

# New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2023

## **PRESENT:**

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

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

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight (arrived 7:02), Code Enforcement Ray Wards, Zoning

Administrator Cody Collins, City Attorney Philip Wright and City Clerk Lana Johnson

Others: Greg Holmquist, Mark Petterson, Kimberly Robrahn and Wayde Thomsen

**ABSENT:** Council David Christiansen

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

## **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:**

ADD: Under City Clerk, third item – Republic Services

*Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the agenda with addition of Republic Services. Motion carried 4-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS:** None

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

### **Consent Agenda Items**

**Minutes:** Move to approve meeting minutes of April 13, 2023.

**Warrants:** Move to approve the Warrants dated April 11, 2023, through May 8, 2023, in the amount of \$31,753.60.

**Payroll:** Move to approve the April 2023 Payroll in the amount of \$10,154.29.

*Gilkison moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion carried 4-0.*

**APPOINTMENTS:** Kimberly Robrahn – TrustPoint Insurance Dividend Check, Review Response

Kimberly presented the council with the EMC Safety Dividend check for \$3,931.53. She also responded to the councils request for a review of the insurance cost on City Hall. The insurance company underwriter held firm on their valuation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- a. Additional Warrants – None

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Zoning Administrator**

- Approved 2023-Z-2, zoning permit for a fence located at 117 N 4<sup>th</sup> St, Nathan Davenport

- Approved 2023-Z-3, zoning permit for a fence located at 1011 N Arrowhead Dr, Jason Voland

#### **Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety**

- Camper Code/Zoning

The council decided to not add anything into the code on campers at this time.

There has been conversation with several property owners and they are working on some of the violations.

#### **Maintenance Operator**

- Summer Help

Gilkison moved, seconded by Baker approve hiring of Paul Richister for Temporary Seasonal Laborer position, for approximately 25 hours per week at the rate of \$12.00 per hour from May 15<sup>th</sup>, through the end of mowing season. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- Meter Pit Lids

Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve the purchase flat top meter pit lids from Core & Main, not to exceed \$3,500. Funds to be used from Water. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- Plasma Cutter

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to approve the purchase of a plasma cutter from Caldwell's not to exceed \$1,800. Funds to be used from Equipment. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- Water Meter Update – all but two 2" meters have been replaced.
- Water Pump/Valve Update – no update
- Rip Rap Update – no update

Maintenance Operator Dwight purchased additional equipment from Core & Main to be able to track and chart water usage. This will be used to pinpoint when a water leak or high usage started.

A hydra-vac machine was rented from Skillman Construction to speed the process of replacing 20-meter pits.

OK Kids plans to donate \$1,500 to help replenish fish in the city lake this fall.

#### **City Clerk**

- Valnet/Kwikom Equipment Update

City Clerk Johnson contacted Eric Vogel, Operations Manager of Kwikom regarding their purchase of Valnet. Valnet had been leasing space on the water tower for their equipment. Mr Vogel stated they purchased the equipment but not the lease and they would not be honoring the lease agreement even though there is still equipment on the city tower. City Attorney Wright requested documentation showing the purchase and Kwikom has not been able to provide it.

Baker moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve City Attorney Wright to send Kwikom a letter notifying Kwikom that the city will not renew the lease with Kwikom. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- ACH Payments of Water Bills - still researching more convenient, cost-effective ways for residents to pay their water bills on time.

- ADDED: Republic Services – a notice was received stating the trash rates charged to the city would be going up .54 as of June 1, 2023. The city hasn't passed on a trash rate increase since February of 2015. The council did direct City Attorney Wright to draft a new ordinance increasing the rate charged to residents by \$1.50. This will be effective after publishing in The Coffey County Republican.

- Work Session, May 18, 6:00 pm

- City Hall closed, Memorial Day, May 29
- City-Wide Garage Sale, August 5, 2023
- Community Building Rentals
  - May – 6<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 12, 13<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 16<sup>th</sup> I.B.E.W., 27<sup>th</sup> Private Event*
  - June – 3<sup>rd</sup> Private Event, 4<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 19<sup>th</sup> Lifeline Screening, 20<sup>th</sup> I.B.E.W, 24<sup>th</sup> Strawnfest, 27<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup> Radiant Life Youth Fireworks*

**City Attorney** - none

**Mayor’s Report**

- a. Meet the People” - New Strawn Library, May 18<sup>th</sup>

The New Strawn Library is having “Meet the People” during the summer reading program. Mayor Taylor will be speaking during a session.

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to approve the donation of a child’s City Lake Fishing permit, expiring 12/31/23 to each child in attendance on May 18<sup>th</sup> of “Meet the People”. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- b. TrustPoint Real Estate Contract Expiration – the council decided to let the land contract expire.

**Finance & Economic Development Report – Jeanne Haas**

- a. Honor Flight Donation

Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to donate \$100 to Southern Coffey County Honor Flight. Funds to be used from General.

**Community Building Report – David Christiansen**

**Utility Report – Butch Gilkison**

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

**Street Report- Rhonda Taylor**

Mayor Taylor and Maintenance Operator Dwight reviewed the street issues and will be forming a plan for repairs and maintenance.

**Public Relations Report- Jeanne Haas**

- a. Strawnfest 2023 Events

The council decided to keep the hotdog feed at the city park, late afternoon and to look at hiring a band. Several activities were discussed. A full list of activities will be provided at the next council meeting.

Haas moved, seconded by Baker that the City of New Strawn, for Strawnfest allow up to \$700 out of general and \$700 out of Parks plus any donations received. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Haas moved, seconded by Baker to allow catch and release from 8 am to 5 pm at the city lake on June 24, 2023. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Parks & Recreation Report – Johnny Hernandez**

Council Member Hernandez had been contacted by Radiant Life Church regarding a possible disc golf course. They will meet next week to go over ideas.

Maintenance Operator Dwight reported the USD 244 Burlington Recreation Center had ordered a new net for the batting cage.

**INSURANCE/PERSONNEL: - Stephanie Baker**

Still researching companies that will provide insurance for only two employees.

**New Business**

- a. Old Business TrustPoint Insurance Review Response – reviewed in appointment.

**Adjournment:**

*Baker moved, seconded by Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.*