

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 13, 2022

Present: Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council Members: David Christiansen, Gary Haehn, Jeanne Haas, Johnny Hernandez, & Jim Weeks

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

Others Present: Bob Saueressig, Mark Petterson & Greg Holmquist

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.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS: City Clerk Johnson administered the Oath of Office to reelected Council Member Jeanne Haas and newly elected Council Member David Christiansen.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN: Mayor Taylor explained since former Mayor Mark Petterson got married and moved to Burlington he has resigned as Mayor. Mayor Taylor then presented former Mayor Petterson with a certificate recognizing his 20 ½ years of service with the City of New Strawn. Mayor Taylor then appointed Johnny Hernandez to fill in for the unexpired term for Rhonda Taylor as council member. Council Member Haehn inquired as to if anyone else had been asked to fill the position. Mayor Taylor said No. This is an appointed position; Hernandez has children growing up in town and is not located in the Arrowhead Division. The rest of the town needs to be represented.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve the appointment of Johnny Hernandez to fill in for the unexpired term for Rhonda Taylor as city council member. **Motion carried 3-1. Haehn opposed.**

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion for the new Council President. Council Member Haehn nominated Council Member Weeks due to his experience. The motion died due to lack of second. Council Member Christiansen responded that due to the controversy of the last year he would like to nominate Council Member Haas as she had been the most neutral. Council Member Haehn was concerned that Council Member Haas might have too much on her plate. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion to elect Haas as Council President. **Motion carried 4-0. Haas abstained.**

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Add: Financial Reports **b.** Treasurers Report

Change: Mayors Report **b.** change to 2022 Mayor's Committee Assignments

Add: Consent Agenda **k.** 2022-PE-03 Contractor/Plumbing License for Cooks Plumbing

Remove: Finance **a.** Executive Session

Add: Finance **a.** Water Fee, **b.** Tax Exemption

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Hass moved, seconded by Haehn to approve the agenda with changes. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Change: I Propane to increase to \$600

- A. Move to approve 2022-PE-01 Contractor/Plumbing License for Victory Excavating
- B. Move to approve 2022-PE-02 Contractor/Plumbing License for (Mark Harris) B&H Appliance, Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
- C. Move to approve CMB License 2022-CMB-01 for Casey’s General Store
- D. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$2,500.00, funds to be taken from General Fund
- E. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase fish food in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$3,000.00, funds to be taken from Special Park Fund
- F. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase cold patch in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$1,000.00, funds to be taken from Special Highway Fund
- G. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase weed killer in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$1,000.00, funds to be taken from General Fund
- H. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase road salt in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$4,000.00, funds to be taken from Special Highway Fund
- I. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase propane in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$600.00, funds to be taken from General Fund
- J. Move to allow Maintenance Operator to purchase gravel/rock in 2022, total cost not to exceed \$500.00, funds to be taken from Special Highway Fund
- K. **ADDED** Move to approve 2022-PE-03 Contractor/Plumbing License for Cooks Plumbing

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the Consent Agenda with changes. **Motion carried 4-0. Christiansen abstained.**

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mark Petterson thanked the council for the certificate.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Additional Warrants

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$311.79. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- b. **ADDED** - Approval of Treasurers Report:

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to approve Treasurer’s Report as presented and print report in The Coffey County Republican by January 30, 2022. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report:

- City Clerk Johnson reported there has been one request for a zoning permit which has not been turned back in.

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Code Enforcement Rogers requested a key to city hall and a work space so he could meet with residents of an evening. Council Member Haehn suggested a work area in the back room. Council agreed.

Haehn moved, seconded by Christiansen to purchase equipment for code enforcement not to exceed \$800 to be used from the General Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Maintenance Operator Report:

- Fire Station meter pit – needs to be replaced. Maintenance Operator Dwight is get quotes to replace it.
- Council Member Weeks asked why the water loss went up – flushing.

City Clerk Report:

- MT Networks rate for internet increased from \$74.99 to \$84.99 per month
- Terminix had a rate increase of \$2.00 per service, from \$7.00 to \$9.00
- Community Building Calendar

January 2022

8th - Private Event, 11th - New Strawn Library, 15th - Private Event, 16th & 17th - Private Event, 22nd – Private Event, 25th - Life Line Screening

February

8th – New Strawn Library

City Attorney Report:

- Zoning – Occupancy Certificate needs to go before the Zoning & Planning Board.

Mayor's Report:

a. Code Enforcement Hourly Rate

Mayor Taylor explained that a motion has not been made confirming the rate of pay for code enforcement.

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to approve the hourly rate of \$15 per hour for up to 5 hours per week for Code Enforcement Officer, Randy Rogers. Motion withdrawn. Christiansen moved, seconded by Haehn to approve the hourly rate of \$15 per hour for up to 5 hours per week with additional time approved by the mayor for Code Enforcement Officer, Randy Rogers. **Motion carried 5-0.**

b. 2022 Mayor's Committee Assignments

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks to approve the 2022 Mayor's Committee assignments. **Motion carried 5-0.**

c. GAAP Waiver Resolution No. 103.

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn to approve Resolution No. 103 GAAP Waiver for 2022. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas

- a. Water Fee – Water has one payment left that will be made in July and the council should be thinking about the maintenance fee. Council Member Christiansen suggested a 5-year maintenance plan. Maintenance Operator Dwight reminded the council that the lagoon is 33 years old and will soon need maintenance.
- b. Tax Exemption – unimproved lots should not be taxed by the county. Council Member Haas contacted the County appraisers Office to see why it was happening. She was told that the city has applied for exemption in 1991 but was refused. The County is to research it, Council Member Haas will pursue an answer.

Community Building Report: David Christiansen

- Will get with Council Member Hernandez and former Council Member Croll to get up to date on the community building plans.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

- a. Water Usage & Loss Report

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

- Maintenance Operator is prepping for the weekend weather coming up. Some cold patch has been done but actual street repairs must be completed in 2022.

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas

- a. Strawnfest 2022 date and ideas

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to have Strawnfest June 11, 2022.

Parks and Recreation Report: Gary Haehn - no report

Public Safety Report: Johnny Hernandez – no report

New Business:

City Clerk Johnson asked if the council meeting area could be rearranged so the council didn't have to sit with their back to the public. Several ideas were mentioned but council was ok with rearranging.

Mayor Taylor thanked the council. She said we got through everything and looking forward to the next 2 years and for the council to be thinking about setting future goals.

Old Business:

Correspondence: N/A

Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez to adjourn meeting. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.