

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, March 11, 2020

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson

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

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

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He also reminded the public that they have a portion in which to speak and asked for no extra input.

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve the February 11, 2021 council meeting minutes
- Move to approve the Warrants dated February 9, 2021 through March 8, 2021 for \$24,682.88
- Move to approve the February 2021 Payroll for \$8,719.18

Taylor moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comments:

- Glenda Perkins – would like to be on the list for the engineer. She can't mow areas of her ditch.
- Sean Downey – asked what was being done about the people speeding. Council Member Weeks let him know the speeding issue was on the agenda. Downey commented that it wasn't only speeding but people on their phones. Council Member Taylor said the speeding is on the agenda and will be looked at.
- Jeanne Haas for Austin Black – They have a reservation and was wondering if they could set up a tent in the community building parking lot using cement buckets to hold the tent stakes. No stakes in the ground. Council approved.
- Bobbi Gellhaus, TrustPoint Insurance – presented the 4/1/21 – 4/1/22 insurance policy.

Haehn moved, seconded by Haas to accept the insurance as presented by TrustPoint Insurance and approve a payment of \$28,001. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Financial Reports:

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll, to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$6,971.15. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report

- Planning Commission met.
- Zoning Administrator Newkirk will update all Zoning books.
- Council Member Weeks asked what Skillman was building and if he had a permit. Zoning Administrator Newkirk confirmed permit.

Council Member Weeks requested that the City no longer use Foster & Associates stating he didn't feel like they did a good job. Mayor Petterson stated that Zoning administrator Newkirk works with Foster & Associates at no additional charge. Council Member Weeks said the sign section of the zoning book needed to be rewritten two years ago and it still wasn't completed. Bickley should be fired and the Council should set the regulations. City Attorney Wright said for best practice the City must have someone. Zoning Administrator Newkirk said it was fine if the Council didn't want Bickley but we need to have someone. Just make sure the City has everything completed that Foster & Associates were paid for.

Council Member Haehn asked who will revise the Application for Building/Zoning Permit. The word building needs to be removed from the heading.

Maintenance Operator Report

- 3 air release valves broke. Will be able to replace at a much lesser expense than expected.
- A pump will need to be replaced soon. Suggested the budget be increase by \$2,000.
- Would like to start requesting bids for light replacement in the shop.
- Received a quote from Coffey County Hwy Dept for dust control on Industrial Rd.

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll to approve a bid for up to \$3,000 from Coffey County Hwy Dept for dust control and blade on Industrial Rd. Funds to be paid from special highway. **Motion carried 5-0.**

City Clerk Report (written report submitted)

- Asked for meeting notification clarification – meeting date and agenda will be emailed upon request.
- Blinds for City Hall are on backorder.
- New Facebook page is up and going for a message board.
- Lists for engineer and budget notes have been started.

Haas moved, seconded by Croll, to authorize IM Design of Emporia, to process a plug-in setup for the City's website in the amount of \$100.00 **Motion carried 5-0.**

Haehn moved, seconded by Taylor to approve advertising in The Coffey County Republican for a seasonal laborer at \$12 per hour, up to 25 hours per week. **Motion carried 5-0.** Applications should be turned in by April 1st

City Attorney Report

- City Code cannot be enforced without Code Enforcement.

Mayor's Report N/A

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas

- Audit was completed and some yearend numbers were adjusted. The general fund is up but parks and special hwy will need to be watched.

Community Building Report: Richard Croll

Council Member Croll received an email requesting a reduced rate for band practice. Council Member Haas said the band was for-hire and we shouldn't trade. Council Member Haehn said reducing the rate would set a precedence. Council Member Haas would like to hire the band for Strawnfest and charge the normal rate if they would like to rent the community building.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks
Water Usage & Loss Report

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

Council Member Taylor thanked the council for approving the dust abatement. No information at this time on the crack and seal coat and won't be doing year 4 on the resurfacing as we need to maintain what has been completed.

- Lights - Steven, Haehn and Taylor met as the Street Committee. 4 Rivers has not responded on the cost of lights and trenching. There had been a no wires above ground covenant in the area, Glenda Perkins indicated that she had seen it so it is still unknown as to wires will be above or below ground. Each homeowner could install decorative yard lights at their cost. If the city were to install more lights it would be city wide and the entire city would be hit with the cost. Council Member Weeks asked about solar light, Steve said 4 Rivers won't do solar.
- Speed – discussed two possibilities. 1) hire a policeman for code enforcement and for patrol 2) priced out large blocks for \$60 each to make an obstacle course to hopefully slow people down.

Haehn moved, seconded by Haas to allow Mayor Petterson to inquire with the Coffey County Sheriff's Department and the City of Burlington's Police Department about possibly contracting for law enforcement in New Strawn. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas

Strawnfest 2021 50 + 1 WCNOG won't be able to help this year but would donate \$3,000 if sent an invoice.

Weeks moved, seconded by Haas to enter into a contract of \$445 with Raymer Enterprises for a car show and hot wheels racing if COVID allows. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn to hire Hwy 75 Band to play for 3 hours at Strawnfest for the rate of \$350. Funds to be used from Strawnfest funds.

Parks and Recreation Report: N/A

Public Safety Report: N/A

New Business:

- Employee Evaluation – Lana Johnson

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks to go into executive session at 9:14 pm for 10 minutes pursuant to non-elected personnel under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and to discuss the employee evaluation of Lana Johnson in the back room of City Hall.

Haas moved, seconded by Haehn to increase City Clerk Johnson's hourly rate by .25 per hour effective March 22nd, 2021. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Old Business:

- Review personnel policy and procedure manual.

Haas moved, seconded by Taylor for the council to have a work session at 5:30 pm, March 24th to review the personnel policy and procedure manual. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

- Coffey County Capital Improvement Planning – flyers are available for the April 1st, 2021 meeting to be held at the New Strawn Community Building.

Correspondence: N/A

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.