**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 6, 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: Mayor Kat Souza, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, Commissioner Mark Hager, Commissioner Dave Jones, City Manager Ed Patton, City Attorney Brad Jantz, and City Clerk Debra Wendt.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 16, 2016. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” Appropriation Ordinance #P0825-16 was discussed and reviewed.

At the public forum, Butch Knight spoke regarding the lake. He said that when he and his family were at Lake Herington during the Labor Day weekend, the camp host’s wife told them there was a complaint, and that they had to get their jet ski, kayaks, and wake boards out of the swimming area, as they are not allowed. Butch added that they had been sharing their things with the people in the swim area. He felt that the camp host used poor judgement, and noted that there are no signs stating that these items are not allowed in the swimming area. Mayor Souza apologized for the behavior of the camp host. Ed read a report from the camp host describing the incident. Butch said that he is concerned that if people from out of town are treated this way, they may not come back to the lakes. He considers the lakes a good drawing point to our community. Jean Kremeier said that the swimming area needs to be roped off, but also added that there are not many areas to launch small watercraft without sinking in the mud. Kat asked if the camp host’s wife is authorized to enforce lake rules. Butch pointed out that there should be signs at the lakes stating the rules, and Ed said that some of them had been vandalized and stolen.

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

Gwen Owens-Wilson gave a report on the Library. She noted that the Library turned 100 this year, and gave some statistics on the number of books, magazines, and DVD’s, number of people using the Library, attendance at events, and computer services. She added that old books are offered to patrons, a security system has been installed, several improvements have been made to the building, and they are now fully handicapped accessible. Gwen also told about some of the training the director and staff have attended. Michelle commended the Library Director and staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint Mark Hager as the Voting Delegate to the League of Kansas Municipalities conference that will be held October 8-10 in Overland Park. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to appoint Dave Jones as the alternate voting delegate to the conference. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Chad Lawson spoke to the Commission about possibly adding ozone disinfection and a backup generator dedicated to the water plant to the loan application to USDA for the water plant improvements. He noted that even if the items were approved, we wouldn’t be locked into doing them, and added that the ozone treatment would be a complement to our current water filters. After further discussion, the Commission directed Chad to add these items to the loan application.

Gene Wilson from COP Consulting gave a recap of what will need to be done when AT&T has to abandon all copper wires. He gave some costs for replacing our plexar system, and compared it to what we are paying monthly now. Fiber optic installation and equipment would run around $29,937.00, but our monthly savings would be $1,735.13, with an annualized savings of $20,821.56. Gene listed some of the other cities he is working with right now. Michelle asked how the system would handle emergency response. Also discussed was internet for the Community Building, the City installing the fiber optic cables, and if AT&T would waive early termination fees. Gene will do some more research on several questions and come back to the next commission meeting to report his findings.

Lake issues were discussed. Rick Freeman commented that it is the responsibility of water craft operators to know the rules, and it is not the City’s responsibility to have signs up. The Lake Advisory Board presented a list of suggested changes to the lakes, including a swim area at the reservoir, additional boat docks, more trash cans, cleanliness of the rest rooms, toilet paper, horse trails, and other issues. Ed said he would need to check with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks concerning installing boat docks on the West side of the reservoir, as this is a hunting area. Some other concerns the Lake Board has are the locking of the electrical pedestals and taking reservations. Mayor Souza said that a lot of people don’t want to go to the lakes anymore, and Mike Mowat gave some dates and number of campers that were at the lake. He also mentioned that the rest rooms were out of toilet paper. Ed was asked if the camp host is evaluated, and it was suggested that the duties of the camp host be outlined. It was pointed out that the camp hosts do not receive any compensation. Mike Mowat said that he was a camp host for four years, and there had never been a problem with the electrical pedestals being unlocked, and not taking reservations. Kat believed that the changes were made in good faith, but that maybe they aren’t working very well, and that there are more complaints about the lakes than there used to be. Brad was directed to amend the lake ordinance to omit the “reserve” portion, and this will be considered at the next meeting. The pedestal locks were again discussed, and it was the recommendation of the commission to remove them from Herington Lake, and keep them on at Herington Reservoir. Butch Knight volunteered to keep an eye on the lakes when the camp hosts are not there.

At 8:30 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Mayor Souza, for the City Commission, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to go into executive session for 15 minutes under KSA 75-4319(b)(4), confidential data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorships. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.” At 8:47 p.m. the meeting was re-convened back into regular session. A motion was made by Mayor Souza, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, for the City of Herington to enter into a proposed agreement with Tower Point, subject to staff review. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Ed reported that he is working on a new lease with Tiffany Cattle Company at the airport, and he is checking on the cost to have some wells at the airport tested, and possibly use them for production at US Stone, instead of treated water. Kitty said that there seems to be a lot of large trucks going down Walnut, and Dave asked for an update on the potential sealing of West Walnut. Ed is getting some prices. Dave also asked about our water contract with Hope, trees in the creek bed, what the storm water fund money will be used for, and trees on the dam at the old lake.

Mark commended the crews on doing a great job while the power was out, and Chief Almes for patrolling around the schools. Michelle, Dave, and Kat all thanked Ed and the crews for their work during the power outage. Michelle thanked Ed for explaining the Hope water issue, Dave suggested purchasing an LED sign that could be used to get information out to the people, and Kat reported that Dickinson County has approved the change of speed limit to 45 mph on North D from the City limits to Highway 4.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting, “Aye.”

Also present at the meeting were Ken Walters, Russ Almes, Jerry Barta, Mike Mowat, Natasha Barnett, Wendy Jones, Peggy Hilliard, Ron Maggard, Cynthia Naylor, Jean Kremeier, Nancy Hatterman, Butch Knight, Gloria Boomer, Rick Freeman, Leslie Mayes, David Gehrke, Rita Gehrke, Shelly Wirtz, Gwen Owens-Wilson, Gene Wilson, Chad Lawson, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt

City Clerk