

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 3, 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 Chuck Miller, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Mayor Wade, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C1231-14 and #P0125-15 were discussed and reviewed. There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ed Mueller and Duane Bauer, representing local VFW Post 1281, presented Police Officer Laun Dale Harris with a first place award as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2014-15. Carter Oliver and Al Wynn also presented Officer Harris an award for outstanding service from the State VFW 4<sup>th</sup> District. He is now eligible for state-level competition. Several of Dale’s family members attended the presentations.

At 4:36 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, for the City Commission, City Manager, and City Attorney to go into executive session for fifteen minutes, attorney client privilege, to discuss matters related to potential litigation. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” At 4:51 p.m. the meeting was re-convened into regular session. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to table consideration of the electric rate ordinance until after Westar Energy makes a presentation.

The bids for a replacement bucket truck were again reviewed. Utilities Superintendent Mike Wendt said that the demo truck from Altec is still available for \$149,900. The company, because of the shape of our present truck, gave us an extension so the City Commission would have a chance to reconsider the purchase. Fred said that he feels the same as he did two weeks ago. Mike said he has problems sending his guys up in the air in the 1985 truck every day, when it is not safe. Chuck said that we “can’t do this.” (Purchase the truck.) Carl Brown suggested getting a loan for the truck, and making payments. That way if at some time in the future we don’t have electric distribution, the truck could be repossessed. Ron explained that this is the purpose of the equipment reserve fund—for seven years payments from each of the budget years have been made to the fund, so when equipment is needed, we have the funds to pay for it without paying interest. He cautioned the Commission against transferring the money out of the equipment reserve fund, and using it for something else. Mike agreed, and commented that eventually the truck would have to be replaced, probably at a higher cost. Beth said she knows how dangerous the electrical jobs are, and that the workers need to be safe. No action was taken.

A letter from the Housing Authority Chairman indicated that board member David Duval has moved from the area, and they would like the City to appoint a replacement to fill his unexpired term. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Mayor Wade, to remove David Duval from the Housing Authority Board. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Three people have expressed an interest in serving on the Housing Authority—Linda Herbel, Donna Graves, and Gloria Boomer. A

motion was made by Mayor Wade, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to appoint Linda Herbel to the Housing Authority to fill an un-expired term, to expire 12-31-16. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Miller casting the dissenting vote.

Brad presented a draft ordinance to establish a land bank. Kitty asked how lucrative the program has been for other cities. Ron said we could save money on taxes. Fred said he attended a session on land banks at an LKM meeting. Brad explained why land banks are created, and said that the City Commission could be the land bank trustees, or they could appoint some trustees. He went on to say that they are subject to open meetings, open records, and audits, and then explained the purposes of a land bank. He added that they have worked well in other cities. Fred asked who would do the record keeping, and was told that City staff could be used. Brad will bring more information on land banks to the Commissioners for their review.

Ron reported that Highway 77 is nearing completion and could open on Friday. Michelle criticized how street crews are patching roads, and said it is a waste of money. Ron explained that the gravel being used is temporary because of the winter weather. Kitty said she feels the City needs to be restructured somehow. She thinks all employees should be paid on an hourly basis, that salaries are too high, that long term employees should be encouraged to "move on," and that health insurance benefits should be reduced. She also suggested that employees could work 30 hours per week with no benefits. Michelle suggested using the 2010 sales tax money for road improvements after the Broadway Bridge is paid off. Fred reminded the Commission that they should tell citizens to call the City Office and have a work order made, instead of saying they (the Commission) will take care of the problem. Michelle felt that listening to and responding directly to citizen concerns is part of her job.

Chuck asked where the \$5,000 earmarked for ADA projects would be used. Ron said in the downtown area, for ramps.

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 Sabrina Burt, Buck Buckner, Debbie Goembel, Paula Strickland, Mike Herbel, Kristin Sneath, Duane Bauer, Ed Mueller, Ken Walters, Brandy Collins, Dale Harris, Al Wynn, Carter Oliver, Don Cole, Stephanie Gilbert, Tammy Miller, Virginia Neuberger, John Bell, Kim Ditto, Carl Brown, Rick Freeman, Mark Hager, John Pritchard, Theresa Drube, Melissa Timmons, Lisa Williams, Eric Gares, Mike Wendt, Serena Staatz, Linda Herbel, Laurie Brunner, Curtis Hartman, Gloria Boomer, Ken Staatz, Tandi Arevalo, Dave Jones, Cynthia Naylor, Roger Burt, Ray Perez, Kevin Harris, Lisa Harris, Linda Moore, Destiny Harris, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt  
Clerk

Clerk