

REGULAR MEETING
January 6, 2015

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, Commissioner Kitty Walter, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Commissioner Chuck Miller was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2014. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P1225-14 was discussed and reviewed. There was one additional agenda item. Ron added tax issue relief for Larry Goracke as #4A. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #4A. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Larry Goracke told the Commission that he purchased the property at 214 South 2nd. At the time of purchase, at a tax sale, he paid for some mowing charges. When he received his latest tax statement, there was an additional \$125.00 for mowing that was added after he purchased the property. Mr. Goracke asked the Commission to waive this charge. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to remove the \$125.00 mowing charge from 214 South 2nd. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to declare Central National Bank and Exchange Bank as the official city depositories for 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Mayor Wade, to declare the *Herington Times* as the official city newspaper for 2105. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Anne Otte, representing the Convention and Visitors Bureau, spoke to the Commission about the four signs at the entrances to town. The CVB would like to refurbish the signs, using money from the guest tax fund. The Commissioners were receptive to the idea, and the City would assist by removing the signs and putting them back up. The CVB will come up with some ideas for the signs and bring them back to the Commission at a later time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to re-appoint Larry Mann to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term, to expire 10-24-17. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to issue a cereal malt beverage special event permit to Wendy Jones for the Chamber Banquet at the Community Building on February 9, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Debbie Goembel explained a proposed resolution that offers City support for a tax credit program that the Housing Authority is applying for.

RESOLUTION NO. 862

A RESOLUTION IN THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS.

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS THAT:

The City Council of Herington, Kansas has been informed by the Herington Housing Authority that a housing tax credit application will be filed with the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation for the development of affordable rental housing to be located at 201 East Helen Street, 1319 West Main Street, and 1420 West Walnut Street, in the City of Herington, Kansas.

That this housing development will contain 40 units; that these units will be targeted to low and very low income families; that the development will be an acquisition and rehabilitation; that this property will have the following amenities: bike rack, washer-dryer hook ups, outdoor uncovered seating, picnic tables, garden area, barbeque grills, green area with walking paths, security landscaping, ceiling fans, basketball court, organized recreation activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Herington, Kansas, that we support and approve the development of the aforesaid housing in our community, subject to City Ordinances and the building permit process. This resolution is effective until December 31, 2015.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Olsen, to adopt Resolution No. 862. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Ron asked the Commission if they have thought any more about establishing a land bank. Someone has offered to give us a property, plus \$10,000, which would be a good start for the land bank. Michelle indicated that she has been studying this and that we should be careful, due to scams and misuse of funds. Ron said it would be subject to an annual audit. Brad went over how land banks are established, run, and overseen. Fred spoke in favor of a land bank and said there is information on the LKM website. Michelle said she would like to see how other towns set theirs up. After more discussion, Ron was directed to provide some more information, and to draft an ordinance or resolution for review at the February 3rd meeting.

Michelle said she was informed that we have a comprehensive plan in place, but that it has been a while since it has been updated. Ron said the original plan was completed in 2002, and updated in 2006. He mentioned several projects that were in the plan that have been completed. Michelle said she has some examples from other cities. Beth said we need to look at towns our size, and Fred felt it needs to be our vision, not that of other cities. Rick Freeman asked if there would be town meetings to discuss the plan, and he was told there would be, farther down the road, after the Commission has reviewed the plan.

The Commission offered their condolences for the passing of Ron's sister.

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

Also present at the meeting were Rick Freeman, Debbie Goembel, Kat Souza, Anne Otte, Gloria Boomer, Brandy Collins, Lisa Williams, Eric Gares, Stephanie Gilbert, Larry Goracke, Cynthia Naylor, Ray Perez, Mike Ryan, Ed Mueller, John Bell, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk