

# New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, February 9, 2023

## PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

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

Absent: David Christiansen

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, City Attorney Philip Wright, and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Others: Mark Petterson, Tim & Brenda Klubek, Michael Abendroth, Greg Holmquist, Gary Haehn, Tyson Marcotte and Mike Skillman

**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:

ADD: Mayor, b. Appointment of City Attorney

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried 4-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:** None

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

### Consent Agenda Items

**Minutes:** Move to approve meeting minutes of January 12, 2023.

**Warrants:** Move to approve the Warrants dated January 10, 2023 through February 6, 2023 in the amount of \$22,334.60.

**Payroll:** Move to approve the January, 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$9,362.30.

### OTHER:

- a. Move to approve 2023-P-03 Plumbing License for Cooks Plumbing Inc.

*Baker moved, seconded by Haas, to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion carried 4-0.*

## APPOINTMENTS:

- a. Mike Skillman (arrived at 7:10) – Grant Writing

Mike mentioned the Beto project was fine and moving forward as it is a different chip plant project from the one that was approved in Wichita. Housing will be a huge problem and we need to make an effort to increase housing availability. There is a portal that the city can sign up for to receive information on grant funding. Garrett Nordstrom, Grant Specialist with Governmental Assistance Services would be willing to meet with the council and talk to them about grants for moderate income housing (MIH).

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Taylor reminded the public and the council that public comments is to listen to concerns and has 3 minutes to speak about their issue.

Tim Klubek asked if the sale of the old ballfield property would be voted on tonight and didn't want to be surprised on a sell of the property. He would the opportunity to buy the property as he does not want development in the area. Mayor Taylor said to there has been no decision to sell the land.

Brenda Klubek wanted to let the council know there are kids that still practice on that field.

Tyson Marcotte commented the ballfield was used weekly this past summer and the burn pile is used frequently.

Gary Haehn – thanked the council for the gift card for the December Yard of the Month. The council wants to improve the image of New Strawn. When it comes to Christmas, if it weren't for Arrowhead Dr the town would be dark. Let's advertise this town. He sat down at the bar the other day and was asked about the maintenance fee. When he was on the council, they said the maintenance fee would be lowered.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- a. Additional Warrants – None

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

##### **Zoning Administrator**

No zoning permits filed this month.

##### **Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety – No Report**

##### **Maintenance Operator**

- Water Pump Update

*Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve the purchase of two water pumps and supplies not to exceed \$56,000. \$40,000 to be used from the water fund and \$16,000 from the general fund. Motion carried 4-0.*

- Valnet/Kwikom Equipment

Has not contacted Kwikom for the removal of their Valnet equipment from the water tower.

- Generator

The council asked that Maintenance Operator Dwight research a generator large enough to create a warming station at the Community Center. Mayor Taylor will contact Coffey County Emergency Management to see what guidelines needs to be followed for the center.

- Rip Rap

Maintenance Operator Dwight presented written estimates for the rip rap. The order of work should be ponds c, d, b and A. Council Member Haas suggested that \$40,000 could come from sewer and \$60,000 could be used from general and infrastructure.

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker to have Mayor Taylor and Maintenance Operator Dwight request \$150,000 from the county. Motion carried 4-0.*

- Burn Pile Update

KDHE didn't care for moving the burn pile to the lagoon area but would be fine if it were moved out by the shop where it used to be. They are willing to work with the city.

- CIP

The majority vote went to trails and want the cities to sign a letter of support for grants. Maintenance Operator Dwight had voted for stormwater among other things.

- KRWA Conference

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to allow Maintenance Operator Dwight to attend KRWA Conference in Wichita, March 28 – 30, 2023 and to pay registration fee of \$180 and meal expense. Funds to be used from General. **Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **City Clerk**

- Audit February 21
- MTI – City Officials Fundamentals Webinar

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to allow City Clerk Johnson to attend MTI - City Officials Fundamentals Webinar with a fee of \$50, 9 am to noon, February 28<sup>th</sup> and to close City Hall during those hours. Funds to be used from General. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- CCMFOA Spring Conference

Gilkison moved, seconded by Hernandez to allow City Clerk Johnson to attend 2023 CCMFOA Spring Conference, March 22 – 24, 2023 and to pay registration fee of \$325, lodging of \$100 per night, mileage and meals expense. Funds to be used from General. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- Community Building Rentals
  - February – 4<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 11<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Library, 19<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 21<sup>st</sup> I.B.E.W, 26<sup>th</sup> Radiant Life Church
  - March 4<sup>th</sup> Ducks Unlimited, 21st I.B.E.W., 26<sup>th</sup> Private Event

#### **City Attorney – No Report**

#### **Mayor's Report**

- a. Code Enforcement Update – Ray Wards

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to approve the appointment of Ray Wards as Code Enforcement for the city with a hire date of March 1, 2023 at 4 hours per month for \$80 and overtime approved by the mayor.

**Motion carried 4-0.**

- b. Appointment of City Attorney

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve the appointment of Philip Wright, City Attorney. **Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas**

There is a new end of year budget sheet due to paying some invoices received in January with December dates as requested by the auditor. If new copies are need, please let City Clerk Johnson know.

#### **Community Building Report – David Christiansen – No Report**

#### **Utility Report – Butch Gilkison**

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

Maintenance Operator Dwight stated that with any new development that we would need to make sure any sewer lines are aquatic enough as we wouldn't want to overflow sewer lines. We also cannot go over the contracted amount of water purchased from Burlington.

#### **Street Report- Rhonda Taylor**

Maintenance Operator Dwight asked the council how much they wanted to spend on the streets in 2023 so a street repair plan can be formed. Second and sixth streets haven't been paved and Navajo needs the base replaced. Asphalt won't go as far as chip and seal. We are now on the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the 4-year plan. 2022 dealt

with the upkeep of roads that had previously been repaired. Industrial Road needs to be milled down to fix it correctly. Council said to look at \$150,000. Possible special highway and infrastructure funds.

**Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas**

- a. Strawnfest 2023 June 24 ideas – since Strawnfest will be later in the year more water activities will be planned. Possibly have the fishing derby earlier, schedule the run. Look into borrowing the WCNOG grill and council providing the hotdogs and chips.

**Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez**

Council Member Hernandez reported seeing Burlington Construction working on the concrete at the shelter house. The electrical has also been completed.

Maintenance Operator thanked the council for the new back hoe. He is able to work in a lot of areas that he would have gotten the old back hoe stuck in.

**New Business - None**

**Old Business**

The council has not made a decision on the possibility of selling the land where the ball field is located.

**Adjournment:**

*Gilkison moved, seconded by Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.*