

REGULAR MEETING

May 19, 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 Chuck Miller, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, Commissioner Mark Hager, Commissioner Kat Souza, 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 Hager, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 5, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C0430-15 and #P0510-15 were discussed and reviewed. Commissioner Souza had a question on the payments that were made for parts. There were several additional agenda items. Ron added Tandi Reiff, EMC Insurance as #5A, Kat added Natasha Barnett, retaining wall, as #7A, and Michelle added performance evaluation criteria as #7B. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to approve the agenda with the addition of # 5A, #7A, and #7B. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Tandi Reiff presented a KMU Safety Group dividend check for \$17,134.09 from EMC Insurance.

Debbie Geombel presented a copy of the Herington Housing Authority amended by laws. The changes lift the two term limit and add another public forum. Michelle said it bothers her that there will be no term limit. Ms. Goembel explained that she would rather not have a turnover on the board, due to some major projects coming up. The Commission directed Brad to bring an ordinance for consideration to the next meeting that would amend the City code book, taking out the two-term limit on the Housing Authority.

Natasha Barnett, 20 West Arnold, spoke to the Commission concerning water that washed out her yard when it rained. She said that she owns no more land behind her retaining wall, and that something needs to be done. She added that she talked to the City Manager about this two times. Ron said that he looked at the property, and he does not feel this is the City’s responsibility. Kitty asked if the water can be re-routed, and Chuck said we need to look at this. Pictures of the area were shown. Ms. Barnett said she doesn’t have enough equity in her home to fix the problem. Debbie Goembel asked if the City were to fix this, would it set a precedent. Cynthia Naylor asked if the storm drains have been checked.

Commissioner Souza asked the Commission what they thought of the blank City Manager evaluation form that she emailed to them, and then she went over the contents of the form. It was discussed as to whether they should do the evaluation individually or as a group. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to accept this evaluation form. Ron commented that there is not a place on the form for his response. The motion was voted down unanimously. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to accept the proposed evaluation form, with the addition of a City Manager response page. It was decided to do the evaluation at the first regular meeting in June. Chuck asked if employees and department heads should also fill them out. Leslie Mayes said that as a hospital board member, she asks for employee input when evaluating the Hospital Administrator. After the discussion the vote passed unanimously.

The Mayor read the following ordinance that would change the Commission meeting time to 6:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 1769

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 1-104 REGULATING THE TIME AND SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS OF THE HERINGTON CITY COMMISSION AND REPEALING ANY OTHER ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to adopt Ordinance No. 1769. The vote was as follows:

Ayes:	Mayor Miller, Commissioners Stanford, Walter, Hager, and Souza.
Nays:	None. Motion carried.

Brad presented a draft public forum policy. He asked if they preferred the public forum at the beginning or the end of the meeting, if they want a time limit, and if the number of topics should be limited. Chuck thought it should be at the beginning of the meeting, while Kat favored the end. It was decided to have a sign in sheet to list the speakers name, address, and subject to talk about, limited to one topic for three minutes. Brad will make the changes and bring the policy to the next meeting for consideration. The public forum will be put after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ron said that Wells Fargo has given us a week to accept \$10,000 and the property at 209 South 1st. We now have three applications for the Land Bank Board. Chuck said that he doesn't want to rush in and put the wrong people on the board. Two of the interested parties, Frank Hawkes and Brandy Collins, were present at the meeting, so they were interviewed. A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to appoint Frank Hawkes to the Land Bank Board for a three-year term, to expire 5-18-18. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to appoint Brandy Collins to the Land Bank Board for a two-year term, to expire 5-18-17. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to appoint Eric Gares to the Land Bank Board for a one-year term, to expire 5-18-16. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to appoint Mark Hager and Michelle Stanford as Commission members to the Land Bank Board for one-year terms, to expire 5-18-16. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." Ron mentioned that a developer is interested in Logan Pointe. It was decided to hold a Land Bank meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m., after the Commission meeting. Rick Freeman said he has reported a mold problem at a property, which is a safety concern, to the City Manager.

At 5:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, for the City Commission, City Manager, and City Attorney to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." At 6:11 p.m. the meeting was back in regular session. No action was taken.

Ron said that the pool liner is fixed and the filter is not in yet. Chuck said that it looks like we will not have fireworks this year, due to a shortage of funds, and he encouraged everyone to attend celebrations in the surrounding towns. Kat had a question on bridge materials. Kitty thought our phone charges are really high, and said we should look into purchasing two-way radios.

Mark said that the LKM conference was very informative. Michelle agreed. She also asked when the electric rate study would be done, if we could work on the comprehensive plan in June, and asked that time clocks be put on the next agenda.

Reporter J.R. Sparke had some concerns. He wanted to know when the Commission decided which of them would be on the Land Bank Board, and he also questioned the emails that are going from Commissioner to Commissioner. He doesn't feel this is legal and proper. Commissioner Hager responded by saying they could read emails but not respond to them.

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

Also present at the meeting were Rick Freeman, Mike Ryan, Gloria Boomer, Brandy Collins, Scott Collins, David Gehrke, Bob Clark, Virginia Neuberger, Sabrina Burt, Debbie Goembel, Brandon Wilder, Ken Walters, Stephanie Gilbert, Cathy Hagerman, Frank Hawkes, Katrina Hager, Robyn Heitfield, Vicki Hawkes, Ruth Clark, Wendy Jones, Dave Jones, D.J. Neuberger, Leslie Mayes, Beth Wade, Paula Strickland, Tandi Reiff, Kristen Sneath, Laurie Brunner, Andrew Reese, Cynthia Naylor, Natasha Barnett, Mike Mowat, Ray Perez, Brenda Wildman, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk