

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PAWNEE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, 735 8TH STREET, ALL IN PAWNEE CITY, PAWNEE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by advertising in the Pawnee Republican, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Affidavit of Publishing on file in the office of the City Clerk. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice and the agenda are on file in the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Present: Mayor Charlie Hatfield; Council Members: Ric Helms, Susan Eisenhauer, Donnie Fisher and Bruce Haughton; Tammy Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer, Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer and Spencer Cumley, City Foreman. **Absent:** None.

Mayor Charlie Hatfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. informing all those present of the Posters stating the Open Meeting Law Changes on the West meeting room wall accessible to the public. At this time all those present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to accept the December 13, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

The Treasurer submitted the following claims for consideration: **12/21/21 Payroll:** 10,819.05; **Union Bank & Trust,** FWH 2905.66; **NE Dept. of Rev,** SWH, 412.44, Nov. Sales & Use Tax 2197.98; **John Hancock,** retirement 1316.45; **Allstate,** cancer/accid. ins. 267.74; **Ameritas,** vision ins. 126.40; **UHC,** health ins. 7103.33; **BHE,** gas service 419.88; **Spectrum,** internet & phone @ shop 164.97; **PCDC,** October 2021 sales tax 5840.35; **Windstream,** phone service @ swr plant, 61.71; **NPPD,** electric service 3134.20; **Seneca Sanitation,** October garbage service & dumpster @ pond 6137.25; **Amazon Capital Services,** barricade lights, welding coats, drawer slides 418.97; **Nebr. Public Health Environmental Lab,** wtr samples 174.00; **Capital Bus. Services,** Elevate phone syst. 111.94; **Pawnee Republican,** subscription renewal 39.00; **H.G. Klug & Sons, Inc.,** repair parts for swr blower 74.85; **Pawnee True Value,** maint. supplies 400.16; **Protex Central Inc.,** library, fire inspection & extinguishers 555.00; **Casey's Bus. Mastercard,** equip fuel Nov. 2021 222.71; **AHRS Construction, Inc.,** Fire Hall Proj DD#7 292,508.06; **JEO Consulting Group,** Fire Hall Proj DD #7 4172.85; **U.S. Cellular,** emergency cell phone 44.91; **Verizon Wireless,** home connect & jetpack 63.39. Council Member Haughton moved to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Drew Case—Present proposal on the City's Well Pasture Pond: Drew Case had submitted a letter and a "Private Waterbody Management Authorization Request" to the City Office which was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Case had contacted the Nebr. Game & Parks (NGP) for authorization to sterilize the well pond with rotenone and was told the authorization request needed to be completed and sent back to NGP. The original person that Mr. Case had contacted is retiring and Tony Barada will take his place. Tony recommended waiting a few weeks to send in the completed form after he officially takes over the position. Drew wants to kill fish in a

couple of his ponds, too, while the contractor is on site to take care of the fish in the well pasture pond so he plans to complete an authorization for his ponds, also. Once the City's authorization request is completed then he will forward them to NG&P and then give a copy to Aaron Klusmire, who is able to apply the rotenone to all of the ponds. Council Member Eisenhauer asked how much it will cost to rotenone the well pasture pond. Mr. Case said that Aaron could give an estimate for the rotenone and it could cost \$1000 to \$2000 but it will depend upon how much water is left in the pond. Drew will have Aaron rotenone two of his ponds while he is treating the largemouth bass in the City's well pasture pond. Drew explained that rotenone kills fish by removing the oxygen from the water which then the fish suffocate without the oxygen. Drew stated that Winter is actually a better time to treat the ponds because you get a better kill since the water is cold so the rotenone doesn't break down as much. If the City Council approves this joint venture, Drew probably won't send in the authorization request until around the first of next week. Drew said the cost of \$2000 may be a little on the high side but it would probably be more like \$1000.00. When Drew drove by the pond today, he noticed that the water level is two feet below the pipe. This pond is located on the southwest corner of the Well property and it is visible from the road. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she would be okay with the \$1000 cost range but not \$2000. Drew Case stated he still planned to split the bill with the City to rotenone the City Well pond. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that there is a history concerning the Well pond that happened before she became a council member and feels that the City needs another liability waiver drawn up and signed. Drew Case stated to the Council that the only reason he brought up the issue again was that the original work had never been completed. Council Member Helms asked where it is stated that the City is responsible for anything and Council Member Eisenhauer explained that it is not stated anywhere about the City's responsibility. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that the Council is just trying to be "neighborly" about the situation. Foreman Cumley stated that the dam was rebuilt because of this fish issue and it was not a planned project. Mayor Hatfield reread minutes from past meetings when he was a council member, before he became Mayor, and it is stated on July 8, 2019, that the pond was down and Case was going to finish pumping it out and it states in the minutes that the City crew would come help with this. Mayor Hatfield personally said that he would come out and help pump out the pond, also, if possible. Mayor Hatfield assumed it had been done. It states right in the minutes that "Council Member Hatfield asked Clerk Curtis to ask for Roll Call Vote. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Hatfield stated to let the City know when they were ready to pump the pond out and the City Crew will assist them, and if he is not busy, he would come out to help get it done." Mayor Hatfield (at that time he was a council member) assumed it was done and it was all in the past and a done deal. Now, Mr. Hatfield is the Mayor and unable to vote on this issue but it is now up to the present Council. Mr. Case stated that he didn't remember that statement and if there were meetings after that? Mayor Hatfield reminded everyone present that it states in those same minutes that Mr. Case and Todd Albers were going to get together to pump out the pond. Mr. Case said it was his understanding that the pond was going to be drained and the dam fixed so it had been trenched but it was never fully drained. Clerk Curtis and Mayor Hatfield read from the minutes that stated this fact and the pond level was lowered two feet and later in those minutes that Mr. Case and Mr. Albers planned to pump out the pond. Mayor Hatfield stated that he agreed with Council Member Eisenhauer that we need to be "good neighbors," but he assumed that the pond had been pumped out and then later in an October Council, this issue had been brought up again when Mayor Hatfield and Foreman Cumley were not present. Clerk Curtis

read again from the July 8, 2019 minutes that Mr. Case and Mr. Albers had planned to pump the well pond dry (and contact the City if they needed help) and leave it over the Winter and let Nature take its course. Mr. Case stated that he told Todd Albers he didn't need to attend tonight's meeting but he didn't remember the conversation from that July 8, 2019 meeting. Council Member Haughton asked Mr. Case how he felt about getting rid of the largemouth bass at his own expense? Technically, according to the minutes from the previous meetings, the City has no obligation to do anything further about this issue. State of Nebraska says that we don't have to get rid of these fish. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that the request to kill the largemouth bass is because they are killing Mr. Case's smallmouth bass which is a primary source of income for Mr. Case. Council Member Haughton said that he had the impression that the City and Mr. Case would share in the cost of getting rid of the largemouth bass (according to the October 25, 2021 meeting which Mayor Hatfield and Foreman Cumley were unable to attend). Council Member Fisher asked if the conditions are good, now, to go ahead and pump out the pond like the plan was to do earlier? Foreman Cumley stated the City doesn't have anything big enough to pump out the pond. Mr. Case explained that Mr. Albers had helped him pump out one of his own ponds and maybe that is what the confusion is about in regards to pumping out the Well pond because it took about 12 hours to pump out his pond and it didn't go well and it didn't reach out into the middle of the pond. Foreman Cumley asked if there was a way to stop the largemouth bass from going downstream without killing them? Mr. Case said wherever the water goes, the fish will go. He has built many barriers for the largemouth bass but they still got through to his ponds. Mr. Case offered to the Council that it will probably cost around \$1000, would the Council agree to donate \$500 towards the cost and Mr. Case would cover the rest of the cost and sign another waiver. Council Member Eisenhauer stated if the cost is \$1000 or more. Council Member Helms clarified that if the cost comes in at less than \$1000 then the City is only paying one half of the total cost. Council Member Eisenhauer said she is agreeable with that proposal and the neighborly thing to do even though the City is not responsible for this and especially since the process had not been completed as the Council had thought. Council Member Eisenhauer proposed that the City would pay up to \$500 towards the cost of killing the fish in the City Well pond and another waiver would be signed by Mr. Case to exclude the City from anymore liability towards removing the largemouth bass from said pond. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Mr. Case agreed to sign another "waiver of liability" form for the City of Pawnee City. Council Member Eisenhauer asked Clerk Curtis to assist Mr. Case with the authorization request for the Nebr. Game & Parks and Mr. Case said he will submit the form to them.

Executive Session: Discuss Request to do Community Service with the City and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person: The City Office received a request from an adult male person to complete twenty-five hours of community service. This person requested that he address the City Council in Executive Session so that the information discussed was not public knowledge. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a request to do Community Service for the City and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person at 7:28 p.m. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to come out of executive session at 7:44 p.m. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion,

whereupon motion carried. **Action taken:** Council Member Eisenhower moved to accept Toke DeKoning's request to complete 25 hours of Community Service work as needed to be completed March 31, 2022. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Mr. Dekoning will drop off his contact information to the City Office.

Review/Discuss Inspection and Assistance Exit Summary by Zach Homolka, Program Specialist with the Air Compliance Section at NE Dept. of Environmental and Energy on the dust complaint from the Demolition of 439 F Street; Mr. Homolka stated to Deputy Clerk Wiers that they would need to spray the property down the next time a demolition was done: DC Wiers explained to the Council that Mr. Homolka was very professional and explained that dust needs to be controlled during a demolition and next time there should be water close by to spray the area before it is torn down to control the dust. He left a copy of the State policy of the Nebr. Dept. of Environmental Quality concerning the duty to prevent the escape of dust and left a copy of his exit summary concerning the complaint he had received. Mayor Hatfield asked the audience if there was any questions or discussion on this issue and none was given.

Discuss request from Jerry Graham to be reimbursed the \$300 paid for Asbestos Inspection on 439 F Street: Jerry Graham and Walter Paul Nimmich were present to discuss this issue. Council Member Helms stated he didn't think the City collected this money. This money is collected by the asbestos company and that is where the reimbursement should come from. At this time, Jerry Graham stated that Council Member Bruce Haughton told him that if he submitted the asbestos report and then he will be reimbursed and it is listed on the Demolition List of things to complete on the Demolition packet. Also, the Council would have to vote on reimbursing Mr. Graham for this expense. Jerry Graham stated that he was told the City was "pissed off" because he called the EPA on the demolition of the said property (which had belonged to his brother, Donnie Graham, who died 12/04/2020). He said that the only reason he had called the EPA is because he didn't have a chance to take care of things in the upstairs of that house. He was told that he had to remove mattresses, all the furniture and paper before demolition. He had called Kola Hawkman to help him and they had taken stuff out of there twice a week for quite a few weeks out to the curb and up to Jerry's house just to get rid of stuff including lots of books, records and memorabilia. Jerry's aunt wanted to also look through items. Jerry stated he called City Clerk Tammy Curtis early on that Friday morning and requested that Jerry have the weekend to finish hauling stuff out and that Gyhra Construction would start demolition on Monday morning. Clerk Curtis said that she had to check the post office at 9:00 a.m. for the quit claim deed signed by Jerry's wife, Eileen Hines and then she would take the deed to the County Clerk and have it filed. At that time, it will become PCDC's (Pawnee City Development Corporation) property. No trespassing signs were posted right away. Jerry stated that Council Member Ric Helms stood across the street from the property watching the demolition. Jerry was really upset that he didn't have more time to clean furniture out of the house, especially since his aunt wanted a bureau and some mirrors from the house but he was told "no" since the property was now owned by PCDC and he had to get off the property. Jerry stated that he stayed to watch the demolition and watched dust fly across the street and the dust was so bad that the neighbor South of the property had to leave his house because it was going up over his property. Jerry stated that he took pictures of this. Jerry stated that he asked the City

Crew if they could borrow a fire truck or something to spray down this dust? Foreman Cumley stated to the Council that he was standing there the whole time and Mr. Graham never asked him this question. Council Member Helms stated that nobody asked him about getting some water, either. Mr. Graham stated "Ric, you were in construction and you should know better than that to tear things down without dust control." Council Member Helms commented to Mr. Graham that he had from April 29th until November 30th to take things out of that house. Graham said he wasn't even planning on taking stuff out of that house because he was planning on restoring the house and at the very last minute, he talked to Bruce Haughton and he had also promised his brother, Donnie not to let someone take his house. At this time, Mr. Graham and Council Member Helms had a heated discussion about Donnie Graham riding the handi-bus. Mayor Hatfield stated that they needed to get back to the subject of discussion which is the \$300 reimbursement. At this time, Council Member Haughton asked to address the Council and audience. Council Member Haughton stated that we need to stay on topic. He had talked to Dustin Barrett about the asbestos inspection and it passed completely but as it got closer to the November 30th deadline, Haughton started talking extensively with Jerry Graham about demolishing the property at 439 F Street. Jerry Graham always treated him with respect and invited him into his house and offered him food. Haughton was glad that Graham would listen and move forward with this process. Haughton said "you can catch more flies with sugar than vinegar." He feels that it is time to help with this and they don't have any ties together but we shouldn't sell him out for a few dollars and we need to help a neighbor. Council Member Eisenhower asked Mr. Graham if he had an invoice for the asbestos inspection. Jerry looked through several documents that he had brought with him to the meeting but could not locate a copy of the invoice he had paid. He thought that he had left it at Office Max in Omaha and would have to drive up there to get it but does have a copy of the cancelled check from the bank showing he had paid it. Mr. Nimmich reiterated that the expense for the asbestos inspection is a reimbursable expense and Mr. Graham should be reimbursed for this. Mayor Hatfield explained the property had been turned over to PCDC. Nimmich asked if a motion could be made to pay Mr. Graham on the condition that he submit a copy of the invoice? Council Member Haughton continued to state that Mr. Graham has been a business person in Pawnee City for quite a number of years. Mayor Hatfield explained that the City needs a copy of the invoice for the asbestos inspection so that the Council can vote on this issue. Mr. Graham brought up the subject of the dust issue again. Council Member Haughton explained that the dust is a moot issue now and he wished that Graham had contacted him about the dust so that the City could have done something about it instead of calling the EPA and repeated that we need to be neighborly to each other. Nimmich asked if a motion could be made to pay Mr. Graham on the condition that he submit a copy of the invoice? Graham said that he is leaving Friday for Hawaii and could email a copy of the invoice to the City Office. Council Member Haughton moved to reimburse Jerry Graham for \$300.00 upon receipt of proof of payment for the asbestos report. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Helms: abstain; Fisher: aye; Eisenhower: aye; Haughton: aye, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis stated that Jerry Graham was very nice to her at the office and she was nice to him in return. Graham stated he will submit a copy of the invoice before payment. Jerry Graham stated "If it wasn't for Bruce... this is the main man, here." Graham asked if the City received anything about the total cost of the demolition because he is sure the cost will be over \$8000.00. Clerk Curtis explained that the City Office has not received this information. Council Member Helms explained that PCDC is no longer paying anything for demolition expenses over the initial \$4000.00 and PCDC is responsible for the total

expense. Mayor Hatfield and Clerk Curtis also verified this information. Graham explained that he turned the property over to PCDC because he was afraid the demolition cost would be over \$8000.00. (Later in the meeting Council Member Helms stated he wanted to apologize for his actions during this discussion and Mayor Hatfield commented that there was no need for Helms to apologize).

Report and update from Clerk Curtis: Items for discussion are: *Report on Mitten Tree & Angel Tree Success; Angel Tree:* Clerk Curtis explained twenty five families participated in the Angel Tree this year. It started out very slow with applications being submitted and cooperation with SENCA was not good. Clerk Curtis and DC Wiers had met with the SENCA outreach worker in October to create a plan since Kellie was going to be gone for surgery but she failed to follow through. Council Member Eisenhauer and Katelynn Klepper assisted the outreach worker on the day that gifts were to be picked up and they experienced some of the same frustration as Tammy and Kellie had experienced. There has been so much turnover at the Table Rock Headstart and there were twelve children who had been left out because their application was left at Headstart and never given to the outreach worker or the City Office. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that we would never have known this had happened if it wasn't for a parent came to pick up gifts for her child and there was nothing for her to pick up and Clerk Curtis further explained that this child attended Headstart. The applications for the children that attend Headstart never made it back to the City Office until Dec. 15th. There was a group of individuals that worked together and found gifts for these twelve children and some community members volunteered to buy gifts for these kids. Clerk Curtis stated that it is definitely a community effort and people stepped forward to take care of this situation. Council Member Helms stated that he was questioned by SENCA Director, Vicky McNeely, about the angel tree ordeal but she wants to thank the City for stepping in and taking care of the situation. Clerk Curtis and DC Wiers feel that they would rather not have SENCA involved because they were actually a hinderance. Mayor Hatfield asked if SENCA had to be involved in the Angel Tree. Curtis and Wiers explained that the City sponsored the program themselves last year because they didn't have an outreach worker and it was successful. Both clerks had contacted the outreach worker several times about the angel tree program but were frustrated with her lack of follow through. (Please note that DeJa Sheldon and Rita Glynn volunteered to cut out all of the angel ornaments and tie ribbon on them to hang on the tree at the City Office). ***Mitten Tree:*** Clerk Curtis explained the mitten tree had ten donors donating forty pairs of gloves and nineteen hats. Twenty-three boys and girls from the Pawnee City School received a hat and a pair of gloves. There was a senior student from the school was looking for community service hours and Clerk Curtis suggested she talk with Tara Blecha, secretary for the elementary school to find out how many hats and gloves were needed for each grade. DeJa Sheldon volunteered to sack up the hats and gloves by grade. We were short a few hats and gloves so someone donated money to buy more and Matt Kuhlmann went to the Dollar Store and bought some more. Clerk Curtis and DC Wiers explained that both programs were a lot of work but it was very rewarding and many members of the community helped make both programs a success.

Report and update from Foreman Cumley: *Items for discussion; Review/Approve Maintenance Agreement No. 52 with NDOT:* Foreman Cumley reviewed the Maintenance Agreement with the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation and stated he didn't see any changes to the agreement. The Lane Mile report and snow removal were the same as last year. Council Member

Helms complained that the City was still stuck with snow removal on the outside two lanes on the four lane highway. If that was only a two lane road, would the State have to clean that off? Helms would still like to see a turning lane in the middle like Tecumseh. Foreman Cumley said there was discussion earlier when Clint Johnson was the foreman about this issue and he was told that the paint truck would be coming to repaint the lines and if Pawnee City wanted to change this they could but nothing more happened. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested the Council keep this in mind for next year. Mayor Hatfield also stated that this idea has been discussed before. Council was in agreement to accept the agreement as stated. ***Discuss Clean-up when a Natural Disaster hits:*** Foreman Cumley explained that there were a few people upset that the City Crew members didn't pick up their sticks and limbs from the last storm/tornado. The City of Tecumseh will pick up sticks and limbs after a storm and gives the property owner four days to get things moved to the curb then the City will pick it up. He said there are quite a few people in town that are not able to clean these things up themselves and it would really help them out but there will be some people who will take advantage of it. Cumley talked with Mitch Turnbull about this issue and was told that he wouldn't be able to take care of all of it himself and Cumley explained that they wouldn't be cutting trees down for people. Mayor Hatfield suggested that anything 4" or smaller and could be moved to the curb could be picked up. Clerk Curtis stated that she had heard on the radio that Fairbury had designated a specific area for people to bring their stuff but it could be that they don't have a tree dump. Also, the Crew Members did a terrific job keeping the tree dump cleaned up and easy to get to. Council Member Helms asked what the Council wanted to do about this situation and Clerk Curtis asked if the Council wanted to allow people to do this? Council Member Fisher stated that people need to be careful how they pile things at the curb so that it doesn't affect the visibility of the street so that it isn't a liability issue. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested that people keep the debris away from the intersection and two feet away from the curb. Much discussion was had about debris being put on the City ROW, City Crew not walking into someone's yard to pick up debris and how far the debris should be piled away from the street and call the City Office to be added to a list similar to the City Wide Clean-up. Council Member Helms moved that the City would initiate a Clean-up from a Natural Disaster plan where property owners would have one week after a storm (natural disaster) to pile sticks and tree limbs up next to the curb, off of the street and the City will pick this up. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Review Liability Loss Notice filed with LARM:*** The City buildings received damage due to the recent storm/tornado. The Pawnee City Assisted Living roof leaked causing no damage; the roof on the Sewer Plant building was blown off the shelter building around the sewer plant control panel was blown off and some tin on the roof of the mini-park shelter was blown off. There were a couple shingles that had blown off the Well House roof, also, which were noticed when Foreman Cumley toured the City property buildings with the claim adjuster. The adjuster said that it was a vented ridge cap that leaked at the assisted living. John DeFreece told Clerk Curtis he thought it came from that but he wanted to report the leak. Cumley said there wasn't obvious damage to the ceiling. Mayor Hatfield explained that vented ridge caps are used now and eave vents but gable vents were used more when they used batting insulation and now they use blown insulation instead of getting 8" to 10" deep they are getting 24" to 26" deep. So, that vent is down the middle to let air circulate more evenly. ***Review/Discuss Incident Report:*** Foreman Cumley rolled his ankle while he was moving tree branches off of the street. The City was without power for a period of time and the street lights were not working. He called the hospital the next morning to have the ankle x-rayed

and it wasn't broken. **Accident Analysis Worksheet filed with LARM:** This report pertains to Foreman Cumley's Incident Report. Corrective Action: City Crew should be carrying extra lighting during power outages. The generator was running at the sewer plant during the power outage. It was running but it didn't turn anything on and sometimes there is a delay before the transfer switch takes over and if it takes too long, it will shut everything off; such as the pumps and blowers. When the City Crew was able to get to the sewer plant, everything was off and they were able to get everything turned back on yet that night. **Discuss building a salt bunker:** Foreman Cumley and Council Member Helms have discussed building a salt bunker to put pure salt in because it is much cheaper to buy it in bulk but Foreman Cumley feels that the City should wait to do this. Also, last winter, there was an incident with a worker at the local grocery store in regards to the sand that was used on the street and the sand builds up next to the curbs downtown. Cumley feels it would be better to use all salt. He's not sure how it will work out since we're not sure if the amount we purchased is enough or too much. It should save the City almost \$600/yr. Mayor Hatfield asked where the temporary storage will be? Council Member Helms stated it will be stored inside the building with all of the equipment. Mayor Hatfield explained that the salt will be in the air inside that building and cause rust with anything that has voltage, especially battery cables, ignitions. That is why anything that is located next to the ocean, is made of brass, especially hinges because brass won't rust. He doesn't want to have the excavator in there because in the spring, when you go to use it and it won't start and it will cost thousands to fix it because the salt got to it and rusted everything out. That salt will be in the air constantly whether it is covered up or not. Council Member Helms stated he understands the Mayor's point but he doesn't think it will cause a problem this Winter. Council Member Haughton asked where the salt had been stored in the past? Foreman Cumley explained in the past, the City bought salt in bags but it was stored in the same building. Mayor Hatfield asked if anyone had talked with the NDOT about buying salt from them and then using their bunker? Council Member Helms stated he had not thought about that and they had offered the City some at one time. The Mayor suggested that whatever the City purchased and didn't use that season, could we just leave it there? Foreman Cumley suggested buying all of the City's salt from them but Cumley feels the City still needs their own bunker, otherwise, the crew will have to drive up to the State yard every time they need to load. Mayor Hatfield suggested the City possibly go back to what was done in the 1970's and they didn't use salt or sand but used fertilizer. **Discuss Issues with Vertical Screen at Sewer Plant:** They have been having problems with the vertical screen at the sewer plant for about a year and a half now and they have found the problem. The vertical screen is like a strainer basket with an auger in the middle of it and it pulls the trash and manmade product out of the lift station so it doesn't go through the pumps and burn the pumps out. It hasn't been bringing anything to the surface so they figured out that there are brushes at the bottom of the strainer part and they are all chewed up and broken so that is what it is causing it to bind and causing the steel bearing to go out on the gear box below the motor and release oil all over. Cumley called the company that sold the City the vertical screen but the City will have to rent a crane to pull it out and it is 38 ft. deep. So, he is trying to get quotes on that. That company (out of Ohio)(doesn't actually do maintenance on the screen but they do send out field service technicians to help prepare the screen so he is trying to get quotes from AHRS but the person that runs the crane is sick with covid-19. Cumley stated that the vertical screen is obsolete but they still make parts for it and do retro fitting so they are going to give him some quotes on the brushes and other parts because it hasn't been pulled since they built the plant. They will also have to get a new gear box seal for it. Foreman Cumley will bring the quotes back to the

Council. ***Discuss Issues with Heater at Sewer Plant; Review Estimate on New Heater:*** The sewer plant has a heat pump (and cooling) with a secondary electric heat element in the lab in the lower building. Every Winter and Summer for the last two years we have had to have Travis Findlay come and work on it. Travis said it is junk and it isn't designed for what it is doing. Cumley got a quote for a new heater for \$3400.00 which is included in the agenda packet. Travis said he oversized it for the building and went to the next size up. This would just heat the lab area which is around 750 sq. ft. The concrete building has settled and makes it difficult to clean the building. Council Member Fisher moved to purchase a new heater for the lab at the sewer plant for \$3400.00. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Approve Application for Investment of Funds with NFIT for the year 2022: Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the application for Investment of Funds with NFIT for the year 2022. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Report and update from Council Members Eisenhauer & Helms: Items for discussion are: Review Meeting Minutes/Discuss Safety Committee Meeting held 12/9/2021: Council Member Eisenhauer explained that the Safety Committee met recently and discussed items that are needed by the City Crew. She had received a call from one of the crew members requesting a new Winter coat. The Safety Committee members discussed the matter and agreed the crew members should have new Winter coats made of more durable hi-vis materials like former City Foreman Clint Johnson had. The crew members will also receive five long-sleeved hi-vis t-shirts to wear during cold weather. The committee discussed recent surge in Covid-19 and daily disinfection of the City Office and ordering more paper masks to keep in each vehicle for crew members and paper masks to have available for staff and the public at the City Office. The plexiglass screen will remain at the front counter at the City Office along with hand sanitizer available to the staff and public. There is still a large plastic drum of hand sanitizer stored at the sewer plant so we can just refill small containers and save the expense of ordering more. Flashing lights for the barricades will also be ordered so that it will ensure safety at night and it is also a state requirement. Two welding coats will be ordered to make it safer for crew members and so that they don't ruin their clothing when welding.

Report and update from Council Member Eisenhauer: Items for discussion are: Discuss hiring someone to do cleaning in City Office; Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she feels the Council should consider hiring someone to clean the City Office so the staff doesn't have to do that since they are already busy and add to their duties. Someone could clean the kitchen area, restroom, front area, etc. a couple times each week. Recently, when a couple crew members tested positive for Covid-19 and there was an uptick in the community, Council Member Eisenhauer sanitized the entire office and spent an hour just doing that. With two crew members out with Covid-19 and DC Wiers was out recuperating from surgery, the office needed to be sanitized and Matt and Tammy were already overwhelmed. Council Member Helms asked how much people charge an hour to clean? Council Member Eisenhauer suggested advertising for bids to clean the office and that way it would be fair. Clerk Curtis suggested to also ask for references. Council Member Haughton stated that the going rate is around \$20.00/hr. for a cleaning person that is self-employed. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested that this person

would clean after hours so as not to interfere with employees at the office so this person would need a key. Clerk Curtis explained that all the computers are locked when employees leave for the day. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested this person purchase a surety bond in case there is a problem and the City Attorney could look at this. Council Member Haughton suggested this person carry insurance or sign an agreement that they wouldn't sue the City if they would be injured while walking on the sidewalk getting to or leaving the office. DC Wiers explained that the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging didn't require their chore providers to purchase bonds or provide proof of insurance and they were going into people's homes. Council Member Eisenhauer further explained that there are many stipulations that have to be in place when a person cleans at a federal office. Mayor Hatfield suggested that everyone think about this suggestion and discuss it at the next meeting. Clerk Curtis said she would write up an ad for the newspaper and the Council could look at it at the next meeting. ***Discuss Clerks being in agreement to changing their office hours to 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch break, effective January 3, 2022:*** Council Member Eisenhauer explained that this was discussed at the last meeting and Clerk Curtis wanted to talk to DC Wiers about it first to get her input. Curtis and Wiers both like this idea and Utility Billing Clerk Matt Kuhlmann already works these hours. Eisenhauer stated that if all of the clerks are open to the idea and it doesn't disrupt service, we could change it. Clerk Curtis explained there is a drop slot in the front door for payments and some people put payments in the drop slot when the office is open. Also, the City Office will post the new hours on the front door, website and Facebook page. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to change the City Office open hours from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., to 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and the clerks working hours will be the same with a 30 minute lunch break starting January 3, 2022. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review Email from Census Bureau re: Gov't can ask the Census Bureau to review the 2020 Census housing counts – They have Pawnee City at a population of 821, down from 878 in 2010 Census: Council Member Eisenhauer stated that it is quite a drop in population. Clerk Curtis agreed and she feels this is inaccurate since there are hardly any empty houses in town so how could population have dropped. Council Member Fisher stated that all of his rental houses are full and he receives several calls each week from people looking for a place to live. Clerk Curtis had a great impact on how much work the Census Bureau could actually do because they were relying on everyone sending information back and responding online. Also, there were less people knocking on doors to verify residences. In the previous census, there were quite a few workers stopping in the city office and calling to verify addresses. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested the City request a review of their 2020 Census housing counts. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to contact the Census Bureau and have them review the 2020 census for Pawnee City. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. This information also affects funding grants for the City. Council Member Helms asked at what point is Pawnee City no longer considered a City? Clerk Curtis explained that Pawnee City could indeed be considered a village now but holds second class city status. Once you are a second class city, you can stay a second class city even if your population decreases. Mayor Hatfield stated that in the past four or five months, every house that has become available is sold immediately and there are new people living in town that he doesn't know. Clerk Curtis stated that also, people have contacted the City Office looking for empty lots to build on.

Correspondence: The City Council reviewed correspondence from August 2021 total Sales Tax of \$22,413.77 with ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax totaling \$5,073.97 and \$2,117.89 being Motor Vehicle Sales Tax and NPPD retail rates will stay the same for 2022.

FILING DEADLINES: Incumbent – February 15th; Non-incumbent – March 1st
City Positions up for Re-Election: Mayor Hatfield; Council Members Eisenhauer & Helms
Airport Authority Positions up for Re-Election: 2 yr term: B. Willey & J. Schulthiess.

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor