

New Strawn City Council – Thursday, March 8, 2018

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. at New Strawn City Hall.

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson, council members Jim Weeks, Jeanne Haas, Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor and Richard Croll.

Others Present: City Superintendent Ron Parkey, Water Operator Steve Dwight, County Commissioner Bob Saueressig, Russ Taylor, Marc Chester, Illa Weeks, Bobbi Gellhaus, City Attorney Denise McNabb and City Zoning Administrator Carl Ware.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Alliance.

AGENDA ADDITIONS:

Agenda Additions: Preston Lawson water bill.

Council member Haehn moved to approve the agenda with additions as presented. Council member Weeks seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Council member Haas moved to approve the February payroll in the amount of \$13,086.17. Council member Taylor seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS:

City Superintendent Ron Parkey reported Coffey County has designated Spring Cleanup April 16-21 for free residential dumping at the Coffey County Landfill. New Strawn will participate by having city employees pick up residential trash items Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the designated week. Parkey said MT Networks had electric service and fiber run to the water tower. Two dogs that have caused problems on First Street were taken to the Burlington Animal Shelter for a short time. Mayor Petterson and Burlington Police Chief Doug Jones talked about future impounding of dogs from New Strawn. Parkey also said the city's 20-year-old line locator

quite working. Parkey will check at the upcoming water conference to see what is available and get a cost.

Zoning Administrator Carl Ware said the New Strawn City Planning Commission public hearing was held Feb. 27. He thought it was a good meeting. A number of questions were answered by Bickley Foster and David Foster of Foster and Associates.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

a. TrustPoint insurance – Renew City Insurance: Bobbi Gellhaus, an insurance agent at TrustPoint Insurance, presented information about the city's annual insurance policy renewal through EMC Insurance. She summarized eight city-owned properties that have a \$1.9 million insurance blanket that includes property and equipment. She specifically detailed coverages for general liability, employee benefits, linebacker and employment practices, crime, cybersolutions, commercial automobile, vehicles, equipment/inland marine, and workers compensation/employers liability. The premium total of \$25,556 is not quite \$200 more than last year (less than 1 percent increase).

Council member Taylor moved to renew the city's annual EMC insurance policy through TrustPoint Insurance in the amount of \$25,556. Council member Haehn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

b. Executive Session: At 7:54 p.m., Council member Haas moved to enter into a 15-minute executive session to discuss employee performance matters subject to the KOMA exception for nonelected personnel with the governing body and city attorney Denise McNabb present and to return to open session at 8:09 p.m. Council member Haehn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

The council returned to open session at 8:09 p. m.

At 8:09 p.m., Council member Haas moved to enter into a 15-minute executive session to discuss employee performance matters subject to the KOMA exception for nonelected personnel with the governing body and city attorney Denise McNabb present and to return to open session at 8:24 p.m. Council member Haehn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

The council returned to open session at 8:24 p.m.

At 8:25 p.m., Council member Haas moved to enter into a 15-minute executive session to discuss employee performance matters subject to the KOMA exception for nonelected

personnel with the governing body and city attorney Denise McNabb present and to return to open session at 8:40 p.m. Council member Haehn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

The council returned to open session at 8:40 p.m.

Council member Haas moved to approve a leave of absence for City Clerk Kerry Templeton by allowing March 5-9 and March 12-17 as leave and giving Templeton a choice of taking a nonpaid leave of absence or using paid vacation time during that time. Council member Haehn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

c. Approve Minutes/Form of Minutes: The council discussed the draft Feb. 8, 2018 city council minutes. Council member Haas moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 8, 2018 regular meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

Council member Taylor moved to accept the minutes of the Feb. 8, 2018 regular meeting in its original form. Council member Croll seconded the motion and it passed on a 3-2 vote. Council members Weeks and Haas opposed the motion.

Council member Haas moved to include less, rather than more, information in city council minutes, using either bullet minutes or motion minutes, from this date forward. Council member Weeks seconded the motion and it passed on a 4-1 vote. Council member Taylor opposed the motion.

City Attorney McNabb said if the city records meetings, a policy should be adopted by the council.

d. League Response to Zoning Conflicts: City Attorney McNabb spoke with Eric Smith, Deputy General Counsel with the League of Kansas Municipalities as requested by the city council at its February regular meeting. Smith affirmed McNabb's advice and said that he does not think the concerns made regarding Richard Croll's current accessory structure or business are a conflict of interest with respect to either his membership on the planning commission or as a council member.

e. Transparency to the Public/KOMA Issues:

Council member Haas discussed transparency and specifically mentioned an email sent to the public relations committee. City Attorney McNabb cautioned the council about having any discussions involving a quorum (majority of council), whether verbal or by email. Confidential emails were also mentioned.

f. League Governing Institute in April: Council member Weeks moved to approve the registration fees of any governing body member who will attend the Governing Body Institute

and Mayors Conference to be held Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21 at the Maner Conference Center/Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka. The cost is \$175 for both days with an April 11 registration deadline. Council member Croll seconded the motion and it passed on a 5-0 vote.

g. Quarter Challenge: Council member Taylor challenged the governing body donate their city wages to New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) on a quarterly basis. Donations from the first quarter (Jan. – March) will be used for the Easter Egg Hunt, the second quarter (April – June) will be used for Strawnfest, the third quarter (July – Sept.) will be used for Halloween and the fourth quarter (Oct. – Dec.) will be used for Christmas activities.

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

A new hair salon, Meraki Salon, has opened in New Strawn.

COMMUNITY BUILDING REPORT:

Nothing to report.

UTILITY REPORT:

a. Preston Lawson water bill: Council member Haehn moved to approve an adjustment to Preston Lawson's water bill by charging the full cost for their average 3,500 gallons of water used and charging the city's wholesale cost for the gallons used over the 3,500 gallons up to the 53,730 gallons used (50,230 gallons). Council member Haas seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. A water leak occurred in the Lawson's front yard while they were gone on vacation.

STREET REPORT:

a. Roads - Budget and Work Requests:

Council member Taylor, who is chairman of the Street Committee, discussed being proactive and a desire to have street work done at the start of the summer. She is suggesting a 2018 street project budget around \$150,000 with \$15,000 coming from the special highway fund and \$135,000 from the infrastructure fund. The streets to be included in this year's street project has not been finalized. The council agreed to have City Superintendent Parkey contact contractors to begin the 2018 road improvement project process.

PARK AND RECREATION REPORT:

a. Maiden Grass for City Lake Island: Council member Haehn moved to spend up to \$800 to purchase 10 flats of Maiden Grass from Strawder's and Daughters, for use on the city lake islands, with funds to come from the Parks Fund. Council member Weeks seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT:

a. Strawnfest: Council member Haas updated the council about Strawnfest and activities of the Task Force Committee. Council member Haehn moved to change the Strawnfest date to June 23. Council member Weeks second the motion and it passed 5-0.

b. Veterans Banner Program: Councilmember Haas updated the council on the Veterans Banner Project. Another meeting with the Floyd Lewis Foundation is tentatively scheduled March 29. Parkey said Lyon-Coffey Electric would allow use of their poles to hang the banners.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

a. New Strawn Apartments City Code Violation: Mayor Petterson updated the council about attempts to resolve code violations concerning trash at the New Strawn Apartments on First Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Zoning Permit: No further discussion this meeting.

b. Jeff's Towing: Council member Haehn said the increased number of items outside of the fence at Jeff's Towing is making the business look "junky" and he would like to see it cleaned up.

ADJOURN: 10:15 p.m.