**REGULAR MEETING**

**January 3, 2017**

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas met at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on the above date—the following being present: Mayor Kat Souza, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Mark Hager, Commissioner Dave Jones, City Manager Ed Patton, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Commissioner Kitty Walter was absent, and City Attorney Brad Jantz arrived late.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2016. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 26, 2016. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P1225-16 was discussed and reviewed. No one spoke at the public forum. There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to declare *Central National Bank* and *First National Bank of Hope* as the official City depositories for 2017. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Mayor Souza, to declare the *Herington Times* as the official City newspaper for 2017. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Gene Wilson of COP Consulting was present to discuss a telecommunications proposal. Attorney Brad Jantz arrived at this time. Gene gave a recap of his proposal, and said that three new locations have been added—the Community Building, Fair Board Building, and new Water Plant. The total price went up by $6,434.47, making the total $36,376.47. This also means the savings per month went down. Dave asked that the Fair Board usage be tracked. They will reimburse the City monthly. Gene suggested making the Public Safety Building the “hub” of the system, and he noted that the City Office will no longer be tied to the USD #487 system. He then went over the sequence of events for the project—fiber installed by City crews, Parson’s Communications will do the termination and splicing, Networks Plus will install the routers, and then the phone system will be programed. Dave commented that our old system is not meeting our needs, and that the new system will save us $1,500/month. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with COP Consulting for a phone system and installation, for $36,376.47. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to appoint Ashley Hartung to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (Chamber Representative) to fill a vacancy, term to expire 4-30-17. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Mayor Souza requested that Ashley be given a copy of our Charter Ordinance that establishes the CVB.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to appoint D. J. Neuberger to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill a vacancy, term to expire 10-24-19. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint Ron Strickland to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill a vacancy, term to expire 10-24-17. The motion passed 3-1, with Mayor Souza casting the dissenting vote.

Ed presented a policy dealing with special assessments for mowing on properties that have been purchased at a tax sale. It allows the Commission to forgive up to 75% of the charges after one year, as long as the property is kept clean. The policy was reviewed by the Commission, and it was felt that it should not be tied to anything very specific. They liked that the Commission could review each property case by case, and make the decision of what is “aesthetically pleasing” or “good condition.” A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the policy for “guidelines and requirements for consideration and relief of certain special assessments or tax liens in favor of the City of Herington, Kansas on real property within the City’s jurisdictional limits.” Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ed brought up that the Homestead Village has only two empty apartments. At this time, the two empty garages are being used for storage of maintenance equipment. He would like to get some estimates for a maintenance building to be erected at the site. It was thought that the building should look similar to the others in the complex. Ed said that there is some metal at the airport that may be able to be used. He will look at some options and pricing. Ed also mentioned he would like to beef up security in the City Hall lobby. The Commission gave approval for him to spend time on these two projects.

Dave asked about the trailer house on 12th Street, and about plans for ADA compliance work downtown. Mark wished everyone a Happy New Year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Also present at the meeting were Gene Wilson, Gloria Boomer, Patrick Thibodeau, and J.R. Sparke.

 Debra Wendt

 City Clerk