member Christiansen has not been able to meet with former Council Member Croll and Mike Abendroth to find out what plans had been made for the community building. He did request a quote from Abendroth Builders with no response so has requested quotes from other builders.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

- a. Water Usage & Loss Report
- b. Water Maintenance Rates Town Vs Hillside Addition

Council Member Haas handed out a spreadsheet showing a breakdown of the water receipts and profits since 2014 for maintenance fee review.

Maintenance Operator Dwight explained that Hillside is charged more per gallon since they don't pay property taxes in town. The council is looking at lowering maintenance fees but not water rates.

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas

- a. March 31, 2022 – Showcase of New Strawn

The city is partnering with the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce for a New Strawn, After 5 Business Showcase from 5-7 on March 31st, 2022. All New Strawn businesses are invited.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to allow up to \$250 for showcase expenses to be used out of general funds. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- b. June 11, 2022 – Strawnfest

Council Member Haas reported on a list of activities that may be available for Strawnfest. She also asked about the council providing free hot dogs and chips from 5-7:30 pm. This is to be added to the March agenda.

Parks and Recreation Report: Gary Haehn

Council Member Haehn reported that more mulch is out at the playground. Also, the New Strawn Committee has not gotten with Scot Jeffers regarding the sports complex. Painting of the basketball court had been talked about, can we get it going, pickleball participation in other cities has died down. Council Member Haas agreed that getting the basketball court painted should move forward. She asked Council Member Haehn to get updated quotes and dates.

Public Safety Report: Johnny Hernandez

Mark Petterson reported that the CIP (Community Improvement Plan) 2nd Phase will meet February 16th. Maintenance Operator Dwight will attend the meeting and report at the next council meeting.

New Business:

Council Member Haehn verbally turned in resignation.

Hass moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve Haehns resignation. Motion carried 3-0.

Due to no quorum the meeting ended at 8:57.

Old Business:

Correspondence: N/A