

# New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Rhonda Taylor, Council members: Jeanne Haas, Johnny Hernandez, David Christiansen, Stephanie Baker and Butch Gilkison  
Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, Zoning Administrator Cody Collins (arrived at ??), Code Enforcement Ray Wards and City Clerk Lana Johnson  
Absent: City Attorney Philip Wright  
Others: Dan Haller, Wayde Thomsen and Mark Petterson

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE:** The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:**

Mayor: e: Engagement Intent Letter change from 2025 to 2026

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the agenda with the change. Motion carried 5-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**MINUTES:** Move to approve meeting minutes of June 13, 2024.

**WARRANTS:** Move to approve the Warrants dated June 11, 2024, through July 9, 2024, in the amount of \$36,822.32.

**PAYROLL:** Move to approve the June 2024 Payroll in the amount of \$9,722.69.

**LICENSES:**

**OTHER:** Move to allow Clerk Johnson to attend 2024 CCMFOA Institute and Academy October 28 - 30, pay the registration fee of \$355, lodging of \$120 per night, mileage, and meal expense. Funds to be used from the general fund.

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion carried 5-0.*

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- a. Angela Luce – Speed Limits – Cancelled

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- a. Additional Warrants – None

**STAFF REPORTS**

- **Zoning Administrator**

- Zoning Permit 2024-Z-05 for Michael Tatton 920 Arrowhead Dr for a larger deck
- Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing, July 24 at 6:00 pm
- Fence Violation Located Between 102 & 101 E Seneca Circle – a barn tin

fence has been erected in the place where the application mentions a chain-link fence. Barn tin is not an allowed material and there is no permit for it. It was decided that city employees will meet with the resident to see about getting this taken care of.

- **Code Enforcement Officer**

- Nuisance Property Update

The person that had been ticketed for unregistered dog still has not tagged their dog.

The property owners on 3<sup>rd</sup> St still don't have their property cleaned up. They will go to court next month and the judge has already warned them of additional fines.

The gentleman that had junk vehicles got one registered, tried getting Ray in trouble with the Coffey and Franklin County sheriff departments and didn't get anywhere. He finally complied and removed the 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle.

There was a complaint about the trees at the corner of Neosho and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The complainant didn't like to creep out to see past the trees.

Met with a council member's son. The items beside the house will be taken care of.

A home on 3<sup>rd</sup> St still has items in the yard. A notice was posted but the resident hasn't responded to Code Enforcement.

Property on north Arrowhead is still a mess with the ditch torn up. Steven will contact the owner.

- **Maintenance Operator**

- Mayer Sewer Cleanout Update – north 1/3 of the sewer lines were cleaned out.
- Grasshopper Hydro Pump

*Gilkison moved, seconded by Hernandez, to allow the purchase of a hydro pump for the Grasshopper mower not to exceed \$1,000. Funds to be used from the equipment fund. **Motion carried 5-0.***

- Chev Dump Truck A/C

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to allow \$1,800 to fix the air conditioning for our dump truck. Funds to be used from the equipment fund. **Motion carried 5-0.***

- eRisk ISO

Insurance rating on the fire hydrants. All of our hydrants passed. Mayor Taylor mentioned getting with Carl to see if more hydrants needed to be put in. Dwight responded that too many more can't go in because you can't put a hydrant on anything smaller than a 6" line.

- Rip Rap Update

The rip rap job is complete. Steven had originally estimated \$250,000 and the job was completed by Skillman Construction for \$100,520 as bid. The County had approved a grant of \$150,000 to help with the cost so Taylor and Dwight need to ask the commissioners how they want to handle this.

*Baker moved, seconded by Christiansen to allow Mayor Taylor and Maintenance Operator Dwight to meet with the Coffey County Commissioners to talk about rip rap funding. **Motion carried 5-0.***

- Water Tower Painted
- Drainage – Quotes – Council Member suggested waiting to talk to City

Attorney Wright before the city goes any farther with the drainage quotes.

Received a quote for a tooth bucket. Will be looking for a quote/bid for a culvert replacement at 16<sup>th</sup> (Lake Rd) and Main. Water hydrants will be repainted.

- **City Clerk**

- Money Market Account Interest Rate Change – from 3.38 % to 3.33%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 1/2 Infrastructure and Park/Recreation Grant Funds
- Community Center Rentals

*July – 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Radiant Life Church VBS, 13<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 14<sup>th</sup> S & S Sales Auction, 16<sup>th</sup> am Kansas Emergency Management, 16<sup>th</sup> pm I.B.E.W., 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Kicks for Kids, 26<sup>th</sup> pm Private Event, 31<sup>st</sup> New Strawn Library*

*August – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> COF, 4<sup>th</sup> am Slead/Radiant Life Church, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Primary Elections, 17<sup>th</sup> Hunters Safety Class, 20<sup>th</sup> I.B.E.W., 28<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Library*

**Mayor's Report**

- a. City Hall – Drawing Update – several contractors have the drawing, and we are waiting for quotes.
- b. Authorization Mayor to Sign for Grant

*Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to allow Mayor Taylor to sign the Partner Commitment Letter for the KDEM Mitigation Grant and to approve her to go forth with the grant. **Motion carried 5-0.*** Haas: I would also like to say that the mayor's husband has spent a lot of time gathering facts and I do appreciate the time that Russ has spent. Lana, can we send him a thank you letter for the time he has spent?

- c. Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent – Not Needed
- d. Engagement Intent Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2024 Audit

*Haas moved, seconded by Baker to allow Mayor Taylor to sign the engagement letter intent with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2024 Audit. **Motion carried 5-0.*** Haas: The price did not rise, it's the same as last year.

- e. Engagement Intent for Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2026 Budget.

*Move to allow Mayor Taylor to sign the engagement letter intent with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for 2026 Budget. **Motion carried 5-0.*** Haas: It did rise \$300.

- f. Budget Hearing August 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Publish Page 12

*Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to hold a Budget Hearing August 8, 2024, at 7:00 pm and publish page 12 of the proposed budget. **Motion carried 5-0.***

- g. Fowl Permit

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen that our Female Fowl Permit application have a fee assigned to it of \$10 per flock per year. The female fowl owners will need to have a permit in place effective January 1, 2025.

Haas amended the motion the application female fowl permit yearly fee due January 1, 2025, be \$10, Christiansen seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

- a. Access Capacity Charge (ACC)

Gilkison moved to knock \$16.50 off the ACC fee reducing it to \$20. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas, to lower the water Access Capacity Charge (ACC) from \$36.50 to \$24.50 effective bill due on September 10<sup>th</sup>. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Council member Christiansen left at 8:07.

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to allow City Attorney to make the necessary changes to ordinance 2023-05 part "D" to reflect \$24.50. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The change will reduce the water fund by \$37,000 and notice will need to be sent to the auditor for the 2025 budget.

- b. BCBS Renewal

Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez to accept the Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Community Center Report – Stephanie Baker**

Shelving Donation – Great Plains Design Center donated some shelving for use in the storage area of the community center. Steven and Paul got it installed and Erin is working on getting her area organized.

**Utility Report – Butch Gilkison**

- a. Water Usage & Loss Report – We have 265 active meters. The number is up due to the seasonal meters being turned on. Water loss is down to 6.2.

**Street Report - Rhonda Taylor**

With the weather getting hotter the roads are going to start heaving.

**Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas**

- a. Coffey County Cancer Support Group Donation

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve a donation of \$250 to the Coffey County Cancer Support Group. Funds to be used from the general fund. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- b. Communication – Council member Haas asked if the council and mayor would be

willing to have their phone numbers available to residents. Everyone was willing to have a cell number, home number or email as a way for residents to contact them.

**Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez**

a. Disc Golf Signage – metal signs have been received and are ready to be installed. Still looking into the large sign.

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

**Adjournment:**

*Baker moved, seconded by Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.*

APPROVED