

Regular Meeting

October 19, 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 Curtis Hartman, Commissioner Vance Donahue, Commissioner Ben Castleberry, City Manager Branden Dross, City Attorney Brad Jantz and Deputy Clerk Kathy Matkins. Also in attendance were Todd Anderson-SMH Consultants, Dan McDonald, Christina McDonald, Larry Mann, Carl Urbanek, Janet Wade, Leslie Mayes, Steve Lewis and Eric Gares.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Urbanek Called the meeting to order. City Manager told the Commissioners and the Mayor the minutes from the last meeting were not ready to be approved and will be handed out at the next meeting in November 2021 as City Clerk was on vacation.

There were two signees for Public Forum. Dan McDonald had questions about Phase II of the Water Plant and the Herington Hospital Dissolution as well as the Master Lake Plan and where the money is coming from to pay for this project?

Janet Wade had questions concerning the Ad Hoc Firehouse Evaluation Committee the Lake Master Plan. Janet said the Comprehensive Plan needs updated prior to spending monies on the Lake Master Plan. Janet asked for clarification about the two different boards that were identified in the proposed ordinance.

Additional Agenda Items: None

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the agenda. Motion carried all voting "Aye."

A motion was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Mayor Urbanek to approve moving forward with the Phase 2 WWTP Improvements with Todd Anderson of SMH Consultants gathering additional information on grants, loans, and any agreements and options necessary for the WWTP Project. Motion carried all voting "Aye."

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the appointment of a City Commissioner to the Ad-Hoc Firehouse Evaluation Committee and authorize the City Manager to select a City Commissioner to this Board. Motion carried all voting "Aye."

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Donahue to approve the 2022 Employee Benefits Package with Blue Cross Blue Shield Kansas. Motion carried all voting "Aye."

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the Herington Municipal Hospital Board Dissolution Ordinance and authorize the mayor to sign. Motion carried all voting "Aye."

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the Contract with Confluence for the Herington City Lake and Reservoir Master Plan Services and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried with 3 voting "Aye" and Commissioner Castleberry and Commissioner Donahue voting "Nay."

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Castleberry to approve the revised Poultry/Fowl Ordinance to include not allowing roosters in the city limits. Anyone with roosters will have to be abated. Motion carried with all voting "Aye."

A motion was made by Mayor Urbanek, seconded by Commissioner Bell to approve the creation of a Building Standards Board Ordinance with the minutes being forwarded to the City Commissioners and Mayor and authorize the mayor to sign. Motion carried with 4 "Ayes" and Commissioner Donahue voting "Nay."

Update on the Herington Revitalization Committee- City Manager said the Bylaws are drafted and signed off. Articles of Incorporation filed with the IRS and Secretary of State paperwork. In 65 to 75 days, tax exemption status should be complete due to nonprofit status eligibility.

City Manager and City Commissioners' Comments:

City Manager Comments-Will be following up on Safe Routes to School and getting approval for funds to be paid by infrastructure. Cemetery Software is on board and city staff are being trained on the software now. Publicly read a letter to everyone asking for continued support and apologizing for behavior and actions that were inappropriate and moving forward with passion, commitment, and dedication to the City and Community Residents.

Commissioner Donahue expressed concerns over moving forward with the Lake Master Plan and the Phase 2 WWTP Project when he felt there were other areas of priority to spend money on other important projects. He wants to do what's right for the community.

Commissioner Bell thanked City Manager for his good work and being open and honest with everyone.

Commissioner Hartman appreciated City Manager Branden Dross sharing with the public information he prepared in a letter he read and presented to all.

Commissioner Castleberry expressed concern in spending approximately 60,000 on the Master Lake Project at this time as other projects that were started did not get completed such as the 2018 Safewalk Project.

Mayor Debi Urbanek reminded everyone that the Public Candidate Forum is tomorrow night at 6 pm at City Hall. Mayor showed and expressed her appreciation for City Manager Branden's Dross hard work he has accomplished in the last 13 months in his position and for being a man of honesty and integrity.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hartman, seconded by Commissioner Castleberry to adjourn. Motion carried with all voting "Aye".

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Kathy A. Matkins, Deputy Clerk