

City of Houston Lake
Official Minutes of the Council Meeting
April 25, 2016

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on April 25, 2016 at City Hall. The following members were present: Mayor Joyce Kullman, Aldermen Phil Otte, Dan Coronado, Rick Cowan, and excused was Jean Anderson.

Opening Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Kullman.

Mayor Kullman thanked Alderman Dan Coronado for all of his work, and support of the City, and for his involvement in growing and defining the city's Emergency Management office and preparation for future disasters. She also stated that Dan Coronado would be stepping down from his position as our Emergency Management Team, therefore we are in need of a replacement. Alderman Coronado said that many municipalities are providing compensation for the Emergency Management officer due to the importance of the position.

Melinda Cook presented the Oath of Office to Joyce Kullman, Pam Freese, and Evadene Judge. Mayor Kullman and Aldermen Cowan and Otte welcomed and thanked both Aldermen Pam Freese and Evadene Judge for serving, and look forward to working with them.

A motion was made by Alderman Otte to nominate Alderman Cowan to be Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Alderman Freese. The motion passed.

Public Discussion

None

Minutes March 14, 2016

The March 14, 2016 minutes were approved by general consent, with Alderman Judge, and Alderman Freese abstaining.

Building Permit

Recreational burning permits for 5400 NW Wagon Trail, 5511 NW Edgewood Trail, and 5303 NW Edgewood Trail were all approved by the Council. Alderman Otte suggests that all burning permit applications, either new or renewals be accompanied with a photo. Mayor Kullman stated that City Clerk Melinda Cook would be mailing out all approved burning permits to all applicants, for their personal record. Mayor Kullman would like to update the form for burning permits to request photos with all applications and to indicate if they are new or renewal applications on the first page.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers' report was approved by the Council.
The Treasurers' report shows a balance of \$352,801.97.

Resolution 4-25-16 (paybills)

The City Council approved Resolution 4-25-16 unanimously.

New Business

a. Copier Shop maintenance agreement will be renewed.

b. Republic Services contract will be renewed. Alderman Cowan suggested that in the future we run a comparative bid.

c. Alderman Otte made a motion to table the Animal Control Contract, seconded by Alderman Freese.

Roll call:

Judge-Aye

Otte-Aye

Freese-Aye

Cowan-Aye

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

The Platte County Sheriff's Department submitted a police report for the month of March, 2016.

A codes report was presented to council and attendees. Alderman Cowan asked for an update about a home in Houston Lake that had an open well in the backyard. Mayor Kullman stated that for now there has been a piece of plywood board with a brick placed on top of the open well, there has been ongoing issues with this house for several years.

Mayor Kullman presented the Council Ordinance No. 042516-1, Adjusting the compensation of the Codes Enforcement Officer of the City of Houston Lake. Alderman Freese made a motion to put Ordinance No. 042516-1 on its first reading by title only, seconded by Alderman Judge. The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 042516-1 by title only. Council members Cowan and Otte both expressed concerns about the Codes Enforcement Officers salary and his aggressiveness in seeking out violations. Alderman Cowan expressed his concern that all of the salaries of the city employees need to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary. Alderman Otte expressed concern about the cost and the impact on the city's budget. Mayor Kullman stated that the council had agreed at the March city council meeting during discussion of the codes position to pay the officer more through the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2016) to address complaints, which have not been addressed since Officer Kelly left in early 2015. The codes enforcement officer is reviewing all of the open complaints with the city attorney to bring them up-to-date. Aldermen Otte and Cowan both recommended that the codes enforcement go back to being complaint-driven only. Resident Gary Halterman stated that he supported the actions of the Codes Enforcements Officer, in actively seeking out violations. He further stated that it helps clean up our community. Alderman Phil Otte made a motion to table Ordinance No. 042516-1 until next meeting, seconded by Alderman Rick Cowan.

Roll call:

Judge-Aye

Otte-Aye

Freese-Aye

Cowan-Aye

Emergency Management

Mayor Kullman stated that we are in need of filling the position of Emergency Management now that Alderman Coronado has retired.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Judge - Alderman Judge stated that she looks forward to being part of this Council, and hopes to learn a lot along the way.

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte stated that some residents were unhappy with the way our Codes Enforcement Officer is conducting his business.

Alderman Freese - Alderman Freese stated that she is excited to be part of this Council and to serve our community.

Alderman Cowan – Alderman Cowan welcomed new board members, Alderman Judge and Alderman Freese.

Mayors Report

Mayor Kullman informed everyone that the 2016 Spring Platte County Clean Up is April 29-30, 2016 from 7:30 - 4:30.

Mayor Kullman stated that our Houston Lake Spring Clean Up will be May 21, 2016. Two dumpsters will be dropped at City Hall on May 20th, and our goal is for everyone to drop off their unwanted items at City Hall, but for the residents that are unable to get their items there, our city truck will come by and pick up anything that is left curbside by 8:00 a.m. Saturday May 21st. The city truck will swing by only once or twice, please note this will not be an all-day service. We are in need of any volunteers who would be willing to help monitor dumpsters, and gather items that are left curbside.

Mayor Kullman reminded everyone that our animal vaccination deadline is May 1, 2016.

Mayor Kullman stated that while Alderman Otte and Alderman Cowan have had people complaining about the Codes Enforcement Officer, she herself has had residents thank her for his hard work, and she feels we need to look at the balance both ways.

Closed Session

Mayor Kullman made a motion to go into a closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (3) for discussion of Personnel, seconded by Alderman Cowan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.