

Regular Meeting
August 3, 2021
5:30 p.m.

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas met at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. on the above date – the following being present: Mayor Debi Urbanek, Commissioner Curtis Hartman, Commissioner Robbin Bell, Commissioner Vance Donahue II via phone, Commissioner Ben Castleberry (arrived after the approval of the minutes), City Manager Branden Dross, City Attorney Brad Jantz and City Clerk Megan Lawrenz. Also, in attendance were Tom Sarta, Larry Mann, Carl Urbanek, Marcus Hawkes, Britt Moore, Darren Prince, Mike Schmadizar, Gerry Bielser, Larry Ebright, David Kahle and Eric Gares.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Urbanek called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Mayor Urbanek to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting July 16, 2021, and the Regular Meeting July 20, 2021. Motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Donahue casting the dissenting vote.

Public Forum Items – Britt Moore at 401 S Broadway, spoke about the so-called electric policy, specifically that utilities aren't turned on until the day after payment following disconnect. Staff provided the policy to him after the commission meeting.

Additional Agenda Items – 7a. Schedule the next budget meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the agenda with the addition of 7a. Motion carried 5-0.

KMEA Generator Presentation – KMEA presented information on a service they are providing to finance generators to cities in need, with payment extending out over 20 years. With installation of the recommended generator, the city could supplement 98% of the cities utilities if needed. Ultimately, the charge would be \$0.00285/KW for 20 years.

Schedule Budget Meeting – Mayor Urbanek motioned to set the next budget for Monday, August 9th at 6:15pm, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Update – Tabled.

Fire Update – There were 33 calls for service, 1 grass fire, 1 MVA's entrapment, 16 medical assists, 2 public assists/assist government agency, 1 standby, 7 control burn permits, 1 false alarm and 2 hazmat clean ups. The fire department has maintained a response time under 8 minutes. Training hours and topics for the month were forcible entry and saw training, using forcible entry door prob that was purchased with grant money, still working on firefighter 1 class, the first extra training day for the month went well. Going to start working on individual skills. Next month will be training with water rescue/boat operation at lake, will work with Junction City Fire Department. Equipment updates; received TS420 cut off saw for Engine 1. This will complete TC energy grant. Purchasing 25 Harris XG75 VHF radios and 10 pages from Manhattan Fire Department for \$5000. Wildland grant still waiting on PPE pants to come in ETS end of September.

Bids went out for the brush truck and Scot SCBA. Due back August 27 at 4:00pm, bid opening will be August 30 at 9:00am. TIC quotes came back, Feld was the cheapest at \$9828. Engine 2 got all new tires; they had aged out. State 800MHz radio system approved. Working user authorizations with surrounding counties. The Herington Fire Department worked with the Hillsboro Fire Department at their Demo Derby and the Herington Fire Department is working with Junction City Fire Department to assist with completing inspections on the new high school.

Neighborhood Enforcement Officer Update – Tabled.

CVB Update – Marcus Hawkes reported that the July meeting has three in attendance due to COVID and other obligations. Bills were paid to the Chamber, Railroad Days, and KJIL for radio advertising. The radio sports are running if you have an event to advertise, please contact Alicia Stinnett so she can contact the radio station. The CVB is still working on a festival. There are two in mind, an Oktoberfest, and a Bluegrass Festival. The CVB expects representatives from a new group called Herington Revitalization to come and talk about signage around town and on the highways. Hopefully the two groups can combine manpower.

Discuss and Action on Removal of Lauren Spelts as Chamber Director on the CVB Board – There was discussion about removing Lauren as the Chamber Director on the CVB Board as she is no longer the Chamber Director. This does not stop her from reapplying to the CVB board, it just removes her as the Chamber's representative. Mayor Urbanek motioned to remove Lauren Spelts as the Chamber Director on the CVB Board, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Donahue abstaining from the vote.

Discuss and Action on Approval of Phyllis Smith's Application for the CVB Board Term to Expire 4/30/2022 – Mayor Urbanek motioned to approve Phyllis Smith's Application for the CVB Board term to expire 4/30/2022, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0.

City Manager Comments – Walk in leases expire 5/21/2027. October 4-8 will be curbside bulk trash pickup. Will provide information from the KMEA rate study at the next meeting. Thanked the Ad Hoc committee for all their hard work around town. Has a meeting with Carl for the water rate study next week, will provide information at the next commission meeting.

City Attorney – Brad provided an update on the Planning Commission, saying that the planning and zoning guidelines have not been updated for some time, changes can be made to make the process more efficient.

Commissioner Castleberry – Asked city staff for the utility shutoff policy. Special thank you to the Donahue Family for starting the process of getting the murals repainted in town. Also thanked the Lawrenz family for providing the scaffolding at the mural. Asked City staff to look at the ravine on 9th street, it's in rough shape with a wall collapsing.

Commissioner Donahue – Asked if staff could find a way to charge customers for the electric overage cost that the city receives from Evergy. Staff told Commissioner Donahue that there isn't a way to easily charge

customers for peak use or overages. He also said that during previous budget meetings, commissioners did not vote to cut anything.

Commissioner Bell – None.

Commissioner Hartman – None.

Mayor Urbanek – None.

Adjourn – Commissioner Hartman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Castleberry. Motion carried 5-0.

Megan Lawrenz, City Clerk