

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, November 18, 2021

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor, Johnny Hernandez, Jeanne Haas & Jim Weeks

Staff Present: Steven Dwight - Maintenance Operator, Randy Rogers - Code Enforcement, Lana Johnson - City Clerk, Philip Wright - Attorney

Others Present: N/A

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

New Business add Holiday Schedule and Conditional Use/Auction

Taylor moved, seconded by Haas, to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 4-1. Haehn opposed.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve meeting minutes of October 14, 2021.
- Move to approve the Warrants dated October 14, 2021 through November 15, 2021 in the amount of \$26,443.94.
- Move to approve the October, 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$7,865.68.

Council Member Hernandez said he felt that it was inappropriate to have a citizen bring a request in from a council member not in attendance. The request should have been made through City Hall. City Attorney Wright said that when a council member is absent, communications should be through City Hall.

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. **Motion carried 5-0.**

APPOINTMENTS:

- Tammy Petrie – Coffey County Library, New Strawn Branch

Haas moved, seconded by Taylor to allow Coffey County Library, New Strawn Branch use of the Community Building the 2nd Tuesday of every month for 2022. **Motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: N/A

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- Additional warrants

Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez to approve additional warrants of \$1,656.63. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report:

- Issued: Zoning Permit 2021-Z-04 - Joseph Sorg - Fence
- Issued: Zoning Permit 2021-Z-05 - Great Plains Design Center - Sign

Code Enforcement Officer:

- Randy Rogers introduced himself to the council. An equipment list, uniform and identification were discussed.

Maintenance Operator Report:

- Two loads of salt chat have been ordered
- 500-gal fuel tank may cost \$2,680 and is 10 months out, 100-gal tank should run \$300 with pump – he will try to lock down some prices
- 2" Compound meter for CORPS \$1,378, previous quote was \$673.95 for 2" straight
- Pot holes will be worked on next week
- Sewer line – will be worked on when the ground is dryer
- Trout

Taylor moved, seconded by Weeks to approve purchase of \$2,500 worth of trout to be stocked in the City Lake contingent on receiving a \$2,000 contribution from USD 244 Recreation Commission with \$500 charged to General Fund. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Council Member Taylor thanked Maintenance Operator Dwight for his hard work hanging the flags and Veterans banners – “they looked really good”. Also, a thank you to 4 Rivers Electric.

City Clerk Report:

- IIMC Certification Institute Year 2
- Community Build Calendar
November
1st & 2nd – Election, 3rd – WCNOG, 9th - New Strawn Library, 14th – New Strawn Christian Church, 16th – I.B.E.W., 20th – Private Event, 21st – Private Event
December
4th – Private Event, 7th – New Strawn Library, 9 - 11th – Kurtz Auction, 15th & 16th – New Strawn Fire Department Dinner, 18th – Private Event, 21st – I.B.E.W., 25th & 26th – Private Event
- A thank you card from Marilyn Bentley’s family. The council made a \$40 donation in memory of Marilyn’s Mom to the Holton Fire Department.
- IIMC Training – an employment attorney gave a presentation at the conference. It wouldn’t be a bad idea to have an attorney that specializes in employment to go through the handbook.
- New Strawn Community Christian Church Thanksgiving Celebration – 83-85 people attended. Ginny Mitchell voiced disappointment that there wasn’t anyone there from the council.
- Time to register pets. There are a lot of people that have dogs that are not registered. The list of registered pets is used to locate owners if a dog matching their description is loose in a neighborhood.
- December will be employee reviews.
- City Hall will be closed For Thanksgiving and the Friday after.

City Attorney Report:

- Review of wireless contracts
- Council Member Haas asked if he had a chance to review the building permit information.

Mayor's Report:

Zoning Resignation/Appointment - Haas moved, seconded by Hernandez accept with regret, Zoning Administrator, Martha Newkirk's resignation effective November 1, 2021. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Hernandez moved, seconded by Haas to approve Mayor Pettersons appointment of Randy Rogers as Zoning Administrator with a base salary of \$80 per month, any additions hours over 5 hours to be paid at \$15 per hour, effective November, 18, 2021. **Motion carried 5-0.**

- Council Member Haehn asked if training would cost the city. Council Member Weeks asked that in the future we should allow citizens to apply for the job. City Attorney Wright stated that the position is not an employee but appointed. Council Member Haehn – they should live in town.

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas – no report

Community Building Report: Johnny Hernandez

- Council Member Hernandez reported that he had contacted Abendroth Builders and was told he would get a return call with no return call.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

Water Usage & Loss Report

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

- Street signs are looking faded and will need to be revisited for the next budget.

Public Relations: Jeanne Haas

- Yard of the Month – 216 W Cheyenne St won Halloween Yard of the Month and 315 W Cherokee St won Fall Yard of the Month.
- Yard of the Month – judging will be December 17 – 19 for a total of 5 gift card winners.
- NSCIO – Spooky Stroll and Table Decorating Contest had over 200 people attend. Council Member Taylor asked about the Council donating candy or money for next year.
- Robert Lee's is now open.
- Proclamation for Hometown Pie Company.

Parks and Recreation Report: Gary Haehn

- Council Member Haehn reported painting the basketball court with purple and blue could cost approximately \$4,500 and \$3,500 for black and white. A major part of the cost is in the time of laying out the court and taping off. Charlie could get to it in the spring. It was a general consensus of the council to hold off for now.
- Playground equipment now has a surcharge of 18%.

Public Safety Report: Mayor Petterson

New Business:

- Holiday Schedule

Haas moved, seconded by Weeks due to the way the Christmas holiday fell, employees will have a paid personal day in December in lieu of the traditional Christmas Eve holiday. **Motion carried 5-0.** City hall will be closed December 24th and 31st.

- Auction – Council Member Weeks suggested that future auctions apply for a conditional use permit. The old guidelines were too restrictive.

Old Business:

Correspondence: N/A

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.