

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 9, 2017
New Strawn City Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the regular monthly meeting of the New Strawn City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Those present were: Council Member Jim Weeks
 Council Member Kraig Kirchner
 Council Member Bobby Bryant
 Council Member Gary Haehn

Absent: Council Member Jeanne Haas

Others present were:

City Superintendent Ron Parkey	City Clerk Kerry Templeton
Code Enforcement Officer Steven Dwight	County Commissioner Bob Saueressig
Russ Taylor	Myron Steinert
Marc Chester	Toby Paige
Glenda Perkins	

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

Agenda Additions:

Staff Reports:

City Clerk:

- a. **ADDED:** NSCIO Easter Egg Hunt Donation

Zoning Administrator:

- b. **ADDED:** 2016 Building Permits Issuance Report

Mayor's Report:

- a. **AMENDED:** Electrical and Plumbing Code

Park & Recreation Report:

- a. **ADDED:** Batting Cage Net

Correspondence:

- e. **ADDED:** Boundary & Annexation Survey
- f. **ADDED:** USD 244 Letter

Consent Agenda Additions:

None

Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve the minutes of January 12, 2017 regular council meeting
- Move to approve the minutes of January 30, 2017 special council meeting

- Move to approve the January 2017 warrants in the amount of \$63,487.56
- Move to approve the January 2017 payroll in the amount of \$12,739.44
- Move to approve 2017 Electrical License for Gordon Blackie DBA Lighthouse Electric
- Move to approve CMB One Day Permit for Ducks Unlimited Banquet to be held on April 1, 2017

Council member Haehn moved to approve agenda with additions as presented. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comments:

Marc Chester addressed Council with concerns he has regarding the possible development of city-owned property in the south part of town into a proposed sports complex. Mr. Chester stated he felt Council was going about it a little bit differently than they should. He was of the opinion that if any development was being considered the first thing Council should do is to discuss the issue with the residents that would be directly impacted by it. Mr. Chester also has concerns about funding for such a project and does not feel that the City of New Strawn should be asked to contribute monetarily or seek grant funding in order to develop ball fields or soccer fields for USD #244 Recreation Commission.

Russ Taylor addressed Council with concerns he also has with the possible development. Mr. Taylor is worried about the increased traffic flow through a residential area that such a complex would generate. He also suggested the city consider an alternate location for the complex.

Glenda Perkins stated that, in the past, the City of New Strawn has invested money in projects that ultimately failed.

Council member Kirchner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Financial Report:

Council member Weeks moved to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$3,761.34. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Staff Reports:

City Superintendent Parkey reported that there had been several water leaks throughout the city. A 6" water line had been broken during some construction work at a residence near the City Lake on Neosho Street, and the next day a leak was detected at the Seneca Circle cul-de-sac. Both situations had resulted in some discoloration and odor in the water supply at some residences for a short period, but Parkey noted he and Dwight had been doing lots of line flushing and felt those issues had been resolved, adding that the water was perfectly safe to drink. Parkey and Dwight also fixed a leaky toilet at the Community Building.

Parkey stated that he and Maintenance Worker Dwight had also been doing some pothole patching and had straightened several street signs in town. He also reported that the City Lake had been stocked with trout on January 26 and noted that this was the 25th year for New Strawn's trout program.

City Clerk Templeton reported that NSCIO would be holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. She inquired as to whether Council wanted to donate funds for the event and, if so, how much.

Council member Bryant moved to donate \$100 to NSCIO for the 2017 Easter Egg Hunt, funds to be taken from the General Fund. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Templeton also reported that the New Strawn Fire Dept. would be holding a breakfast fund raiser on April 15 and noted that the city had allowed them to use tables and chairs for the event last year. Council had no objections to loaning those items out to the fire department again this year.

Zoning Administrator Ware reported that one building permit had been issued to Advantage Auto Body Shop for a 20' x 25' garage addition at 145 N. Main Street on the south side of the existing building.

Mr. Ware presented a 2016 Building Permits Issuance Report to Council detailing how many and what types of permits had been issued and the total estimated cost of improvements. Ware also reported that the New Strawn Planning Commission will hold a meeting on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to review and work on the new proposed zoning and sub-division regulations for the city. A joint meeting with Council, Planning Commission and Foster & Associates is planned for March 3, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Building.

Code Enforcement Officer Dwight reported that he hand-served Janel George with a violation notification letter on January 22, 2017. Previous attempts to serve via certified mail had failed. Dwight stated that George has a deadline of March 7, 2017 to correct the violations and had made no attempt thus far to do so. He will consult with the city's attorney.

Mayor's Report:

Clerk Templeton discussed an issue with the Electrical and Plumbing code for the city. A recent electrical license applicant had issues obtaining the \$5,000 bond as required by the code due to verbiage within the ordinance that states "Each such bond shall be issued by a company authorized to do business in the State of KS and shall be executed by an agent of the company *residing in the County of Coffey, KS*". Templeton explained that the applicant's insurance company refused to issue the bond because they did not reside in Coffey County resulting in the applicant being forced to seek a bond elsewhere. She noted that many of the electricians and plumbers seeking licenses with the city had businesses located outside of Coffey County and the requirement was likely to cause issues for other applicants in the future. Templeton had discussed the issue with the city's attorney and had been advised that Council could leave the ordinance as is and waive the requirement, or the requirement could be stricken from the ordinance. After brief discussion Council will have the city attorney amend both the electrical and plumbing code to strike the requirement.

Finance and Economic Development:

None

Community Building Report:

None

Utility Report:

None

Street Report:

None

Public Relations Report:

Council member Haas was not present to discuss street signs. The matter will be discussed at the March council meeting if Haas requests.

A tentative schedule of events for Strawnfest was reviewed and discussed.

Park & Recreation Report:

Council member Haehn discussed the need to replace the batting cage net. Scot Jeffers, Recreation Director of USD #244 Recreation Commission, had indicated to Haehn that the cost of the net would be approximately \$700-800. Parkey stated that the Recreation Commission has always provided replacement nets at no cost to the city in the past. Haehn will discuss with Jeffers.

Council member Haehn will schedule a meeting with the Jones Foundation to discuss possible grants available.

Public Safety Report:

None

New Business:

Council member Bryant moved to enter into executive session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for ten minutes. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular meeting resumed at 7:51 p.m.

Council member Bryant moved to give a fifty cent pay increase to all full-time city employees, and an additional fifty cent pay increase to Clerk Templeton for completing Year 3 of KS/IIMC Municipal Clerks Certification Institute training. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Council member Bryant moved to make all pay increases retroactive to January 1, 2017. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business:

Mayor Petterson reported that he had received a response from the KS Department of Revenue in regards to a letter that had been sent to them concerning Mediacom assessing a city sales tax to New Strawn residents. The mayor stated that KDOR conveyed to him that they cannot perform reimbursement audits due to lack of manpower and that residents who may discover they have been assessed such a tax will need to contact Mediacom to initiate the reimbursement process.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.