

REGULAR MEETING
October 20, 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: Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, Commissioner Mark Hager, Commissioner Kat Souza, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Mayor Chuck Miller was absent. The meeting was conducted by Vice-Mayor Michelle Stanford.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 6, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinances #C0930-15 and #P1010-15 were discussed and reviewed. Michelle had a question on the payment to Printing Systems Inc. for meter cards and past due notices.

At the public forum, Dave Jones brought up the \$20,000 that the Hospital owes the City, from a loan they received several years ago. He asked how many other outstanding loans are out there that have fallen through the cracks. He was assured that both parties were aware of the loan, and that the City appreciates that the hospital is making arrangements to repay the money. David also asked how much it cost to have the department heads at the last meeting so they could give reports. This information will be provided to him.

There were no additional agenda items. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Drew Snitker of Leadership Dickinson County was present to tell the Commission about a class project they are doing. They propose to install a sign in each town in Dickinson County, for a total of ten signs that provide information on tourism and county history, statistics, and interesting facts. The signs will be 3’ X 5’, and be put up in the spring. One will be given to each City free of charge, but additional ones can be purchased for \$180 each. The Commission will come up with the content and location of the sign by mid-December.

Buck Driggs presented a draft copy of the water/electric facility master plan. He doesn’t have any recommendation yet, and he said that Chelsea Morris of USDA would be available to talk to the Commission on either November 3rd or November 4th. The Commission decided to have her come to the regular Commission meeting on November 3rd. The four options for the facility are do nothing, repair existing structure, demolish and reconstruct in place, and relocate services and demolish, with the estimated costs from \$1.4 million to \$1.9 million. Buck said some “add on” options for the water plant include a roof enclosure, silo removal, and fencing. Funding options need to be studied, and the next step is to meet with Chelsea Morris. Kitty asked how long option 2 would last (repair existing structure) and Buck estimated 30-50 years, but we would still need to do something with the filters.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to accept the resignation of Frank Hawkes from the Land Bank. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” The position will be advertised.

Michelle presented a 2015 budget for the Land Bank, with a total income of \$21,710.76 and expenses of \$650.00. The income is from the donation of the property from Wells Fargo, and the sale of the same property. The Land Bank also owns 21 lots at Logan Pointe. Michelle said that they have a buyer for the 1st Street property, and the sale will close on November 13th. Ray Perez asked what would happen if someone else is interested in the property, and Dave Jones asked about the insurance for the Land Bank.

Hearings for several proposed condemnations were held. Debbie explained that the resolutions were published and also sent to the last known address of the property owners. Three out of the four resolutions come back came back and did not get delivered. The condemnation hearing for 222 West Main was opened. No one was present to speak at the hearing, and the hearing was closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to consider a condemnation resolution at the next meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

The condemnation hearing for 320 North 1st was opened. No one spoke at the hearing, and the hearing was closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to consider a condemnation resolution at the next meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

The condemnation hearing for 401 North E was opened. No one spoke at the hearing. Kenny Staatz indicated that the new owner is deployed at this time, and would be back soon. The hearing was closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to continue the condemnation hearing until December 1, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

The condemnation hearing for 5 West Walnut was opened. No one was present to speak at the hearing, and the hearing was closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to consider a condemnation resolution at the next meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." The resolutions will all give 60 days for the properties to be cleaned up or removed.

Brad presented the revised lease with the American Legion, and went over some of the terms of the lease. It will be forwarded to the American Legion for their input, approval, and any changes they may have.

Debbie reported that the City had leveled the propane tank, and did some repairs at the pump house at the old Lake Caretakers house that the Boy Scouts would like to lease. Also, the trash has been picked up. Representatives from the Scouts will need to negotiate lease terms with the City Commission.

Brad provided the addendum to the memorandum of understanding between the City and the Hospital. It would require repayment of a \$20,000 loan to be repaid at the amount of \$667.00/month, beginning in October of 2015. It will be forwarded to the hospital for their review and approval.

Daryl Hawkins asked for forgiveness of \$1,550.00 on a special assessment he has on his property taxes at 315 South 1st. The assessment is for the 2008 demolition of a house on the lot that is now vacant. Daryl proposed that he would pay the rest of the demolition (\$500) and all of the delinquent taxes if the \$1,550.00 was removed. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to reject the proposal from Daryl Hawkins. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Brad presented the revised restrictive covenants for the Industrial Park. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to approve the covenants. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." The covenants need to be filed in both Dickinson and Morris counties.

Street Superintendent Leo Schlesener presented a street repair plan. He indicated that a lot of the street repairs have been driven by water line replacement. Money from the storm water fund could be used for curb and gutter. Ideas for funding for the streets were discussed. It was decided that at the present time, the water/power plant project is the priority.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to call a special meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall for the purpose of reviewing and discussing City Manager candidates. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Debbie reported that the final Police Chief interviews would be held on Saturday, October 24th. She also mentioned the fire yesterday, two water leaks, and that M & K Trash Service may be asking for a rate increase, due to increased costs by Dickinson County.

Commissioner Souza said she did not see any of our equipment listed on Purple Wave. Leo explained how the process works. Kat also brought up that the Convention and Visitors Bureau does not have the authority to purchase anything or make decisions without permission from the City Commission. It was the wish of the Commission to have the CVB members come to the next meeting to speak with the Commission about this.

Kitty and Mark commented on the great information they received at the annual League conference. Kat said that Mike Schumann from Good Energy Solutions thought that a solar system might not benefit us at this time. He said we need to find a way to get our demand charges down, and he will look at this. Kat also mentioned that she attended the Legacy Eisenhower dinner. Michelle thanked the fire department for their long day of fighting a grass fire, and said she had received a couple of complaints about streets.

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

Also present at the meeting were Brandy Collins, Drew Snitker, Buck Driggs, Dave Jones, Leo Schlesener, D.J. Neuberger, Cynthia Naylor, Eric Gares, Carl Brown, Virginia Neuberger, Gloria Boomer, David Gehrke, Ken Walters, Ray Perez, Tandi Reiff, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk

