

New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023

PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council members: Jeanne Haas, Stephanie Baker, Butch Gilkison, David Christiansen and Johnny Hernandez

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, City Attorney Philip Wright, Code Enforcement Ray Wards, Zoning Administrator Cody Collins and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Others: Tyson Marcotte, Tim & Brenda Klubek, Kimberly Skillman Robrahn, Mark Petterson, Michael Abendroth and Jeff Wolfe

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

ADD: Appointments: TrustPoint Insurance – Kimberly Skillman Robrahn

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to approve the agenda with addition. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Items

- A. **Minutes:** Move to approve meeting minutes of February 9, 2023.

- A. **Warrants:** Move to approve the Warrants dated February 7, 2023, through March 6, 2023 in the amount of \$27,887.93.
- A. **Payroll:** Move to approve the February 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$9,016.21.

OTHER:

Baker moved, seconded by Haas, to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion carried 5-0.

OATH OF OFFICE: Ray Wards – Code Enforcement

APPOINTMENTS:

TrustPoint Insurance – Kimberly Skillman Robrahn

Kimberly presented the insurance proposal, policy term 4/1/2023 to 4/1/2024 pointing out the changes.

The council did ask her to have some of the rates reviewed as they seemed high for the structure.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas, to approve the insurance premium. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tyson Marcotte mentioned that a county commissioner questioned if selling the ballfield was the right thing to do.

Jeff Wolfe said the Jones Fund or the Lions Club may be able to donate towards revamping the ballfield.

Mark Petterson mentioned it was one of the only places in New Strawn to play ball.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Additional Warrants – None

STAFF REPORTS

Zoning Administrator

No zoning permits filed this month but have received a few inquiries.

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

Ray reported that he has driven around town and there are several issues that he will be working on. One issue property was a stagnate pond with an abandoned truck and a lot of brush down. He did ask about a no living in a camper ordinance. He will get together with Zoning Administrator Collins to look into it.

Maintenance Operator

- Spring Clean-up April 10-12
- Community Center Roof - The community center roof has a leak over the table storage area.
- Water Tower Inspection Results - Everything looked good. The tower is to be drained, inspected and painted every 10th cleaning.
- CIP – meetings still going on.

Water pumps and check valves have been ordered.

Preston with Core & Main installed the new software for the auto read meters on March 8th. The intent is to have all auto read meters installed by March 20. The water bill due 4/10/23 will be lower for most and the next bill will be higher as it will have a few more days on it. The new meters read more accurate so it will pick up a leaking faucet.

Lead and copper reporting is ready to be submitted.

City Clerk

- Audit – went well, no issues.
- Community Building Rentals
 - March* 4th Ducks Unlimited, 9th – 11th Kurtz Auction, 21st I.B.E.W., 26th Private Event
 - April* – 6th – 8th Fire Department picking up chairs for breakfast on the 8th, 8th NSCIO
 - Easter backup*, 15th Private Event, 18th I.B.E.W, 22nd Private Event

There have been some issues getting emails to some of the council. Gmail email addresses have been rejecting some.

City Attorney – No Report

Mayor's Report

- a. Coffey County Commissioners – Mayor Taylor and Maintenance Operator Dwight met with the Coffey County Commissioners to request funds to help place rip rap around the city lagoons. The commissioners approved \$150,000 to the city to be used for rip rap.

- b. Possible Replat of Land – Mayor Taylor asked the council how they felt about replating the

property that Abendroth Builders was interested in buying along with the land directly behind 3 home owners on Decker St. There was discussion on the city should develop out and not fill every open spot in town. The property should be kept as a green space and look for grants to better the community.

Haas moved seconded by Baker to keep the ballfield land and to not sell. **Motion carried 3-2. Council members Gilkison and Christiansen opposed.**

c. MIH – Moderate Income Housing grant would require someone to collect information, maintain and submit the reports which would require more staff time. The city isn't equipped to handle it and probably should be left up to the county.

d. Personnel Manual – City Attorney Wright reported that the City of Burlington is looking into a personnel manual, both cities may be able to meet with the employment attorney in the same Zoom meeting. He will report back at the next meeting.

Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas

a. Water Information – Council Member Haas provided data pertaining to the current maintenance fee and possible reduction data. She suggested bringing the maintenance fee down to \$20 or \$25 per month. A roof and other maintenance are needed on the chlorine building and that is an area that the maintenance fee would be used. The water fees need to be reevaluated and discussed in the next meeting.

Community Building Report – David Christiansen

Council Member Christiansen mentioned that his wife was with a group that had rented the community center and there were a lot of kitchen utensils needed that wasn't there. Mayor Taylor explained that there had been an inventory taken and a decision needed to be made what was really needed there as a lot of utensils and cookware has disappeared.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas to use \$250 from Parks to buy supplies for the community center.
Motion carried 5-0.

Utility Report – Butch Gilkison

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

Street Report- Rhonda Taylor - None

Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas

a. Strawnfest 2023 Events – Council Member Haas reviewed the list of activities planned for 2023 Strawnfest. She also asked the council and mayor if they would like to provide, cook and serve the hot dog feed again this year. All agreed.

b. Veterans Banners – When things were originally set up it was to be for 4 years and to be hung after Halloween. The thought is that it may be allowed for 5 years. There is a letter ready to go out to the banners up for renewal but waiting for word from the Floyd Lewis Foundation.

c. NSCIO – Easter Donation

Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to approve a donation of \$100 to NSCIO for Easter, funds to be used from general. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez

Council Member Hernandez said he would see about getting some of the red dirt on the city ballfield and also about getting a baseball catch net.

New Business - None

Old Business

Maintenance Operator Dwight reported that when the Grasshopper mower had approximately 400 hours he had to replace the bearings and carrier shaft. It now has just over 700 hours and it wis needed again. He spoke with a representative of Grasshopper and they asked him to take it to Topeka for them to look at it.

Adjournment:

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.