

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, June 10, 2021

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor, Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas & Jim Weeks

Staff Present: Steven Dwight - Maintenance Operator, Martha Newkirk – Zoning Administrator, Lana Johnson – City Clerk, Philip Wright – City Attorney

Others Present: Susan Haehn, Bob Saueressig & David Christiansen

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Council Member Haas added under Public Relation B: Silverware.

Council Member Haehn added under Parks A: Pickleball Court

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve meeting minutes of May 13, 2021.
- Move to approve the Warrants dated May 8, 2021 through June 8, 2021 in the amount of \$24,958.36.
- Move to approve the May, 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$7,882.49.
- Move to approve 2021 Contractor License for Shoemaker Construction.
- Move to approve 2021 Contractor License for Quality Structures LLC.
- Move to approve 2021 Electrical License for Tweedy Electric LLC.
- Move to approve 2021 Electrical License for Murray Electrical.

Taylor, seconded by Croll, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comments:

Susan Haehn said she had read in the minutes that the council planned to wait until the water tower was paid off before installing street lights and asked why wait. Mayor Petterson said we wanted more solid costs and a community meeting. Haehn said only one person didn't want street lights on Arrowhead, she pays for lights with her taxes and that she takes offense to people needing to install their own yard light.

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report

- Zoning Administrator Newkirk said she has received a lot of questions on what people can do. She feels that when the price of wood comes down, people will be building.

Code Enforcement Officer

- Mayor Petterson would like to appoint Randy Rogers as Code Enforcement Officer.

Taylor moved, seconded by Haas to accept the appointment of Randy Rogers for Code Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Council Member Haehn asked why we weren't able to keep someone in code enforcement. Mayor Petterson told him the last person moved out of town.

Maintenance Operator Report

- Fish delivered 6/7 - sizes vary from 1 lb to 2.5 lbs
- Salt storage building – would like to start budgeting
- Electric @ Jones Park – would like to get quotes on replacing the electrical
- Power/RV plug @shelter house – would like to start budgeting
- Hydrovac – meter replacement will be \$80 per meter and 52 need to be replaced

City Clerk Report

- Workers Comp refund
- Dog at large complaint
- Community Building Calendar – rentals
June – 4th Radiant Life, 5th & 6th private event, 11th & 12th Strawnfest, 13th private event, 15th IBEW, 18th & 19th private event, 24th ½ day private event, 25th – July 5th Radiant Life Youth Group
July – 1st – 5th Radiant Life Youth group, 10th – 15th – Radiant Life VBS, 20th – IBEW, 24th – private event

City Attorney Report

- SB 13/HB 2104 – explained revenue neutral rate. Council Member Weeks asked if this was discussed last meeting “I’m in the dark here”. Wright said we just found out about it. The budget limit was on dollars and will now be on mil.
- Nuisance Property – attended a conference and nuisance property was a topic which a lot of cities are struggling with. The process can go to municipal court and there would be fines or jail, but the offender wouldn't have to clean the property. On the administrative side, due process. Write up the property, appeal, request a hearing just for the city to have to clean it up and assess costs against property taxes.
- City Attorney Wright responded to Council Member Weeks regarding his email asking about building permits and contractor's licenses. Weeks wanted a building permit pulled since the contractor wasn't licensed at the time the permit was issued. City Attorney Wright explained that if the City pulled the permit, it would open the City to a lawsuit since the City would be at fault, not the permit holder. Also in the email were questions about auctions. Wright said he believed a permit was issued but the publication hasn't been located. Zoning Administrator Newkirk asked why it was suddenly a problem. Council Member Taylor would like to revisit ordinances and look at our zoning permits and how many days for a build to start. Coffey County is talking about having a countywide building inspector. Council Member Haehn mentioned the old zoning only covers eight of

the codes, it would be nice to have everything covered. Council Member Weeks said he has something drafted. City Attorney Wright said the framework is counting on people doing it right, that is why they are insured and bonded. Council Member Taylor asked to make it user friendly. Why is it easier to get things done in Burlington than New Strawn? The Council is to write something up and submit it to City Attorney Wright.

- Permits issued – the Zoning Administrator has a lot of discretion but the permit holder doesn't always do what they say they will do. The city has rules and laws and we should follow them. If things come up that needs to be fixed just make sure we have all the info before making changes. Zoning Administrator Newkirk commented that the zoning administrator should spend more time helping people rather than finding a way to stop them.
- Violation letter- will work on a resolution for next meeting for the city clerk to sign violation letters when the code enforcement office isn't available.

Mayor's Report – No report

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas

Haas moved, seconded by Croll to have a special meeting, Thursday, June 24th at 5:30 pm for budget planning and to look at building ordinances. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Community Building Report: Richard Croll – No report

Council Member Haas would like to thank Maintenance Operator Dwight for everything Steven did with the community building to get it ready for Strawnfest.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

Water Usage & Loss Report

- Council Member Weeks said the water loss was at 9.7% when we had been at 6%. Steven explained there and been a power glitch last month and the tower had some overflow.

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

- No updates – contractors are back logged due to the weather.

Public Relations : Jeanne Haas

- Strawnfest 2021 Update – signage is needed to help watch out for runners. As of meeting time 30 total runners were signed up with 14 running in person. 6 am, 6/11 the tent will go up at the community building, Steven will be putting the flags out and Rhonda and Jeanne will be cooking hot dogs.
- ADDED - Silverware – a bag of military silverware was found at the community building. It was decided that the Haehn family had donated it to the community building but that a donation to the museum might be more appropriate. Susan Haehn is to reach out to the Coffey County Museum.
- Utensils are missing from the community building

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn for Taylor to be allowed to replenish utensils at the community building. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Parks and Recreation Report: Gary Haehn

- ADDED – Pickleball – Council Member Haehn asked if the council would be interested in turning one tennis court into two pickleball courts. Mayor Petterson suggested that after Strawnfest everyone take a look at the courts.
- Council Member Haehn told Maintenance Operator Dwight that the park was looking good and he agreed with the electric upgrade at the shelter house.

Public Safety Report:

- Law/Code Enforcement – Mayor Petterson would like to talk to Randy Rogers about ideas on law enforcement. Council Member Weeks asked that we continue to look into law enforcement. Council Members Haehn and Weeks asked that more speed limit signs be installed. Weeks commented that the ones most recently installed have been working.

New Business:

Old Business:

- Personnel book – City Attorney Wright said personnel books aren't a one size fits all manual but will add the requested items and have ready for the next meeting.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to have a special meeting at 5:30 pm, July 8th, 2021 for the 2020 audit presentation and 2022 budget proposal. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Correspondence: N/A

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.