

REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 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 Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

The Mayor presented service awards to the following employees: Ken Staatz, 15 years; Dan Bryant, 20 years; and Dennis Albrecht, 25 years.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 3, 2015. The motion passed, with Commissioners Stanford, Walter, Hager, and Souza voting “Aye,” and Mayor Miller abstaining. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 4, 2015. The motion passed, with Commissioners Stanford, Walter, Hager, and Souza voting “Aye,” and Mayor Miller abstaining.

Appropriation Ordinances #C1031-15 and #P1110-15 were discussed and reviewed. No one spoke at the public forum.

There was one additional agenda item—executive session to discuss non-elected personal. It was added as #11A. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #11A. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Buck Driggs presented a contract for \$1,800 for a preliminary engineering report for the power/water plant project. He indicated that he is coordinating the master plan with KDHE, and that Rita Clary from Kansas Rural Water Association will be assisting with our grant application. The process will be all electronic, and Rita will be here tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. to go over the application process. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the contract for the preliminary engineering report with Driggs Design Group for \$1,800. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

The Kansas Rural Water Association would provide the environmental report for the plant for \$2,000. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to contract with Kansas Rural Water for the environmental report for \$2,000. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

The project options were discussed. Buck asked the Commission what they envision for the project. He noted that we are not tied to any funding options, and that the preliminary engineering and environmental reports would be needed for all three funding options. It was the consensus of the Commission to “do it right” by going with Option 4, relocation of services and demolish. The cost estimate of this option to tear down and rebuild is \$1.9 million and to add on other options, \$2.5 million. Buck went over the process. Michelle asked if it would harm us if items are cut later on. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to proceed with the preliminary engineering for Option 4. Motion carried all voting, “Aye.”

Glenn Catlin did not attend the meeting to speak about the Convention and Visitors Bureau, agenda item #11.

At 6:21 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Souza, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, for the City Commission and City Attorney to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried, all voting "Aye." At 6:51 p.m. the meeting was back in regular session. No action was taken.

One person, Rick Freeman, expressed interest in filling a vacancy on the Land Bank Board. Michelle expressed some concern that he may have a conflict with the meeting time, and Kat said that he had voluntarily stepped off another board due to personal differences. A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to table appointment to the Land Bank until the next meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to authorize the Mayor to sign the addendum to the memorandum of understanding with the hospital. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." The hospital will repay a \$20,000 loan at \$667.00/month through March of 2018.

The sign that will be provided by Leadership Dickinson County was discussed. Kat showed an example of what the City of Carlton is using. "Where the Rails Meet the Trails" was suggested to be used on the sign. Some ideas will be gathered and this will be discussed further.

Brad presented a rough draft of a proposed lease for the Lake House. There are some concerns about the water and septic systems at the house. A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to table this until these items can be checked out, and both parties review the lease. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Declaring Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015 as a City holiday was considered. Kitty was opposed to this, and Kat noted that last year we were closed on December 26th. Chuck, Mark, and Michelle were in favor of granting this. Discussion was held on when the utility bills would be due without penalty. Debbie said that the cut-off without penalty would be December 23rd at 4:30 p.m. A motion was made by Mayor Miller, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to declare December 24, 2015 as a City holiday. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Walter casting the dissenting vote.

M & K Trash Service may be asking for an increase due to a \$3.00 per ton increase at the Dickinson County transfer station. Brad will look over our current contract. Michelle said she had a resident request that the Christmas wreaths be placed on the overpass this year. Kat said she hopes everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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 D.J. Neuberger, Ken Walters, Eric Gares, Tim Bettles, Wendy Jones, Dave Jones, Gloria Boomer, Buck Driggs, Ruth Clark, Bob Clark, Phyllis Bettles, Leo Schlesener, Dennis Albrecht, Dan Bryant, Tammy Miller, Leslie Mayes, Cynthia Naylor, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt, City Clerk

