

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 5, 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: Commissioner Chuck Miller, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, Commissioner-Elect Mark Hager, Commissioner-Elect Kat Souza, City Manager Ron Strickland, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The oath of office was administered to Mark Hager and Kathleen Souza, Commissioners. The annual re-organization of the Commission was held at this time. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to elect Chuck Miller as Mayor of the City of Herington. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Mayor Miller, to elect Michelle Stanford as Vice-Mayor of the City of Herington. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Appropriation Ordinance #P0425-15 was discussed and reviewed. Commissioner Souza asked why three people make over \$95,000. Debbie explained that the Appropriation Ordinance listings are broken down by funds, not employees. A sheet to identify the funds and departments will be sent to the Commissioners.

There were two additional agenda items. Discussion of meeting times and public forum were added as #12A, and performance evaluations were added as #12B. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #12A and #12B. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Mayor Miller, to re-appoint Connie Haage to the Library Board, term to expire 3-14-19. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to re-appoint Jackie Mueller to the Planning Commission, term to expire 12-31-17. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to appoint Nodira Davlyatova to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, term to expire 4-30-17. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

The City’s delinquent utility bill policy was discussed. Michelle asked if the other commissioners had received her e-mail, and said that she dislikes the current policy that states that after delinquencies are paid, utilities will not be turned on until after 8:00 a.m. the following day. She feels it causes an undue hardship for the citizens. She suggested changing the ordinance to have the utilities turned back on if they are paid before 3:00 p.m., having the utility workers knock on doors before shut-off and have them take the payments, and also lowering the penalty amount to 2% or 3%. Commissioner Hager commented that we can’t make everyone happy, and that people shouldn’t wait until the last minute to pay. Ron commented that reducing the amount of the penalty would cause a budget shortfall, and added that staff is doing a good job on collections. Brenda said that many times the shut-offs are not started until 1:00 p.m., giving people time to pay in the morning so they won’t be shut off. She added that we must be fair and treat everyone the same. Carl Brown said that he had been shut off after

paying on-line. Brenda replied that it was paid after we had run the on-line payments (on shut-off day), but it was

turned back on. Rick Freeman commented that he doesn't feel it is fair that if people bring in a voucher from an agency that is assisting them, they still have to pay penalty if the money is not received by the 25<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Mayor Miller, to schedule a work session to discuss the delinquent utility bill policy for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. After the motion, Tandi Reiff commented that she felt that since the current guidelines have been in place, it has cleared up a lot of past due issues for people. When the vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

Changing the commission meeting time was discussed. Brad was directed to bring an ordinance to the next meeting that would change the time to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays. He was also directed to draw up a public forum policy for consideration. It was also suggested that the Commission meetings be available for viewing on-line.

Commissioner Souza asked if annual performance evaluations and semi-annual goal evaluations have been done on the City Manager as is listed in his contract. Ron said this has been done verbally. It was decided to establish criteria for an evaluation form. This will be put on the next agenda.

Ron presented a picture that we received from Burns and McDonald of water lines being laid in Herington in 1908. He also mentioned land bank appointments and invited the Commissioners to come in and take a tour of our facilities.

Commissioner Souza said she likes the City manager report being posted on our web site, and asked if it would be possible to get weekly reports. She also questioned the purchase of a fountain for Father Padilla Lake, asked Ron what his job duties are, and asked how the company doing the dam inspections was chosen. Kitty suggested giving a uniform allowance instead of providing uniforms, and putting time clocks in all buildings except Public Safety. Michelle asked when the 4160 voltage change would be completed.

It was brought up that it would be nice to have reports from the city-appointed boards and committees. Mark and Kat thanked everyone for voting, and Kat respectfully declined compensation for being a commissioner.

Michelle suggested that vacant buildings downtown should be registered and inspected, and not used for storage. She also commented on a personnel issue, welcomed Kat and Mark, and told of some complaints she received about the car show. Buck Buckner said there would not be fireworks this year, and Chuck congratulated the Police Department on their recent drug arrest.

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

Also present at the meeting were Gloria Boomer, Virginia Neuberger, Linda Herbel, Ken Walters, Lisa Williams, Laurie Brunner, Kristen Sneath, Eric Gares, Bob Clark, Ruth Clark, Ray Perez, Mike Ryan, Cynthia Naylor, Brenda Wildman, Cathy Hagerman, Andrew Reese, Tandi Reiff, Tammy Miller, Buck Buckner, Mike Herbel, Stephanie Gilbert, Scott Collins, Leslie Mayes, Wendy Jones, Dave Jones, Beth Wade, Brandy Collins, Carl Brown, Rick Freeman, Katrina Hager, Paula Strickland, and J.R. Sparke.

City Clerk