

New Strawn City Council
Thursday, October 12, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Rhonda Taylor; Council members Stephanie Baker, Butch Gilkison and David Christiansen; Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight, Code Enforcement Officer Ray Wards, City Attorney Philip Wright, Mark Petterson of The Coffey County Republican, and John Terry of JMZ Corporation/KwiKom.

Absent: Council members Jeanne Haas and Johnny Hernandez, Zoning Administrator Cody Collins and City Clerk Lana Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

Remove

Appointments: a. NSCIO Spooky Stroll.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the agenda with change.

Motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Move to approve meeting minutes of September 14, 2023.

WARRANTS:

Move to approve the Warrants dated September 12, 2023 through October 11, 2023 in the amount of \$94,057.05.

PAYROLL:

Move to approve the September 2023 payroll in the amount of \$10,154.45.

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS

John Terry - JZM Corporation/KwiKom - Water Tower Lease Agreement. Terry spoke briefly about the lease agreement for space on the New Strawn Water Tower. The new three-year lease agreement for tower space is effective Nov. 25 and requires a \$200 per month rent for tower space, which is a \$75 per month increase. The agreement addresses several issues brought up earlier by council members, including interference with other providers and not doing anything on the tower unless they ask about it first.

Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker, to approve the Lease for Tower Space with JMZ Corporation/KwiKom Communications. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

a. Additional Warrants - None.

STAFF REPORTS:

Zoning Administrator - No information

Code Enforcement Officer/Public Safety

*The city had a case scheduled in Burlington Municipal Court prior to tonight's meeting; however, the defendant failed to appear. The judge rescheduled the case for Nov. 9.

*The owners of another property (on the corner) are making progress.

Maintenance Operator

*The water was turned off earlier in the day for less than 30 minutes in order to repair a water leak in the north part of town.

*Culverts will get here from Wellborn.

*Working to "button up" the well house.

*Comtronix replaced two boards (one from 1999).

*Roads are cracking due to the dry weather conditions.

*New Strawn is participating in the countywide fall cleanup. Items will be picked up in the city Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 16-18.

City Clerk - no report

*Community Building Rentals

October - 6th private event, 17th I.B.E.W., 20th-22nd private event.

November - 4th private event, 6th-8th election, 12th New Strawn Community Church Thanksgiving, 21st I.B.E.W.

City Attorney

*Ordinance 2023-03 Standard Traffic Ordinance - checked the speed limits to make sure they match the traffic ordinance, and they are OK.

Baker moved, seconded by Christiansen, to approve Ordinance 2023-05 Water Rate Increase. Motion passed 3-0, by a show of hands.

All water customers - within the city limits and outside the city limits -- will pay a rate per thousand gallons equal to the per-thousand gallons rate charged by the City of Burlington. All water customers will also pay a state water protection fee at the rate of 3 cents per 1,000 gallons and an access capacity charge (ACC) of \$36.50. The minimum monthly water charge for water customers within the city limits will be \$46.25 while water customers outside of the city limits will pay a minimum \$50.77 minimum monthly water charge. The last water rate increase was in 2018. The City of Burlington indicated it would review and make necessary adjustments on an annual basis.

MAYOR:

*Council Work Session - Mayor Taylor suggested holding a council work session in January with the hope that a full council will attend. The work session will be to discuss the future of New Strawn and what the council would like the city to look like in four years and what council members see as priorities for the residents. Christiansen said he does not want to go to a work session meeting. Over four years, he wants to

see a surplus of money come in and the city pay its bills wisely and stay fiscally solid. He doesn't plan to run for re-election because of personal time constraints. He plans to do his best to fill the role he has been asked to do and be present when he can.

*League of Kansas Municipalities Conference Update - Mayor Taylor and City Clerk Johnson attended the LKM Annual Conference. They attended various tabletop sessions that were "enlightening." Mayor Taylor said they brought back a lot of information and she has some ideas to make the city council meetings more functional.

FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT: No report.

COMMUNITY BUILDING REPORT: No report. Baker needs to get a key to the community building.

UTILITY REPORT:

Gilkison reported the city had a 6.57% water loss during September, which is a good number. Water use decreased about 400,000 gallons, to 1.2 million gallons. There were 266 active water meters. Dwight said they are gradually getting the slow leaks repaired.

STREET REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT:

a. Fall and Halloween Yard of the Month
Christiansen moved, seconded by Baker, to award a \$20 Casey's gift card in each category to the winners of the Fall Yard of the Month and the Halloween Yard of the Month. Motion carried 3-0. Judging will take place Oct. 20-22. Names need to be submitted to the City Clerk by Oct. 23 and the winners sign will be posted Oct. 24.

b. Christmas Yard of the Month
Christiansen moved, seconded by Gilkison, to award a \$20 Casey's gift card for the Top 5 yards for Christmas Yard of the Month. Motion carried 3-0. Judging will be Dec. 15-17. Names should be submitted to the City Clerk by Dec. 18 and the winners sign will be posted Dec. 19.

c. NSCIO - Spooky Stroll
Baker moved, seconded by Christiansen, to donate \$250 to New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) for the Spooky Stroll on Oct. 28. Motion carried 3-0. NSCIO planned to use the donation to purchase candy and treats. More than 200 kids attended the Spooky Stroll last year.

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT:

Quotes were received from Burlington Construction to prepare and pour seven concrete piers and tee pads, in the amount of \$7,000, on the city portion of the disc golf project, which is a cooperative effort with Radiant Life Church. Dwight said as soon as he takes care of the well house, he plans to work on getting the city's baskets up.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Water tower space lease agreement addressed earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Baker moved, seconded by Gilkison, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0.