

REGULAR MEETING

March 4, 2014

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: Commissioner Fred Olsen, Commissioner Beth Wade, Commissioner D.J. Neuberger, City Manager Ron Strickland, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Mayor Robbin Bell and Commissioner Chuck Miller were absent. The meeting was conducted by Vice-Mayor Olsen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Neuberger, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P0225-14 was discussed and reviewed. There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to appoint Jacqueline Mueller to the Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term, to expire 12-31-14. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve a proclamation declaring April, 2014 as “Fair Housing Month” in Herington. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to approve a proclamation declaring May 17, 2014 as “National Kids to Parks Day” in Herington. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Brenda gave a report on the Logan Pointe Homeowners Association meeting that was held. She said that they “tweaked” the covenants, and a suggestion was made to put the regulations in the City zoning book instead of having a Homeowners Association. Brad explained the process of establishing the association, and said he is implementing the paperwork. Also, the property owners would like to see the lots sold, for around \$3,000 each, instead of giving them away. The City Manager will represent the City lots. Establishing a price for the lots will be put on the next agenda.

Ron presented the OCCK ADA assessment. He said that after the Commission acknowledges the report, it will be public record. D.J. asked if any specific items need to be addressed. Ron said that we are “doing our best effort to comply,” and that the process takes time, money, and effort. We will be budgeting some of the items. D.J. asked if money from the storm water fund could be used. Kathleen Walter said she thought each of the Commissioners should have to use a wheel chair and see what it is like, and she asked why it is taking so long to get something done.

Rick Freeman was present to discuss handicapped accessibility. He referred to an email that was sent out to the Commissioners from D.J. Neuberger, and said that the information has been “proven and litigated.” Rick indicated that the City is required to remove snow from the curb cuts, and commented that the ramps could have been fixed by now. D.J. felt that it would be in the City’s best interest to fix what needs to be done, to reduce our liability.

Brad presented the necessary paperwork for a sales tax question, including a schedule of process, notice of special election question, resolution to submit the proposition of levying a one percent tax, and ordinance levying the tax. He said that the dates are changeable, as the time frame is not going to work with Dickinson County. The tax must begin at the first day of a quarter, with the earliest possible date being October 1, 2014. Brad also pointed out this is just an example, and that a sunset provision could be added. A discussion was held on how to word the sales tax question, to specifically add that the funds collected should be used to pay the hospital's electric bill. Pat Moyer said that taking the electric expense out of the Medicare cost report would be detrimental to the hospital. She was asked what they are submitting now to Medicare, as the electric bills are not being paid at this time. Ron said that the City needs some reassurance that the sales tax money would be used to pay the electric bill. Tandi Arevelo suggested that a resolution from the hospital could be done that would indicate their commitment to pay the electric bill. Cynthia Naylor commented that the wording of the sales tax questions could affect the outcome of the election. Brad asked for some direction as to what the Commission wants to be included in the question, and added that they can be as specific as they want. Rick Freeman asked that "one cent" and "one percent" be clarified, as people don't understand it. Brad was directed to put in a three-year sunset provision, check with the county for election dates, and bring back the revised paperwork to the next meeting.

D.J. asked for a report of how much the utilities run in City-owned facilities. It was noted that the general fund could not afford to start paying their electric bills to the electric fund this year, but it is something that can be reviewed at budget time. Ron announced that "Earth Day" would be celebrated on April 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. by picking up trash. The schools are also getting involved. D.J. mentioned that there are also some other organizations that would probably help. Beth said that we need to get property owners to do something with their store fronts. D.J. asked about the low income energy assistance program. We have forms at the City Office.

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

Also present at the meeting were Wendy Jones, David Jones, Virginia Neuberger, Rick Freeman, Diane Walters, Ken Walters, Brenda Wildman, Pat Moyer, Tandi Arevelo, Kathy Kershner, Cynthia Naylor, Terrie Greenemeyer, Michelle Stanford, Larrie Fisher, Kathleen Walter, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Gilbert of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk