

REGULAR MEETING
January 7, 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: Mayor Robbin Bell, Commissioner Fred Olsen, Commissioner D.J. Neuberger, Commissioner Beth Wade, Commissioner Chuck Miller, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2013. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P1225-13 was 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.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to declare *Central National Bank* and *First National Bank of Junction City*, Herington Branch, as the official city depositories for the year 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to declare *The Herington Times* as the official city newspaper for 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to appoint Wendy Jones to the Convention and Visitors Bureau to fill a vacancy, term to expire 4-30-15. (Chamber Representative) Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Mayor Bell, to appoint Stephanie Berry to the Convention and Visitors Bureau to fill a vacancy, term to expire 4-30-15. (Tourism, Historic Member) Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Mike Ryan introduced Eric Otting, who is with the firm of Wendling, Noe, Nelson, & Johnson LLC. The company has done the hospital audit for the past several years. Eric indicated that they do the audits for approximately thirty hospitals. He pointed out four adjustments that had been made, which reduced the loss to \$55,655, and he added that the accounting is in good shape. Eric then went over the responsibilities of the manager and the auditors, showed the three-year comparison on the balance sheet, and said that the hospital is remaining consistent from year to year. He said that expenses are up a little, and that the significant increase in the health insurance cost is due to a move to a self funded plan. He added that they are not experiencing anything much different than the other small critical access hospitals across the state. D.J. asked what would happen if the City does not have any money to give to the hospital in 2014. Eric said that most other critical assess hospitals receive more tax support than Herington does. Eric then went over some more points of the audit, including cost report settlements, pension contributions, Medicare bad debt reimbursement, and comparison data. He answered questions and stated that it is getting tougher to operate a hospital. D.J. said that he is concerned for the future of the hospital. Beth asked how much additional revenue is needed each year. The Commission thanked Mr. Otting for his presentation.

A Charter Ordinance that would remove the two-mile radius for residency for appointed officials was considered:

CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 26

A CHARTER ORDINANCE EXEMPTING THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 14-1502 RELATIVE TO RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AND PROVIDING A SUBSTITUTE PROVISION ON THE SUBJECT OF RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Brad said that the Charter Ordinance would be a starting point, and we could still put distance restrictions on certain positions. He added that it would give us greater flexibility. D.J. brought up that the Commission was supposed to be updating the personnel policy for the past three years. Brad said that a Charter Ordinance would need a super majority to pass, meaning at least four Commissioners would have to vote yes. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 26. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Bell, Commissioners Olsen, Wade, and Miller.

Nays: Commissioner Neuberger. Motion carried.

The Charter Ordinance will take effect sixty-one days after its first publication, unless a petition for referendum is filed.

Ron said the Street Department has done an outstanding job on the snow removal, and Beth mentioned that water leaks have been fixed in the extremely cold weather. Rick Freeman said that snow had not been removed from the handicapped ramps. Floodplain issues were discussed. Ron said that FEMA has changed some of their regulations, and Brenda said that not being in compliance could affect the whole town. D.J. had a question on the Highway 77 project, and said that the bus routes were cleaned very well.

Chuck said he does not agree with raising the Community Building rates, and asked that the handicapped ramps be cleaned. Fred gave an update on how the EDC feels about the Iron Horse property. He went over reasons why they feel the land should not be given away. D.J. asked about the Homeowners Association. Ron suggested having a study session or special meeting jointly with the hospital board.

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 Eric Otting, Pat Moyer, Mike Ryan, Wendy Jones, Gloria Boomer, Rick Freeman, Brenda Wildman, Tandi Arevalo, Cynthia Naylor, Virginia Neuberger, Paula Strickland, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Berry of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk