

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

Present: Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council Members: David Christiansen, Gary Haehn & Jeanne Haas

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

Others Present: Mark Petterson, Greg Holmquist, Butch Gilkison, Stephanie Baker & Bobbi Gellhaus

**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.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN:** Butch Gilkison, Stephanie Baker Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve the appointment of Butch Gilkison to fill in for the unexpired term for Jim Weeks as city council member and of Stephanie Baker to fill in for the unexpired term for Gary Haehn as city council member. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS:**

City Clerk Johnson administered the Oath of Office to: Council Members Butch Gilkison & Stephanie Baker.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- a. Bobbi Gelhaus – TrustPoint Insurance

Bobbi Gellhaus presented the 2022 insurance proposal from TrustPoint Insurance. The water treatment plant is insured for actual cash value only, Council Member Christiansen requested information on replacement value. A representative with EMC Insurance can meet with the City to review the values.

Move to accept the insurance proposal by TrustPoint Insurance and approve a payment not to exceed \$28,186.00. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- a. Additional Warrants

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$548.84.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Staff Reports:**

#### **Zoning Administrator Report:**

- Attachment A read by City Clerk Johnson
- 2022-Z-01 David & Liz Alford, 12'x20' accessory building – 100 Sorg St
- 2022-Z-02 Randy & Marilyn Gesling, 40'x60' accessory building – 208 N 4<sup>th</sup> St
- Resignation

Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez to accept the resignation of Zoning Administrator Heidi Harris effective March 11, 2022. **Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Code Enforcement Officer:**

- Attachment B read by Mayor Taylor

Christiansen moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve and direct the Mayor to approach the appropriate individual with Coffey County to aid in finding the right of way boundaries on Glass Lane. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Maintenance Operator Dwight commented that he worked for Allan at the time Glass Lane was put in. The electrical pole was in the way and there was a gentleman's agreement to move the road south.

#### **Maintenance Operator Report:**

- City Wide Clean Up April 11-13
- CIP – Steven Dwight

Storm water and trails were the chosen to be reviewed first. The next meeting will be used to review maps. The trail that was mentioned would be concrete over the city water line. The city cannot have concrete over the line.

- EMP Shield – Kansas Base Grant

EMP county grant would be used to cover equipment and the city would need to pay for wiring and labor. Council Member Hernandez asked if this would help with insurance costs.

- Summer Help

Christiansen moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve advertising in The Coffey County Republican for a seasonal laborer. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Christiansen moved seconded by Baker to purchase \$2,000 of fish using donated BRC funds.

**Motion carried 5-0**

Rip rap is needed around the pond.

Water meters are still in short supply.

#### **City Clerk Report:**

- Community Building Calendar
  - March* – 5<sup>th</sup> Ducks Unlimited, 8<sup>th</sup> – New Strawn Library, 12<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 15<sup>th</sup> IBEW, 31<sup>st</sup> Showcase of New Strawn
  - April* – 12<sup>th</sup> - New Strawn Library, 16<sup>th</sup> – NSCIO Easter, 19<sup>th</sup> – I.B.E.W.

### **City Attorney Report:**

- Vacate road easement

City Attorney Wright reported that he has never worked with vacating easements but has reached out for help in the area.

Greg Holmquist is working on the MT Networks ordinance. MT Networks is still sending franchise fee checks to the city and those are being held.

City Attorney Wright explained quorum/KORA/KOMA to the new council members. Do not talk about city business unless in a council meeting, council members do not have the authority to make city decisions, and advised them to set up new email accounts to communicate with the City Clerk.

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

- a. Work Session Potential Date – Personnel Manual, Water Rates

Work session on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 – order pizza from Casey's

- b. Shirts

Any council member can provide a shirt to have the City of New Strawn embroidered on it. Sunflower Gal's charges \$7.00 after the initial digitizing fee.

- c. County Building Inspector – Meeting 3/16/22, 7:00 pm

Mayor Taylor read Attachment C

### **Finance and Economic Development:** Jeanne Haas

- a. Finance Update – 2021 Totals

General and Parks are off but hope to have correct numbers at the next meeting.

- b. Coffey County Tax Update

Skillman's protested the amount of taxes for 2019, 2020 & 2021 on their office building. The taxes were adjusted so the city has been overpaid for those years but the funds will be taken from the next payment from the county.

- c. City Property Tax Exemption Denial

### **Community Building Report:** David Christiansen

Council Member Christiansen reached out to three businesses for quotes on residing the community center. One was received from D & R Builders, Attachment D. They would require 1/3 down to get started. Dwight asked about the finishing of the inside of the window and door that are being removed. That is not included in the quote.

### **Utility Report:**

- a. Water Usage & Loss Report

- b. Water Maintenance Rates Town vs Hillside Addition

Maintenance Operator Dwight mentioned there is still a small water leak at Hillview.

### **Street Report:** Rhonda Taylor

Maintenance Operator Dwight will be working on street quotes. As of today, prices are 20% higher than they were last year at this time. The final year of the four-year plan was intended to resolve the street issue at the north end of town and that must be done soon. The consensus of the council is for Dwight to get estimates for up to \$150,000. He plans to ask the county if they can break up Industrial Rd so it can be sealed.

**Public Relations:** Jeanne Haas

a. March 31, 2022 – Showcase of New Strawn

The city is partnering with the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce for a New Strawn, After 5 Business Showcase from 5-7 on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. 37 invitations went out and 14 businesses have signed up for table space.

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to give away 4 adult and 2 youth fishing licenses, worms and a city t-shirt. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to sell any remaining t-shirts for \$5.00. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Snacks for the event will be purchased from Hometown Pie and Casey's.

b. June 11, 2022 – Strawnfest

Council Member Haas reported on a list of activities available for Strawnfest. Three different groups were interested in playing live music for the event.

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to allow \$1,500 from Parks and \$500 from General Funds for Strawnfest activities. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**She also shared with the new council members that the council had planned to provide hot dogs, chips and water for Strawnfest.**

**Parks and Recreation Report:**

**Public Safety Report:** Johnny Hernandez

Past issues with public safety have been speeding on Arrowhead Dr.

**New Business:**

**Old Business:**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.**

**Correspondence:** N/A