

**CITY OF NEW STRAWN
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 11, 2017
New Strawn City Hall
7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the regular monthly meeting of the New Strawn City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Those present were: Council Member Jim Weeks
 Council Member Kraig Kirchner
 Council Member Jeanne Haas
 Council Member Bobby Bryant
 Council Member Gary Haehn

Others present were:
 City Superintendent Ron Parkey City Clerk Kerry Templeton
 County Commissioner Bob Saueressig Sue Haehn
 Rhonda Taylor Bobbi Gellhaus

Flag Salute: The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Additions:

Mayor's Report:

g. **ADDED:** Code Enforcement/Animal Control

Park & Recreation Report:

f. **ADDED:** Fishing @ City Lake

Public Safety Report:

a. **ADDED:** Walking/Jogging in the Dark

New Business:

- c. **ADDED:** Executive Session
- d. **ADDED:** New Zoning Regulations

Correspondence:

- b. **ADDED:** Mediacom
- c. **ADDED:** Metro Courier
- d. **ADDED:** League of KS Municipalities

Consent Agenda Additions:

Licenses:

D. **ADDED:** Move to approve 2017 Contractor License for Kansas Fencing, Inc.

Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve the minutes of April 13, 2017 regular council meeting
- Move to approve the April 2017 warrants in the amount of \$24,820.77
- Move to approve the April 2017 payroll in the amount of \$12,974.46

- Move to approve City Alcohol License for Lakeside Liquors at 217 N. Main Street, effective 12:00 a.m. on July 7, 2017 to 11:59 p.m. on July 6, 2019.
- Move to approve 2017 CMB License for Prairie Winds Golf Course, LLC to sell cereal malt beverages for consumption on premises
- Move to approve 2017 Contractor License for Midland Fence.
- Move to approve 2017 Contractor License for Kansas Fencing, Inc.
- Move to approve Permit No. 2017-F-01 for the sale of fireworks in New Strawn by Big Daddy's Fireworks
- Move to allow Steven Dwight to attend 'Understanding & Troubleshooting Electrical Motors & Variable Speed Drives' training in Iola, KS on May 17 & 18

Council member Haehn moved to approve agenda with additions as presented. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments:

Bobbi Gellhaus with TrustPoint Insurance was in attendance to present a dividend check in the amount of \$4,874.53 to Council.

Council member Haas moved to approve the consent agenda with additions as presented. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Financial Report:

Council member Haas moved to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$2,708.55. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council reviewed the 2016 audit report as presented by Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips PA.

Staff Reports:

City Superintendent Parkey discussed a drainage issue on Terry Smith's property at 222 W. Shawnee Street that Council member Weeks had brought to the attention of Council at the April meeting. Parkey stated that the storm water coming from the new drainage pipe installed last year is eroding away the area surrounding it. An erosion control blanket has been purchased and Parkey and Dwight will smooth out the 'wash-out' areas, reseed the grass and install the blanket to stop the erosion process.

Parkey reported that many residents took advantage of the city-wide clean-up on May1-3. Council member Haas asked about the possibility of extending the days the city picks up items to be hauled to the dump from three days to perhaps four or five as she had received inquiries from several residents regarding the matter. There was brief discussion and it was felt that three days was generous as some cities in the county only provide one complimentary pickup day.

Parkey and Dwight had also cleaned out the attic in the community building.

Clerk Templeton noted that a letter had been received regarding sponsorship of the OK Kids event scheduled for September 8-10. Council member Haas moved to sponsor the OK Kids event to be held September 8-10, 2017 in the amount of \$125.00, funds to be taken from the General Fund. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Templeton discussed the City's long distance phone service currently provided by Century Link. Templeton stated that the City had lost its bundle package when the existing contract expired recently causing an alarming increase in the cost of long distance service. Century Link was offering a new two year contract option with unlimited long distance service for a base price of \$140.00 per month. However, Templeton pointed out there would be several other fees assessed each month, such as surcharges, that would drive the monthly cost upward to closer to \$200.00. She suggested contracting with MT Networks for both long distance and internet service at a monthly cost of approximately \$125.00 per month. Templeton noted that she is experiencing numerous interruptions in internet service provided by Valnet almost on a weekly basis and felt the switch to MT Networks would alleviate that issue as well as provide a more economical solution to the long distance service.

Council member Bryant moved to switch the City's long distance provider from Century Link to MT Networks and to include internet service, for a two year contract. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Zoning Administrator Carl Ware was not in attendance but Templeton reported that he had been maintaining contact with Bickley Foster in regards to finishing up the Comprehensive Plan and new zoning regulations for the city and had given Mr. Foster a deadline of May 31 to have everything finalized.

Mayor's Report:

The City's current code and procedures regarding open burning within city limits was revisited. Some council members were of the opinion that the City Code does not correspond closely enough with the county's open burning resolution and does not clearly define what is lawful and unlawful to burn within city limits. There was lengthy discussion. It was suggested that the city's attorney review the current code along with the county open burning resolution and make recommendations to Council as to if and what amendments may be needed. The issue will be discussed again at the June meeting.

The procedure and regulations concerning hay permits within city limits was revisited. The City Code governing the growth of weeds has a provision within it which allows areas zoned other than agricultural lying within city limits to be exempted from being declared a nuisance if a hay permit is granted to the property owner and the area is hayed by September 1 of the year in which the permit is granted. Council suspended the issuance of hay permits for 2017 at the April meeting to allow them time to review the code. There was discussion and it was felt the code should remain as is. Council member Haas moved to allow the issuance of hay permits for 2017 as of May 11, 2017. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 4-1, with Weeks opposed.

Council member Haas moved to approve the Mayor's appointments and committee designations as presented. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council member Bryant moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Richard Croll and Mike Skillman to a three year term on the New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, effective June 1, 2017 and expiring May 31, 2020. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council member Bryant moved to nominate Council member Jim Weeks to serve as Council President. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1, with Weeks abstaining.

Council member Haas moved to approve Ordinance No. 2017-05, an ordinance establishing 2017 salaries for the appointed and elected officials of the City of New Strawn, KS. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0 by a show of hands.

Code enforcement and animal control for the City was discussed. Hiring a part-time law enforcement officer for code and traffic enforcement is one possibility being considered. Council member Haehn is opposed to this option and feels the cost to the city would be ‘ridiculous’. The possibility of contracting with the City of Burlington for animal control issues was also discussed. Council instructed Mayor Petterson to further investigate both options and the matter will be revisited at the June meeting.

Finance and Economic Development:

None

Community Building Report:

None

Utility Report:

None

Street Report:

Three bids had been received for the proposed 2017 street work for the City.

Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc., SE-KAN Asphalt Division	\$27,728.60
APAC-Kansas, Inc., Shears Division	\$39,590.92
Killough Construction, Inc.	\$47,500.00

Council member Bryant moved to accept bid in the amount of \$27,728.60 as submitted by Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc. for street asphalt work in 2017 for the City of New Strawn, funds to be taken from the Infrastructure Fund. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Relations Report:

Plans for Strawnfest were discussed. Donations from several area businesses have been received including Coffey County Chamber of Commerce, Bahr Tire, Hoover’s Thriftway, TrustPoint Insurance, Coffey County Economic Development, Coffey Honda Powersports and Citizens State Bank.

Council member Haas moved to purchase one hundred (100) pre-paid coupons for shaved ice from Colin and Allie Sleezer at a cost of \$1.50 each, funds to be taken from the Strawnfest Fund. Haehn seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The Slezers will have their shaved ice trailer set up at the park during Strawnfest and coupons will be given to kids at the free picnic to redeem at the trailer for a free frozen treat.

Council member Weeks moved to approve a contract with Ultimate Bounce from Topeka, KS, to provide inflatables for Strawnfest at a cost of \$1,380.00, funds to be taken from the Strawnfest Fund, and to direct Mayor Petterson to sign contract, acting as an agent of the City of New Strawn. Kirchner seconded. Motion passed 5-0. There will be free inflatables for children age 3 and up to enjoy.

Park & Recreation Report:

Superintendent Parkey reported that Leonard Jirak had expressed interest in purchasing the City's fish cages. The cages were used in the past to raise fish for the City Lake but are no longer being utilized. Jirak had offered \$200.00 each for the four (4) cages with larger wire mesh and \$225.00 each for the four (4) cages with smaller wire mesh. Council member Haehn moved to sell all eight (8) cages to Leonard Jirak at the price of \$1,700.00. Bryant seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Parkey also reported that the water fountain at the City Lake had quit working. He had priced one through Aquatics, Inc. for \$1,191.00 with free shipping. Council member Haehn moved to purchase a new fountain for the City Lake from Aquatics, Inc., cost not to exceed \$1,191.00, funds to be taken from the Park Fund. Haas seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council member Haehn discussed the need to replace the existing playground equipment at Jones Park, across from the community building. Council agreed. Haehn will obtain some estimates on the cost of such a project and present at the June meeting.

Haehn also noted that the area around the batting cage needs to be reseeded and that there are some structures at the park that need to have a fresh coat of stain applied to them. He stated that both areas, however, have been greatly improved by work performed by Parkey & Dwight.

Council member Kirchner discussed his concerns about people fishing at the City Lake without a City fishing permit as well as exceeding the City's set creel limits per day. There was brief discussion and it was noted that both issues are hard to regulate but local Kansas Wildlife & Parks officers routinely check anglers to ensure they are properly licensed. City employees also try to perform random city permit checks.

Public Safety Report:

Clerk Templeton reported a recent incident involving two people walking along Arrowhead Drive. The incident occurred before sunrise and involved a near-accident due to the fact that the pedestrians were wearing dark-colored clothing and were not carrying or sporting any lights or reflective materials and a driver of a vehicle nearly hit them. She wanted to remind everyone who walks, jogs or rides bicycles before sunrise or after sunset to please be sure and wear light-colored clothing, have some sort of reflective accessory or to carry a light of some sort.

New Business:

Council member Haehn stated that the sign in front of City Hall is beginning to show signs of rot and will most likely need replaced in the near future. Haehn also felt that the interior of City Hall could use a fresh coat of paint.

Council member Haehn moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel at 9:14 p.m. for ten (10) minutes. Weeks seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Regular council meeting resumed at 9:24 p.m.

Council member Weeks, liaison to the New Strawn Planning Commission, urged Council members to review the proposed new zoning regulations carefully. Weeks feels there are portions of the new regulations that may not be a 'good fit' for New Strawn and wants Council to be familiar with the proposed regulations before, eventually, voting to approve them.

Mayor Petterson reminded Council that the Business Appreciation Picnic will be held at Kelley Park in Burlington on June 2. Invitations will be mailed to local businesses and he encouraged all to attend. The picnic is held annually in conjunction with the City of Burlington and is a way for New Strawn to express our gratitude to our business community.

Old Business:

The possibility of a city sales tax referendum on the November ballot was discussed again. Council member Haehn was of the opinion that the residents of New Strawn should at least have the opportunity to vote on the issue. Several council members and the mayor again stated that most of the feedback they had received was in opposition to a city sales tax. Mayor Petterson noted that if residents wish to have the referendum on a ballot they may petition the Council to do so.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.