

REGULAR MEETING
February 18, 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, 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 January 21, 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Neuberger, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 4, 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 11, 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C1231-13, #P0125-14, #C0131-14, and #P0210-14 were discussed and reviewed.

Ron added two additional agenda items. The traffic pattern on Day Street was added as #6A, and a carnival for a fireworks fundraiser was added as #6B. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #6A and #6B. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ron said that on Day Street, from Broadway to D, where the one-way designation has been changed, there is restricted parking on the North side of the street, and he would like to keep it that way. The Commission did not see a problem with that. City Attorney Brad Jantz arrived at this time.

The Fireworks Committee would like to have a carnival as a fundraiser on May 29-31, 2014, at the fairgrounds. The Commission supported the event. Ron added that the Fair Board also has a carnival during the fair, and they feel that they lost revenue last year when two carnivals were held.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to re-appoint Nick Gonzolas to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, to expire 12-31-16. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Wendy Jones, Chamber Director, and Anne Otte, CVB member, reported that the Rails ‘N Trails Festival has been re-named “Herington Vintage Days” and would be held August 21-23, 2014. It will include vintage tractors, games, etc., and be held in the downtown area.

Rick Freeman said that he knows someone that would like to put in a gun range at the airport. Mr. Freeman indicated that he asked Ron Strickland if the FAA would allow a gun range, but Ron had never gotten back to him. He would like a response tonight. Ron said that the biggest problem is liability insurance. Brad said that if we lease the property, the lessee would have to provide insurance. Robbin suggested that the individual make a plan and bring it to the Commission. Rick said that drawing up a plan could cost a lot of money, and he probably wouldn’t want to do that if any FAA regulations would prohibit a gun range. D.J. then asked if he could do a “broad overview of his thoughts.” Rick requested a clarification from last meeting concerning the handicapped ramps downtown. He said that during the last snow, they were not cleared again. It was brought up that the property owners are responsible for their sidewalks. Chuck thought that at least one ramp on each block should be cleared, and D.J. said that a lot of the buildings downtown are not occupied, but are still owned by someone. Rick asked that this issue be placed on the next agenda. Tandi Arevelo commented that clearing the ice and snow is a huge responsibility, but that the owners should be held accountable and everyone should work together. It was brought up that the property owners could be billed for snow removal, just like mowing.

A resolution defining the corporate city limits was considered. It was discovered that the most recent resolution that was done, after annexing Logan Pointe, had omitted the airport. This resolution corrects that.

RESOLUTION NO. 842

A RESOLUTION DEFINING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Mayor Bell, to adopt Resolution No. 842. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Ron presented two choices for the stone design for the Broadway Street bridge. After looking at them, a motion was made by Mayor Bell, seconded by Commissioner Wade, to choose pattern #1502, "Ashlar Stone." The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Miller casting the dissenting vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Neuberger, to authorize the Mayor to sign two "release of information" letters so KMIT can give us a bid on workers compensation insurance. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Kenny Staatz presented a proposal for a loan from the Herington Firefighters Relief Association for \$5,385.00 for a water tank, for five years at 1% per annum interest. He said there is not money in his budget for this, and that it would go on a M939 Army Truck that we received free of charge. A motion was made by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to approve this loan. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

A potential sales tax to assist the hospital was discussed. Brad recommended bringing the matter to a vote. He also reported that the Dickinson County Clerk prefers not to do a mail ballot, that a special election would cost \$2,000-\$3,000, and that he doesn't know if there is enough time to get the question on the April ballot. It was verified that a 1 cent sales tax would raise just over \$200,000 per year. Fred asked if this money would be dedicated to pay their electric bill. A two or three year sunset on the sales tax was discussed, to give the hospital time to form their district. Brad added that 1 cent is the maximum that can be added under this particular statute. D.J. wasn't sure this would be enough to pay the electric bill and cover their shortfall. D.J. read the results of a survey he passed out at the special meeting. Brad was directed to draft an ordinance for a 1 cent sales tax increase, with a sunset date to be decided later, and to find out if it is too late to put the question on the April ballot. Debbie Goembel wanted to know why the City wants the hospital to pay their electric bill, when they have two other businesses, the Hilltop and Homestead Village, that do not pay their electric bills to the electric fund. She felt that the City is not telling the public the truth. Ron asked what would happen if the hospital gets the sales tax money, and still chooses not to pay their electric bills. Robbin said it would be shut off. Rick Freeman challenged him to either clarify that or stand behind it. If Brad finds out the sales tax question can be put on the April ballot, a special meeting may have to be called.

Brenda Wildman asked for direction for getting the zoning book revised. There would be a cost for Brad's time. The Commission approved having it revised. It will be an on-going process.

Beth brought up that the hospital could be paying something on their electric bill now, as anything would be better than nothing. D.J. asked about the chicken ordinance. Ron said we are working on it. D.J. also said that he agrees that the Homestead and Hilltop should pay their electric bills to the electric fund. Robbin asked about signs for Logan Pointe and the Industrial Park. Brenda said that a Homeowners Association meeting would be held immediately following the Commission meeting, and she would have a report at the next meeting.

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

Also present at the meeting were Duane Bauer, Rick Freeman, Mark Wendt, Anne Otte, Michelle Stanford, Kenny Staatz, Brenda Wildman, Kathleen Walter, Gloria Boomer, Wendy Jones, David Jones, Jackie Mueller, Virginia Neuberger, Debbie Goembel, Mike Wendt, Mike Ryan, Eric Gares, Tandi Arevelo, Cynthia Naylor, Lynn Otte, Pat Moyer, J.R. Sparke, and Stephanie Gilbert of the Herington Times.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk