

Regular Meeting
March 15, 2022
6:00 p.m.

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 Eric Gares, Commissioner Vance Donahue, Commissioner Debi Urbanek via phone, Commissioner Robbin Bell, and Commissioner Ben Castleberry. Also in attendance were City Manager Branden Dross, City Attorney Brad Jantz, City Clerk Megan Lawrenz, Kyler Schlesener, David Kahle, DJ Neuberger, Cynthia Naylor, Janet Wade and Deana Lewis.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gares called the meeting to order. Commissioner Donahue made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular commission meeting March 1, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum – DJ Neuberger – 9 S 2nd – Roofing and Equipment License. Janet Wade – 602 E Arnold – Park/Priorities.

Additional Agenda Items – Move item 12 to 6a. Move Item 13 to item 11. Addition of 7a Discussion on temporary crosswalk painting and 14a Executive Session – Attorney Client Privilege – Litigation.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Mayor Gares. Motion carried 5-0.

Skid Loader – Kyler Schlesener spoke to the Commissioners about an option to trade in a skid loader to upgrade to a heavier duty one. Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the purchase of a skid loader for \$30,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to sign, seconded by Commissioner Castleberry. Motion Carried 5-0.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Update – Cynthia Naylor provided the following updates for the CVB; Covid restricted what events could happen for the past couple of years, money not spent in previous years has been kept for more/bigger events this year. Ideas for this year's events include railroad days and a blue grass festival. The CVB received a grant from the Dickinson County EDC for \$705. A mural account was opened for upkeep on current murals and for adding murals in the future. The only event in 2021 was the fireworks. The hotel has changed hands. Other new event ideas are a craft show and Oktoberfest. Lighting at the Y has been budgeted. CVB is working with Corkie's group for the business sign at the intersection of 56 & 77. Working on updating their website. Updating the TVs around town, first month will be free to advertise then \$5/month. Working on a day trip guide. Although there is still some interest in the blue benches, the CVB will no longer be involved. CVB has talked about adding train statues around town. Have reorganized to combine the secretary and treasurer positions. CVB should have a full board after this meeting. Lights at the Y came to \$1233.06 and are installed. US Stone is donating stone for new signs that were damaged in the windstorm. Please contact the CVB with events for the TV's and radio.

Looking at getting electric vehicle charging stations to Herington. Meetings are the 3rd Friday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Chamber office.

7a. Discussion on Temporary Crosswalk Painting – Members of the community attended a mural workshop and would like to be able to implement temporary crosswalk art to welcome visitors and promote events in town.

CVB Application – Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve Janet Wade’s application for the CVB board to fill the unexpired term of Brandy Sensmeier term to expire 10/31/2023, seconded by Commissioner Donahue. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 1859 – Mayor Gares made a motion to approve Ordinance 1859 – Roofing Licensure. Motion failed for lack of a second. Ordinance number 1959 will be unassigned.

Generator Repair & Maintenance – Commissioner Donahue made a motion to approve the generator repair and maintenance package for \$15,784.93 and authorize the City Manager to sign, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session – Mayor Gares made a motion that the Herington City Commission recess into Executive Session, pursuant to the consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to discuss potential litigation, to include the following persons; Governing Body, City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and EMC Insurance Representatives with the open meeting to being at 7:20, seconded by Commissioner Donahue. Motion carried 5-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

Code of Ethics – Tabled for more review.

14a. Executive Session - Mayor Gares made a motion that the Herington City Commission recess into Executive Session, pursuant to the consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to discuss potential litigation, to include the following persons; Governing Body, City Manager, City Attorney, and Herington Housing Authority Representatives with the open meeting to being at 7:55, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

Executive Session - Mayor Gares made a motion that the Herington City Commission recess into Executive Session, pursuant to the consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to discuss potential litigation, to include the following persons; Governing Body, City Manager, City Attorney with the open meeting to being at 8:20, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

Executive Session - Mayor Gares made a motion that the Herington City Commission recess into Executive Session, pursuant to the consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to discuss potential litigation, to include the

following persons: Governing Body, City Manager, City Attorney with the open meeting to being at 8:30, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried 5-0. The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

Governing Body Performance – The Commissioners responded to questions asked by Mayor Gares, “How are we governing?” and, “How can we improve?”

City Manager Comments – Pool repairs have been confirmed for April. Woodbine was receptive for rate increase but requested updated water levels. HWY 177 has been re-routed to HWY 77/HWY 56 until December or January. The Bridge on 8th Street needs to be reinspected. Staff has applied for a grant for work on the grandstand at Father Padilla Park. Megan will be out of the office the rest of the week for the City Clerk Spring Conference. Branden will be out Wednesday and Thursday. MacKenzie has turned in her notice, her last day will be April 25th. Megan will pick up court duties for now. Spoke with the pool director about expectations for this upcoming season. Branden is now a member of the Dickinson County EDC Board. There is a comp plan meeting on the 30th.

Commissioner Bell – Wanted to make sure the bathrooms were ready for the disc golf tournament. Wants to make sure the bridge at the park is fixed as well. Mentioned allowing kayaks on Father Padilla Pond. Asked that the potholes around town be addressed soon. Thanked the wrestling club and the gun show for their hard work.

Commissioner Castleberry – Asked about the Water Treatment Plant’s updated water scores. Branden had published the scores online. Asked about the status of the fountain at Father Padilla Pond, staff is still trying to get parts. Asked if the Commission or City Staff would be interested in separating the school from the rec commission and taking over the recreation activities.

Commissioner Urbanek - Nothing.

Commissioner Donahue – Said he received some residents feedback that their utility bills are about \$100 more than this time last year. Requested that we get the KDOL to inspect the pool house for a 2nd opinion.

Mayor Gares – Reminded the commissioners about brainstorming a vision and mission statement for the City.

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

Megan Lawrenz, City Clerk