

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**June 16, 2015**

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas, met at City Hall at 6:00 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. Michelle had one change for the minutes of June 2, 2015. She requested that in the discussion of time clocks, that Commissioner Souza's name be added when referring to who had obtained information on them. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 2, 2015, with this change. The motion passed, with Commissioners Stanford, Walter, Hager, and Souza voting "Aye," and Mayor Miller abstaining.

Appropriation Ordinances #C0531-15 and #P0610-15 were discussed and reviewed. Commissioner Stanford had a question on the two Atmos Energy bills.

At the public forum, Rick Freeman, 201 East Helen, asked what ADA projects are going to be done, and when they are going to be done in 2015. He noted that \$5,000 was included in this year's budget for ADA projects. Ron said that this would be part of the street project that would be done by a contractor later this year.

Also at the public forum, Stephanie Gilbert, 6 West Main, asked that the Commission consider microphones for the Commission meetings. She added that this would be a great investment, especially if the equipment could also record the meetings to be viewed by the public. She also expressed her concern about the condition of some downtown buildings.

Mark asked that agenda item #13, city manager evaluation, be moved to #6A, and that microphones then be added as #13. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the agenda, with the aforementioned changes. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

At 6:10 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Souza, for the City Commission and the City Attorney to go into executive session for twenty minutes, with the option of calling the City Manager into the session, to discuss non-elected personnel, City Manager evaluation. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was back in regular session. The City Manager was not called into the executive session.

A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to terminate City Manager Ron Strickland's employment contract, effective immediately, and to have Police Officer Eric Gares escort Ron to his office to gather his personal things, and to have him turn in his keys and city cell phone. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." Mayor Miller told D.J. Neuberger that if he yelled or had another

outburst (as he did prior to the executive session), he would be asked to leave the meeting. Debbie Wendt agreed to serve as Interim City Manager.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to appoint Linda Ralston (general public member) to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, term to expire 4-30-17. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to reappoint Wendy Jones (Chamber Representative) to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, term to expire 4-30-17. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Cynthia Naylor, 319 North 1<sup>st</sup>, presented a drawing done by her daughter, showing some improvements she would like to do at the North Park Gazebo. A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to allow Cynthia's daughter to paint the gazebo as long as everyone on the project signs a liability release form, and the City will pay for the paint. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

An amendment to the Land Bank ordinance that adds "or property owners" to the requirements for the three at large members of the board was considered:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 1773**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HERINGTON, KANSAS, TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 6, SECTION 6-607(a) RELATING TO LAND BANK BOARD MEMBERSHIP; AND REPEALING ANY OTHER CURRENT ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to adopt Ordinance No. 1773. The vote was as follows:

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

Vicki Gieber of the Quality of Life Coalition in Abilene read a proclamation declaring June, 2015 as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Month" in Herington. She also passed out brochures and gave some pointers of what to be aware of concerning elder abuse. A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to authorize the Mayor to sign this proclamation. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Debbie Goembel presented a letter to HUD that she would like to have signed by the City, dealing with environmental review requirements for the Housing Authority. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to authorize City staff to sign this letter. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Microphones were discussed. It was decided to see if the attendance at the Commission meetings keeps going up, and bring this subject up again at the first meeting in August. Rick Freeman asked if this would include recording the meetings also. Tammy Miller volunteered to talk to the High School technology

class, and Brandy Collins will talk to Mr. Thissen about the possibility of sharing the cost of a system with the school district.

Mark Wendt voiced some concerns about the safety of the old water tower at the airport. Leo will be sent out to the airport to take a look at it.

Kat stated that the decision they made is the best for the City. Michelle gave an update on the Land Bank special meeting, and asked about some pictures of trash dumped by the new lake. Kat said it is on railroad property. Michelle also said she talked to Mike Mowat, and wanted to know if we could bring back the Lake Advisory Board. This will be discussed at the next meeting. She said citizens were complaining about “drug houses.” Eric Gares said that either the Police Department or Dickinson County Crime Stoppers could be called.

Mark commented that we have a rough road ahead of us, that the morale of the town and city employees is at an all-time low, and we need to rebuild Herington one piece at a time. Debbie gave a brief update on the 2016 budget.

A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to schedule a special commission meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall for the purpose of discussing the future of the City, the City Manager search, and City employee’s responsibility during the coming months. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” The Mayor commented that the town has been sliding for a while, and he is looking forward to working more closely with citizens to make some positive changes. Karla Mann thanked the Commission for their decision.

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 Mike Herbel, D.J. Neuberger, Marilyn Campbell, Paul Campbell, Mark Wendt, Gloria Boomer, Cynthia Naylor, Ron Maggard, Mike Mowat, Ken Walters, Tim Bettles, Phyllis Bettles, Bill O’Neil, Rick Freeman, Bob Clark, Ruth Clark, Leslie Mayes, Karla Mann, Eric Gares, Gabriele Simmons, Bob Gentz, Natasha Barnett, Wendy Jones, Vickie Hawkes, Frank Hawkes, Vicki Gieber, Steve Gieber, Tammy Miller, Katrina Hager, Debbie Goembel, Stephanie Gilbert, Brandy Collins, Kristen Sneath, Larry Mann, Mike Wendt, Krista Pavek, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt  
City Clerk

