

REGULAR MEETING

January 5, 2016

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 Mark Hager, Commissioner Kat Souza, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt. Mayor Chuck Miller and Commissioner Kitty Walter were absent. Vice-Mayor Michelle Stanford conducted the meeting.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Newly-elected Police Chief Russ Almes was welcomed. Russ said that he feels that three important factors in a community are health care, education, and law enforcement. He added that he is hoping to reach out to the community on Facebook, and that he has an open door policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Souza, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 22, 2015. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P1225-15 was discussed and reviewed. Michelle asked about a bill from Mid-States, which will be paid in the December accounts payable.

At the public forum, Gloria Boomer asked the Commission to hold off on the demolition of 222 West Main. She would like to see the house saved, as it has historical value, and she would also like permission to walk through the inside of the house. She was told that the City could not give her permission to do that, as it is owned by a private individual. Kat said that she would also like to see the house saved, and Mark said that if someone would buy it the Commission would consider taking it off of the abatement list.

There was one additional agenda item—discussion of City Manager interview times and dates. It was added as #12A. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to approve the agenda, with the addition of #12A. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to name Central National Bank and First National Bank of Hope as the official city depositories for 2016. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Souza, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to name the Herington Times as the official city newspaper for 2016. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to re-appoint Gary Floyd to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, to expire 12-31-18. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

A request was made by James Thiel to have mowing charges of \$825.00 removed from 219 South 11th. His brother, George Thiel, was present to speak to the Commission concerning this. The property was mowed by the City in September of 2014, and the special assessment was sent to Dickinson County in August of 2015. Mr. Thiel was not aware of the charge until he received his tax statement in December of 2015. George said that a lot of cleanup work has been done on the property. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Hager, to remove the \$825.00 mowing charge from 219 South 11th. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

An email was received from Mike Schmaderer of Mid-States giving an estimate of \$27,385 for replacement of the underground wire under the overpass on Main Street. This includes materials and labor. The Commission asked that an actual bid be presented at the next meeting for their consideration.

Times and dates for City Manager interviews were discussed. It was decided that since two commissioners were not present at the meeting, it would be best to get everyone's calendars together and come up with some tentative times for interviews, and put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Debbie reported that Rita Clarey from Kansas Rural Water Association was here today to continue work on our USDA grant application. An update was given on the Lake House. It was decided to have a legal description of the property drawn up (excluding the garage that the City uses), and to make the contract for five years, at \$1.00/year. The lease will be updated with these amounts, for consideration by the City and the VFW. Debbie also pointed out some invoices from Mid-States for a battery charger, control boards, and repairs from the recent power outage, as well as a final bill for the voltage change, that will be included in the 12-30-15 payables.

Kat brought up that some of the boards and committees are still not sending their reports to the City Commission. She also said that she would like to go through the airport contracts. Mark said he appreciated the information on our website that explained that our mill levy had gone down. Michelle also praised the work that is being done on our website, and said that several employees had thanked her for the additional Christmas Eve holiday.

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 Virginia Neuberger, D.J. Neuberger, Gloria Boomer, Dave Jones, George Thiel, Tracy Thiel, Rick Freeman, Russ Almes, Jessietta Denham, Cynthia Naylor, Eric Gares, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk