

REGULAR MEETING
July 1, 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 Beth Wade, Commissioner Fred Olsen, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, City Manager Ron Strickland, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Commissioners Chuck Miller and Kitty Walter were absent, and City Attorney Brad Jantz arrived late.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P0525-14 was discussed and reviewed. There were two additional agenda items. Ray Perez was added as #5A, and Rick Freeman was added as #7A. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #5A and #7A. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ray Perez told the Commission that he acquired the property located at 233 South 9th Street. When he talked to Dickinson County, they assured him there were no special assessments on the property, but when he received his tax statement, there was a special assessment of \$825.00 for mowing from the previous owners. He asked the Commission to consider waiving the fee. The assessments are only sent to the county once a year, by August 25th. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to send a letter to Dickinson County asking that the mowing fees be removed. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Brad Jantz arrived at this time.

Yvette Ebright asked the Commission to consider a donation of \$6,000 to the Roadhouse Youth Center for 2015. This is the same amount as for 2014. The Commission will look at this when they do the 2015 budget.

Stephanie Gilbert and Anne Otte were present to speak about the CVB Image Working Group. Anne told about two new events this year, a youth theater summer camp that will be held July 28-August 1, and Vintage Days August 22-23. Stephanie said they are also working on encouraging property improvements, and highway signage. They will have a business meeting on September 30th at the Chamber Office to discuss this.

Rick Freeman addressed the Commission on some issues. He said he talked to the City Manager and asked to be put on the agenda, but Ron said he would make a work order and take care of the problem. Rick then went to a Commissioner and asked to be put on the agenda. He wanted to know why nothing is being done about weeds growing out of the sidewalks in the downtown area, and he said there is a life threatening situation with some electrical wiring hanging out of light poles in the downtown area. Ron said that he had made a work order for this and thought it had been taken care of. Rick asked that Ron resign as City Manager due to negligence, and if he does not, then the Commission should fire him.

A resolution that would change the date of the sale of the proposed general obligation bonds to August 5th was considered. Ordinance No. 851 had set it for July 15, 2014.

RESOLUTION NO. 854

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 851 OF THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to adopt Resolution No. 854. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

An ordinance that would prohibit parking in certain areas was tabled until the next meeting.

A resolution that would restrict traffic during the Highway 77 bridge project was considered.

RESOLUTION NO. 855

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 1759, RESTRICTING AND REGULATING CERTAIN TRAFFIC AND RESTRICTING PARKING ON IDENTIFIED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY WITHIN THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to adopt Resolution No. 855. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Ron gave an update on utility rates. He said that our bill from Westar changes monthly, and we are seeing a 3-5% increase every year. He added that we either need to cut a lot or raise rates. Michelle commented that the hospital needs to pay their bill. Fred said that before he makes any decisions, he needs to see the whole picture.

The proposed animal ordinance was discussed. Ron said that he has Michelle's comments, but has not heard from anyone else. Fred asked who will enforce the ordinance, and said that he favors rules that are fair to everybody. It was decided to table this until all of the Commissioners could be present.

Ron said that he has been discussing some recycling issues with Ken Reitz, and he would put this on the next agenda.

Michelle mentioned the "letter to the editor" concerning the West Side Park, and said she is concerned about the safety of the wooden structure located there. She would like to see if there are any grants available to improve the park, as well as looking at water park grants from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. She also mentioned that the boat docks at the new lake need bumpers on them, and that she has heard of a program that would reward children for riding their bicycles safely. Fred suggested a "walk through" to make sure all of the playground equipment is safe.

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

Also present at the meeting were Rick Freeman, Ray Perez, Debbie Goembel, Mike Ryan, Marilyn Hopke, Yvette Ebright, D.J. Neuberger, Laurie Brunner, Kenny Staatz, Ken Walters, Virginia Neuberger, Belinda Kimball, Ken Reitz, B.J. Davis, Paula Strickland, Gloria Boomer, Anne Otte, Tandi Arevelo, Gabi Simmons, Cynthia Naylor, Dwight Nave, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Gilbert of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk

