

REGULAR MEETING
December 15, 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 Walter, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2015. The motion passed, with Commissioners Stanford, Walter, and Souza voting “Aye,” and Commissioner Hager abstaining. Appropriation Ordinances #C1130-15 and #P1210-15 were discussed and reviewed.

At the public forum, Dave Jones thanked the Street Department for doing some drainage work on North 16th Street. He also criticized the recent decision to have the City pick up tree limbs after the ice storm. He felt that people should take care of their own property, and that the City shouldn’t spend money and time on this. He added that if the City did pick up the limbs, there should be a charge.

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.”

Utilities Superintendent Mike Wendt gave a report on the recent power outage of 12-14-15. He said that the problem was found in the West Side circuit, somewhere in the line that is buried in conduit between Clark Lumber and the overpass. There was also a breaker control problem at the substation, which is now fixed. Mid-States will be providing a cost estimate for repairs. In the meantime, the West Side circuit is tied to the Lake circuit. Mike credited David Gehrke, David Kahle, and Ron Biehler with their quick response in trouble shooting the problem.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve cereal malt beverage license renewals for 2016 for consumption on the premises for The Spot and Pizza Hut. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve cereal malt beverage license renewals for 2016 for packaged only for Barnes Heartland Foods, The Spot, and Ampride. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Mike Walsh from M & K Trash Service was present to ask for a \$.30 per month per household rate increase (from \$16.75 to \$17.05) effective January 1, 2016. This is due to the \$3.00 per ton increase in dumping fees at the Dickinson County Transfer Station. He noted that the last increase was in 2011. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Walter, to approve the increase. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

An ordinance that would raise the monthly solid waste service charge to \$17.55/month was considered:

ORDINANCE NO. 1781

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE FOR THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE UTILITY.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to adopt Ordinance No. 1781. The vote was as follows:

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

The Land Bank budget for 2016 was presented. The projected revenue for 2015 is \$21,711, and \$4,000 for 2016, with projected expenses in 2016 of \$11,550. The budget will be posted on the City's web site.

The condemnation hearing for 401 North E was continued. Kenny Staatz reported that the new owner is still deployed, and that the house is secure. A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to continue the hearing until March 15, 2016. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Debbie gave an update on the lake house. A limb fell on the roof of the pump house, and a water leak has been discovered under the house. The Scouts have replaced the thermocouple in the furnace, and they are repairing the floor. The lease has not been signed yet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to reappoint Lynn Otte and Robert Gentz to the Housing Authority for four-year terms, to expire 12-31-19. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to reappoint Dennis Albrecht to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term, to expire 10-24-18. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to reappoint Dennis Albrecht to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, to expire 12-31-18. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Signs being made by Leadership Dickinson County were discussed. Kat provided a suggested design for a sign which included "where the rails meet the trails" and "incorporated in 1887." One will be provided free of charge, and we could order more for \$180.00 each. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to accept the design, and order three signs, two of which will cost \$180.00 each. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." Tentatively, they will be placed near the High School, John's Service, and one other location to be decided later.

At 6:39 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, for the City Commission, City Attorney, and Interim City Manager to go into executive session for 10 minutes, attorney/client privilege. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." At 6:49 p.m. the meeting was back in regular session. No action was taken.

Landlord agreements were discussed. Debbie explained that the practice is not included in our code book, which states that all connections will be subject to a connection fee, so the agreements are being discontinued. The Housing Authority has asked for an exemption from paying the fees. It was decided to put this on the agenda for discussion at the second meeting in January.

Debbie announced that the 1985 bucket truck sold for \$6,600, and the brush truck sold for \$2,050, both on Purple Wave.

All of the Commissioners wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Kat congratulated “On the Beach” for receiving the “Business Incentive Bonus” for being in business for one year. She also thanked the City crews for their work in picking up limbs and fixing power problems. Mark said that he is disappointed that the County Clerk told citizens that their tax bills are higher because of the City of Herington, when our mill levy is actually one-half mill lower this year. Dickinson County and USD #487 both saw an increased mill levy. Michelle thanked the City crews for their hard work, and the citizens for their support.

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 Dave Jones, Mike Walsh, Rick Freeman, Mike Wendt, Ken Walters, Tim Bettles, Ken Staatz, D.J. Neuberger, Cynthia Naylor, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk