

City of Houston Lake
Official Minutes of the Council Meeting
May 9, 2016

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on May 9, 2016 at City Hall. The following members were present: Mayor Joyce Kullman, Aldermen Phil Otte, Evadene Judge, Rick Cowan, and Pam Freese.

Opening Session

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

Public Discussion

Resident Jan Jackalone stated that it has been rumored throughout the lake that there is a problem with the efficiency of our Codes Enforcement Officer, Ethan Dean. Jan, along with the other attendees showed their respect and support in agreement that Ethan has done an outstanding job and strongly urges the council to support his efforts and salary. She further stated that she would like the board to take into consideration all the aspects of taking over the responsibilities of this position.

Resident Janet Halterman stated that since she has lived in Houston Lake this is the first time she has seen anyone clean up our neighborhood. She further stated that Ethan has taken an interest in Houston Lake and is worth every bit of the salary.

Resident Gary Halterman inquired as to what procedures our Codes Enforcement Officer Ethan Dean would be enforcing. Will he be actively seeking violations or complaint driven only? Mayor Joyce Kullman stated that some of the council wants Ethan to be complaint driven only, and she stated that she is opposed to that, and feels that it is pretty easy to go out and see the violations, get all visible violations cleaned up and then become complaint driven only. Mayor Kullman feels that we owe it to our residents to take care of our city and not let it get out of control. Mayor Joyce Kullman stated that she spoke with Parkville, and they have a complaint system on their website, and that she will be working with resident Jean Anderson, in hopes of getting a similar system on our city website. Alderman Rick Cowan stated that although council members may have varying views on that, the enforcement lies under the executive branch, which is in this case the Mayor. The Mayor mandates how that will be driven, in this case it would be looking for violations instead of complaint driven. Our Codes Enforcement Ethan Dean stated that as of now about 90% of the violations have been corrected and he has five summonses for court. The majority of the worst case scenarios are being dealt with.

Resident Joseph Briones inquired about erosion coming from construction west of Houston Lake that is clearly running into our lake. Joseph did a drive by of the property and could see some type of erosion control on the North side. He stated that we do have laws that protect the water. Mayor Kullman stated that council would check into this matter.

Minutes April 18, 2016

The April 18, 2016 minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

A new recreational burning permit for 5509 NW Adrian was approved by the Council, with Alderman Otte excused.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report was approved by the Council.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$353,222.68.

Resolution 5-9-16 (paybills)

The City Council approved Resolution 5-9-16 unanimously.

New Business

a. Alderman Rick Cowan stated that we need to schedule a meeting with the homeowners that are on grinder pumps. Mayor Kullman stated that the grinder pump fund is underfunded, we will be holding a meeting for the 37 homes/residents that are on grinder pumps and the goal is to get everyone up to speed, it is a public meeting so anyone will be able to attend. Alderman Cowan stated that ultimately there will probably need to be a vote on what we establish a fee at, or for the city to get out of the grinder pump business, as of right now, we are \$21,000.00 into to our general fund to compensate residents for a replacement of their grinder pumps. Mayor Kullman stated that the grinder pumps are approximately 30 years old and are failing, we repair the ones we can, if they are beyond repair then we replace them. We will contact Haynes Equipment, which maintains the pumps, for more information. A meeting will be held for the residents with grinder pumps when we have more information.

b. City Administrator Joe Chepren provided a copy of his activity log for March and April. Joe stated that he has reached out to Nebraska Furniture Mart and McCray Lumber to inform them about the weight limit on our bridge; he has not seen any more of their trucks around since. He asked that if any residents see them, please let him know. Joe stated that he has been locating culverts around the lake, and digging them out to provide better drainage. Joe also informed everyone that he is working towards getting information for the road surfaces; he has a meeting set for tomorrow with a contractor from Modern Paving Systems Incorporated. They will be doing site work and discuss what had been done in the past with the roads, to decide which direction to go with phasing out, and creating scopes of work for the road work and that will put us on the budget radar. Joe informed everyone that he would be using the standard three bid process. The mission of the meeting is facts gathering to create a scope of work, and to use the contractor who has done work previously for Houston Lake, whom he believes would be a good candidate for helping to create the scope of work accurately.

Sheriff's Report

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

Code Enforcement

Codes Enforcement Officer Ethan Dean informed everyone that he along with a few of his neighbors would be helping out at our Spring Clean Up on May 21, 2016. Alderman Freese stated that Drew Freese will also be available to help.

A codes report was presented to council and attendees, for the months of April and May. Mayor Joyce Kullman informed everyone that we would be mimicking the format of the police report, so no contact information will be revealed. Mayor Kullman stated that Ethan has been working very hard, and that it is not a pretty/easy job, and thanked him for all his hard work. Codes Enforcement Officer Ethan Dean stated that, you could clearly see that in just two weeks, violations have been cut down in half. Ethan expressed his gratitude for the support from the residents. Ethan stated that the first six months was going to be the rough part, and after the first six months he has no objections to cutting down the salary. He can see changes and that is his main concern.

Mayor Joyce Kullman presented the Council Bill No. 050916-1, Adjusting the compensation of the Codes Enforcement Officer of the City of Houston Lake. Alderman Phil Otte made a motion to put Bill No. 050916-1 on its first reading by title only, seconded by Alderman Rick Cowan. The City Clerk read Bill No. 050916-1 by title only. Alderman Rick Cowan made a motion to put Bill No. 050916-1 on its second reading by title only, seconded by Alderman Pam Freese. The City Clerk read Bill No. 050916-1 by title only.

Roll call:

Judge - Aye

Otte - Aye

Freese - Aye

Cowan - Aye

Bill No. 050916-1, Ordinance No. 353 was passed

Emergency Management

Mayor Joyce Kullman stated that we are in need of filling the position of Emergency Management. Dan Coronado retired from the council and also from his position of Emergency Management. Dan has built this department and we do not want to lose the momentum that he started. Anyone that is interested in this position please contact Mayor Kullman by email or phone. Alderman Otte stated that we should consider this a salary position.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Judge - No report

Alderman Otte – No report

Alderman Freese - No report

Alderman Cowan – Excused

Mayors Report

Mayor Joyce Kullman stated that our Houston Lake Spring Clean Up will be May 21, 2016. Two dumpsters will be dropped off at City Hall on May 20th, Mayor Kullman spoke with Maria with Republic Services and they are willing to drop off another dumpster if need be. 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. If anyone needs help getting anything to the curb, please contact City Clerk Melinda Cook.

Mayor Joyce Kullman informed everyone that we will be having our Fourth of July Celebration on the July 4, 2016. Alderman Pam Freese and City Clerk Melinda Cook will be heading up the team for volunteers, and are in need of volunteers. Mayor Kullman spoke with the insurance agent about the extra coverage needed for the fireworks show. More information to come on the festivities in the Houston Laker.

Mayor Joyce Kullman stated that we were not going to be voting on the Animal Control contract. Resident Janette Boehm updated everyone on the research she had been collecting. Janette informed everyone that she had inquired where the Sheriff's Department transports the animals, which is Jackson Clinic in St. Joe, and she also contacted Riverside Missouri, and they transport the animals to Wayside Waifs. Janette spoke to Jackson Clinic and feels it is a viable option.

Closed Session

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.