

# New Strawn City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, November 10, 2022

## PRESENT:

Mayor Rhonda Taylor

Council members: Jeanne Haas, David Christiansen, Stephanie Baker and Butch Gilkison (via phone)

Absent: Johnny Hernandez

Staff: Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, City Attorney Philip Wright, and City Clerk Lana Johnson.

Others: Roy Skillman, Greg Holmquist, Tex Jenkins, Bob Saueressig and Phyllis Bachman.

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

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

Mayor Taylor thanked the Veterans for being here and for their service.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:** None

*Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried 4-0.*

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

### Consent Agenda Items

**Minutes:** Move to approve meeting minutes of October 13, 2022.

**Warrants:** Move to approve the Warrants dated October 12, 2022 through November 7, 2022 in the amount of \$55,779.56.

**Payroll:** Move to approve the October, 2022 Payroll in the amount of \$9,136.06.

**LICENSE:** Move to approve 2022-C-04, Contractor License for Flory Construction.

Move to approve 2022-CMB-01, Cereal Malt Beverage License for Casey's General Store.

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

## APPOINTMENTS:

Texal Jenkins – Mae Builders – based on Guidelines for the Transfer of Water Service Territory Between Cities and Rural Water Districts provided by the Kansas Rural Water Association the City and RWD#3 should start meeting regarding the potential annexation. Mayor Taylor addressed the council regarding the checklist in the guidelines without committing to anything. Tex said he isn't asking for a commitment but an intent to annex Mae's Landing.

*Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen, to have City Clerk Johnson contact RWD#3 to Have Mayor Taylor, Council Members Christiansen, Haas and Maintenance Operator Dwight be added to their agenda to discuss water at Mae's Landing. Motion carried 4-0.*

Coffey County Commissioner/RWD#3 Board Member Saueressig asked "Why go to a meeting if the city doesn't have their ducks in a row?". Council Member Christiansen responded that the council would like to discuss the options.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Phyllis Bachman "I don't want it at all, I don't want it period".

## FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Additional warrants

*Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to allow \$2,168.00 in additional warrants. Motion carried 4-0.*

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Zoning Administrator**

Approved Zoning Permit 2022-Z-04, Kyle Myers concrete slab for extended patio.  
Had a planning meeting and added “venue” to the conditional use section.

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

Tickets – City Clerk Johnson checked into having tickets made like the ones used by the Burlington Police Department. The cost would be almost \$1,000 for 1,000 tickets and the city would never use them all. The decision was made to use the old tickets on hand and issue a “summons to appear” with the ticket.

Code Enforcement Replacement

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to adjust the Code Enforcement salary to \$80 per month for the first 4 hours and \$25 per hour for additional, Mayor approved hours and to direct the mayor to solicit a Code Enforcement Officer. Motion carried 4-0.*

### **Maintenance Operator**

CIP - Walking Trails – the proposed budget for the walking trail was approximately 1.8 mil to which the council responded no. There might be grant funds for some stormwater issues but nothing for culverts and ditch cleaning.

Shelter House – Concrete

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to accept the bid listed from Burlington Construction for \$4,620 to repair the concrete at the shelter house, Jones Park, horseshoe pits and hole at the shop. Motion carried 4-0.*

Dump Truck Cylinder

*Haas moved, seconded by Gilkison to approve dump truck cylinder repair not to exceed \$850 for NE Hydraulics, funds to be used from General Fund. Motion carried 4-0.*

Park Restroom – the toilet in the ladies’ room is leaking around the wax ring and the flange is rotted away. When it comes time to replace the restroom it might be best to replace concrete, plumbing and everything.

Electric for Salt Bin – no update

Shop Water Heater

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to approve replacing the shop water heater, not to exceed \$600, funds to be used from General Fund. Motion carried 4-0.*

Security Cameras – Maintenance Operator Dwight would like to meet with Council Member Christiansen to discuss camera options.

Lead and Copper Rule – still researching.

Water Pump Update – no update.

Council Member Christiansen addressed Coffey County Commissioner/RWD#3 Board Member Saueressig letting him know that the council had been told to approach the county commissioners for funds for the water pump and rip rap. Saueressig responded “good luck”.

Diesel

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas to approve additional diesel not to exceed \$600. Funds to be used for the General Fund. Motion carried 4-0.*

Road Salt – no salt mix had been purchased yet this year.

Tablet

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Haas to approve the purchase of a Samsung Galaxy Tab S7 FE 5G and cell service. **Motion carried 4-0.***

DR 890 Colori Meter

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to authorize \$1,800 to repair the current Colori meter or to purchase 2 hand held meters. **Motion carried 4-0.***

Salt Building is up, QSI is including gutters for the building.

### **City Clerk**

Clerk Johnson read aloud a thank you card from NSCIO for the donation the city made last month.

Veterans Day – City Hall Closed 11/11

Thanksgiving – City Hall Closed 11/24 & 25

Audit - February 21, 2023

Community Building Rentals - *November* 6<sup>th</sup> Private Event, 7-9 Election, 13<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Community Christian Church Thanksgiving, 15<sup>th</sup> I.B.E.W., 16<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Library, 19<sup>th</sup> Private Event *December* 7<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Library, 13<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Library, 14 – 15<sup>th</sup> New Strawn Fire Department, 20<sup>th</sup> I.B.E.W.

### **City Attorney**

*Baker moved, seconded by Christiansen to adopt Charter Ordinance #2022-07 which would exempt the city attorney from being a member of the elect city. **Motion carried by a show of hands 5 – 0.***

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to appoint Philip Wright to fulfil the duties of the office of the city attorney as special council until the office of city attorney is no longer vacant. **Motion carried 4-0.***

### **Mayor's Report**

New Strawn Community Christian Church Thanksgiving, November 13

Reminder – Employee Evaluations in December – Council Member Haas mentioned the salary caps and would like it put on the December agenda.

### **Finance & Economic Development Report**

Council Member Haas reviewed cash balances in preparation for year end. Council Member Christiansen mentioned the maintenance fee of \$36.50. Before being elected to the council he wanted it to go away but now understands it is needed as there are upgrades that need to be completed first.

### **Community Building Report – No Report**

### **Utility Report**

Water Usage and Loss Report presented.

### **Street Report**

Mayor Taylor reported that with the drought being so bad there are a lot of cracks in the streets. The plan is to wait until after winter and review to see what streets can be worked into the 2023 plan.

### **Public Relations Report**

Yard of the Month – Council Member Haas thanked the council members that voted for yard of the month last month.

*Haas moved, seconded by Christiansen to give \$20 Casey's gift cards to 5 winners of Winter/Christmas Yard of the Month. Judging will be December 16, 17 & 18 and turn in votes on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried 4-0.*

Veterans Banners – Council Member Haas reported that when the banner project was started it was decided the banners would not be up until after Halloween. The council agreed that the banners should hang from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>. Letters will go out to the first 7 participants to see if they want to renew. Council Member Haas thanked Maintenance Operator Dwight and City Clerk Johnson for working with 4Rivers and getting the banners hung.

**Parks & Recreation Report**

The Eagle Scout project at the basketball courts has been completed.

**New Business - None**

**Old Business**

City Owned Lots

*Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker to authorize the mayor to list A & B Sub Division Block 00B, lot 35 & 37 and A & B Sub Division, Block 00B, Lot Block info 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, W 10' of 26 with TrustPoint Real Estate at their recommended value. Motion carried 4-0.*

**Adjournment:**

*Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.*