

REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2013

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas met at City Hall at 4:30 p.m. on the above date—the following being present: Mayor Robbin Bell, Commissioner Fred Olsen, Commissioner Woodie Haire, Commissioner D.J. Neuberger, Commissioner Beth Wade, City Manager Ron Strickland, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2012, and the minutes of the special meeting of December 19, 2012. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Appropriation Ordinances #P1225-12, #C1230-12, and #P0110-13 were discussed and reviewed.

There was one additional agenda item—executive session for non-elected personnel. It was added as #7A. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #7A. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to declare Central National Bank and 1st National Bank of Junction City, Herington Branch, as official city depositories for 2013. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to declare the *Herington Times* as the official city newspaper for 2013. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Haire casting the dissenting vote.

Jerry Alcorn from the Throttle Jockey’s Car Club was present to ask permission to utilize the airport on April 27th for a car show, race, and fly-in. They would also like fire protection and emergency medical service provided. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to allow the event at the airport on April 27, 2013. After the motion there was discussion. Jerry said that the car club would give the City part of their earnings to lease the airport, and added that they had 120 cars last year and that they would charge the participants, but the event would be free to the public. Ron added that the event would be covered by the City’s insurance. Fred amended his motion to include ambulance and fire protection. When the vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

At 4:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Bell, seconded by Commissioner Wade, for the City Commission, City Manager, and City Attorney to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” At 5:10 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Haire, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to re-convene into regular session. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Mayor Bell, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to accept the resignation of Kim Morris from the Library Board. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to re-appoint Gary Floyd, Elaine Conant, and Dennis Albrecht to the Planning Commission for three-year terms, to expire 12-31-15. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to appoint Lanett Frazier to the Housing Authority for a four-year term, to expire 12-31-16. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ron recommended offering the City of Hope the following—"Upon financial reasoning and by review of our 2013 water utility budget and in order to meet budget issues the City of Herington now comes forward and offers the City of Hope a price of \$4.21 per thousand gallons of water with an additional offer of a 10% discount for bulk water use making the cost of water \$3.79 per thousand gallons of usage along with the normal customer monthly fees attached. This offer must be reviewed for budget responsibility on a yearly basis and adjusted if need be." Ruby Davis, Mayor of Hope, asked if the Commission is aware of their current contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Mayor Bell, to direct Ron to send a letter with the aforementioned offer, and to include asking that the City of Hope respond to the City of Herington in writing of their intentions. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." Stephanie Berry asked if this would be for a three-year or a one year period. Brad said we are trying to make the contracts yearly to be consistent.

Ron explained that a decision needs to be made about the two water wells at the airport. Neither is being used at this time. If we plug the wells, the State will take them out of record and they cannot be used again. If we cap the wells, we would be required to install flow meters and do required reporting, but we could use the water as back-up. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Haire, to cap the wells. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Ron recommended implementing a tree trimming policy that would restrict City employees from using tree limbs that the City removes for personal use, and allow for the wood to be cut up and sold to campers at the lakes for \$3.00/bundle. This was discussed. Fred asked if we have a secure place to store the wood, and commented that this would take a lot of man power, and could cost us more money than we would recoup. D.J. asked how the camp hosts feel about it, and Robbin said he would like to have a trial run of this before implementing a formal policy. It was decided to try out the proposed policy and see how it goes.

Ron also recommended a policy stating that any work done outside of city limits and utility territory come through the City Manager's office for approval of the project scope and costs associated with the project. A motion was made by Commissioner Haire, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to adopt this policy. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

The Library Board would like to have members on the board that reside outside of the city limits. Brad reported that residency is required by State Statute, but we could charter out of it. He asked Library Board member Alice Bell if they would also like to remove the term limits, and she said that they have no problem with them. Stephanie Berry asked if the board members would have to live in Dickinson County, or if they could reside in Morris or Marion counties. Brad will put together a Charter Ordinance for the Commission's consideration.

Ron recommended a pay raise for the elected officials, to \$100/month for the Mayor and \$75/month for the Commissioners. This would cost the City \$680 more per year. The Commission declined to act on this recommendation.

Ron reported on the progress of the Broadway Street Bridge, and said that the new playground equipment is being assembled in the City shop.

D.J. said he had received some complaints about snow and ice removal, and suggested putting an emergency snow route map in the newspaper. He also mentioned the DARE graduation which will be held on January 24th. Fred said he has had complaints that the LED street lights are not bright enough. Resident Jean Lardenois reported on a street light that goes on and off all night. Also brought up were the hospital task force and the recent house fires.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Mayor Bell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Also present at the meeting were Harold Falk, Art Hughes, Jerry Alcorn, Virginia Neuberger, Gloria Boomer, Ruby Davis, Alice Bell, Pat Moyer, Leslie Mayes, Mike Ryan, Amy Rutz, Jean Lardenois, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Berry of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk