

Regular Meeting
August 17, 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 Robbin Bell, Commissioner Vance Donahue II, City Manager Branden Dross, City Attorney Brad Jantz and City Clerk Megan Lawrenz. Absent were Commissioner Curtis Hartman and Commissioner Ben Castleberry. Also, in attendance were Carl Urbanek, Dan McDonald, Christina McDonald, Karen Soliz, Larry Mann, Butch Knight, 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 Commissioner Donahue to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting August 2, 2021, Regular Meeting August 3, 2021, and Special Meeting August 9, 2021 Motion carried 3-0.

Public Forum Items – None.

Additional Agenda Items – None.

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

The Public Hearing on 620 W Main Rezoning was opened and closed with no public comments.

Rezoning 620 W Main from an R-3 to I-2 – Mayor Urbanek motioned to approve the rezoning of 620 W Main from an R-3 to I-2, in the next sequential number and to authorize the mayor's signature, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

Water Treatment Plant Update – Ozone materials are enroute, the project is about 4-6 weeks behind because materials are delayed. Insulation and drywall are being installed this week; project is about 65%-70% complete. Still need to do the site improvements and demolish the existing building, hoping to start mid to late September weather permitting.

Water Treatment Plant Change Order #3 – Mayor Urbanek motioned to approve change order number three in the amount of \$1820.04 and authorize the City Manager's signature, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

Water Treatment Plant Change Order #4 – Mayor Urbanek motioned to approve change order number four in the amount of \$28,097.38 and authorize the City Manager's signature, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Update – There were a total of 174 calls for service and 3 misdemeanor arrests. New officer Allen Cottone was introduced to the commissioners and community. Officer Canby is in the next stage of FTO training and should be finished by mid-October.

City Clerk Update – Provided the commissioners with July’s financials. Set up time to work with Marcus to complete the quarterly financial statement to get published in the newspaper. Provided the 2020 Audit to the commissioners.

Neighborhood Enforcement Officer Update – There were several cars that were towed from a lot on 2nd and Walnut at the owner’s expense. There have been two condemnations and adult services were involved in both. There were three cases on the court docket for code enforcement, two defendants did not show up, the judge ordered they be hand served, and the Judge issued a 10-day extension for the defendant that appeared. The permit process is going smoother, there was approximately \$500 in permit fees for July and year to date is \$4563. Focusing on the inspection process now, there is room for improvement. Looking forward to the city clean up week, will be providing educational flyers about what is acceptable to dispose of, and will be monitoring what is set on the curbs. Finished the last training at Junction City High School, and has been completing some training in Council Grove, hoping to implement a trades board with the help of the commission and city manager.

Water Rate Study – There was discussion about current water rates showing that we will be in a deficit in the next couple years. Discussed raising water rates and sewer rates. City staff was advised to bring an ordinance lining out the next 3 years so rates can be changed in the beginning of each year.

KMEA Rate Case Study Update – The KMEA Rate Case Study showed that the City of Herington is on track for electric rates. No changes needed.

Resignation of Kym Harper on the CVB Board – Mayor Urbanek motioned to approve the resignation of Kym Harper on the CVB Board, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

Resignation of Deana Lewis from the Planning Commission – Mayor Urbanek motioned to approve the resignation of Deana Lewis from the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

Appointment of Richard Idleman to the Planning Commission – Mayor Urbanek motioned to appoint Richard Idleman to the Planning Commission, term to expire 12/31/2024, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

Proclamation Roger Boelling Day – Mayor Urbanek motioned to proclaim Sunday, August 22, 2021, as Roger Boelling Day, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 3-0.

City Manager Comments – Herington’s current population as of the last census is 2109. Drainage is needed on the Trapp St. project, looking at options for future funding. Dennis Albrecht and SMH Consultants advised that we are looking at 2.5 million for phase 2 of the wastewater treatment plant and are looking at financing options more information will be provided at the second meeting in September. Told the Commissioners that he will provide information for his one-year evaluation at the next meeting.

Commissioner Donahue – Mentioned Safe Walks to School and asked if it could be added to next years budget. Asked who maintains the cities vehicles and equipment, was told that city staff tries to keep it local as much as possible.

Commissioner Bell – Asked if Brad had any questions about the contracts and leases.

Mayor Urbanek – None.

Adjourn – Commissioner Bell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Urbanek. Motion carried 3-0.

Megan Lawrenz, City Clerk