

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**October 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 D.J. Neuberger, Commissioner Beth Wade, Commissioner Chuck Miller, City Manager Ron Strickland, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. City Attorney Brad Jantz arrived late.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 1, 2013. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C0930-13 and #P1010-13 were discussed and reviewed.

There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ron presented some utility billing changes for discussion. They included changing the penalty date to the 15<sup>th</sup>, with an absolute shut off date on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. After that an administrative fee of \$75.00 would be charged. He also suggested not sending past due notices. Fred recommended having a work session to go over the proposed changes, and he felt that perhaps what we have in place now just needs to be “tweaked” instead of changing it so much. Chuck said he couldn’t see moving up the penalty date by 10 days, and asked what is wrong with the way we are doing it now. Beth stated that the bill is actually due upon receipt, around the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month, and noted that everyone in town has different pay days. Brad Jantz arrived at this time. Brenda Wildman said that we can never please everybody, but she suggested moving the penalty date to the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, and always use a work day, instead of dealing with the 25<sup>th</sup> falling on a weekend or holiday. That way customers could pay their bills on the final day from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and then she would run the on-line payments and then put penalty on. She added that part of the problem is not having access to the field people like we used to. Robbin said that is because we do not have a full time meter reader any more. Mike Wendt said that the departments have always worked well together, and stated that there was always more to the meter reader position than just reading meters. They changed out meters, completed the daily work orders, worked as a ground person for the electrical crew, mowed, and assisted in all departments. He then indicated that his main goal is to make the customers as happy as possible. Ron thought it is not efficient to call on the workers during the day to do turn-ons, reads, shut-offs, etc., so that is why he changed this to once a day at 7:30 a.m. Brenda noted that there are times when the office needs to call someone, and added that “we are the dispatchers.” Mike said that it should be his job as Utilities Superintendent to find someone to complete the tasks. It was agreed that a work session should be held to discuss this issue, and that no one wanted to see a mess like the one we had last month. Chuck said that he does not like Ron’s ideas at all. After more discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Mayor Bell, to set a work session for Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss utility billing. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ron reported that the Department of Wildlife and Parks is requiring that some signs be replaced at the lake, and that the hay ground that did not receive any bids will be re-bid. He also said that the UAV conference in Manhattan is going well. Ron also mentioned the bridge bid letting, and that OCCK would be here for an assessment on either the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, or 28<sup>th</sup> of October. He also recommended staying with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for our health insurance, as the proposal from Federated came in higher than BC/BS, even with the 6% rate increase. Beth asked about applications for the Hospital Board, and said that she had attended the LKM meeting last week. Fred added that he also attended, and that it was nice to hear about the problems that other cities are having, and to visit with other city officials and come up with innovative ideas. D.J. said that he learned some of the pitfalls of the affordable care act. Robbin asked about signs for Logan Pointe, such as “free land,” etc. Beth said that nothing had been decided yet about the lots. This will be placed on the next agenda for discussion. Robbin asked if the radar units are calibrated regularly. Brad explained the process to him.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Also present at the meeting were Ray Perez, Rick Freeman, Virginia Neuberger, Gloria Boomer, Alice Bell, Billie Jean Johnson, Michelle Stanford, Pat Moyer, Jerry Barta, Brenda Wildman, Mike Wendt, Julie Newbury, Cathy Hagerman, Andrew Reese, Cynthia Naylor, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Berry of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt  
City Clerk