

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PAWNEE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, 735 8<sup>TH</sup> 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: Susan Eisenhauer (telephonically), Ric Helms, Bruce Haughton and Donnie Fisher; Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer and Spencer Cumley, City Foreman. **Absent:** none.

Mayor 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 present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Helms made a motion to accept the February 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Council Member Helms made a motion to accept the special conference call (PCAL Management Agreement) February 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Amend original motion made in special 2/11/21 conference call meeting:** Mayor Hatfield explained that the original agreement listed Arbor Management Group as the management company and it should list LTC Strategic Solutions LLC as the management company. It's the same people just a different company. Mayor Hatfield called them to be sure and it is just an affiliate to the company of Arbor Management and they felt this would work better for them but it is all the same thing. He talked to Ken Klaasmeyer about the issue. Arbor Management Group will be listed as an additional insured with respect to management services. Mr. Klaasmeyer instructed Mayor Hatfield to change that on the original agreement and initial the change and it would be fine. This way the Council can move forward with this. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to change the name on the agreement to LTC Strategic Solutions LLC. 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: **2/16/21 Payroll:** 10,728.13; **Union Bank & Trust,** FWH 3124.60; **NE Dept. of Rev,** SWH 461.51; **NW Mutual,** retirement 1222.44; **Allstate,** cancer/accid. ins. 228.46; **Ameritas,** vision ins. 116.60; **BCBS,** health ins. 6787.56; **PCDC,** December 2020 sales tax 6530.44; **Windstream,** phone & internet, 474.29; **Spectrum,** internet & phone @ shop 164.97; **Recycling Enterprises of NE,** recycle p/u 2/10, 2/24, 360.00; **SYNC/AMAZON,** library materials 98.78; **Pawnee County Road Dept.,** bridge plank 103.60; **Seneca Sanitation,** dumpster @ pond & Jan 2021 sanitation services 6071.98;

**Constellation NewEnergy**, gas cost/service, Fire Dept. & Shop 173.70; **Nebr. Dept. of Revenue** sales & use tax, wtr swr park, 3260.50; **Quill Corp.**, office supplies 80.82; **DHHS-Drinking Water**, 2021 Pool permit 40.00; **Dollar General**, office supplies 24.35; **HOA Solutions, Inc.**, repair HOA @ swr plant 711.00; **Amazon Capital Services**, LED light for refrigerator, 24.29; **Beatrice Fire Protection**, fire extinguisher inspections 158.73; **Black Hills Energy**, gas service for month, 368.18; **Casey's Business Mastercard**, Jan 2021 equip. fuel 696.98; **H&H Auto Parts**, equip repair supplies 1130.31; **Lincoln Journal Star**, library subscription 267.00; **Nebraska Public Power District**, electric service 3562.81; **Pawnee True Value**, repair supplies 290.92; **Sargent Drilling**, Wells 2 & 3 repair 2016.82; **Small Engine Specialists**, inspect chain saw 50.00; **Smith Auto**, taillight & seat 2004 Chevy 225.00 Council Member Helms made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Houghton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Randy Hellbusch, Nebraska Rural Water Association:** Mr. Hellbusch was unable to attend tonight's meeting and the issue of water/sewer rates has been rescheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Ben Laun & John Ticnor, Village of Table Rock re: Discuss entering into an Interlocal Agreement for Dog Kenneling Services:** Clerk Curtis and Mayor Hatfield explained to Mr. Laun and Mr. Ticnor that there would be no cost to the Village of Table Rock for this agreement. Clerk Curtis explained that other communities have an agreement with Pawnee City because Pawnee City already has kennels and the Dept. of Agriculture are requiring villages to have kenneling services. The only cost to Table Rock would be if a dog was picked up and the owner didn't come forward to claim the dog, then Table Rock would have to pay the \$20.00 capture fee and the \$10/day housing fee. The City only keeps a county dog three days. Mr. Ticnor explained that Sheriff Lang recommended Table Rock make an agreement for kenneling services to make it easier for Table Rock. He went on to explain if a dog is picked up at 3:00 in the morning, now they contact Tecumseh. Most of the time he just locks the dog in the garage and call them later that morning. Clerk Curtis explained that the Pawnee County Sheriff's office has a key to the Sewer plant so they can transport a dog to the pound. Deputy Clerk Wiers explained that if a dog was picked up in the middle of the night, Table Rock could call "911" and then the dispatcher would contact the officer on duty to transport the dog to impoundment. Clerk Curtis explained that if a dog is picked up in Table Rock, then contact the Pawnee City office to let us know a dog was picked up. Otherwise, the crew members will not know that a dog is at the sewer plant because they have to feed and water the dog especially if it is subzero weather. Deputy Clerk Wiers explained that if it is really cold, the City will contact SHARE, the local animal rescue group to house the dog until the owner comes forward. Mr. Ticnor asked would the owner then have to pay the ticket fee to Table Rock and then go to the City Office to pay the capture fee and housing fee? Clerk Curtis explained that everyone would have to maintain good communication when a dog is picked up. The Pawnee City Office would need to be called to let us know that the ticket has been paid before the owner can claim their dog. Tell the owner to bring a copy of the receipt showing they paid their ticket with them to the City office so we know it has been paid. We don't want to relinquish the dog if the owner hasn't paid their fine. It would also be helpful if Mr. Ticnor and Mr. Laun would give the City office their phone numbers so we can call someone if we have questions. Clerk Curtis had written a kenneling agreement for Table Rock to

look at and take back to their Village Board. Table Rock could make a five year or a one year agreement or whatever and see how it goes the first year and then change the time line for the next year. Mayor Hatfield asked when they have their next Village Board meeting? Table Rock's next meeting will be March 8<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Curtis gave a copy of the tentative Table Rock agreement to Mr. Ticnor and Mr. Laun to take to their next meeting and discuss it then. Mr. Laun said they would take it to their meeting and then bring it back to Pawnee City. Mr. Laun stated that Table Rock was not able to set up a vaccination clinic because they couldn't guarantee a double digit number of people using the clinic. Deputy Clerk Wiers explained that Pawnee City will have another vaccination clinic this year or next year and we could include Table Rock in it. Mr. Ticnor and Mr. Laun said that would be awesome and they would be willing to work together on it. Clerk Curtis said that many people from Pawnee City would go to the local retired vet, Dr. Just but he has since passed away and there isn't anybody local to take care of animals. Mr. Laun asked if somebody does come forward to claim their dog from impoundment, then they would have to pay the fees? Deputy Clerk Wiers explained that yes, the owner would have to pay the fees before they could pick up their dog. It would be a \$20 capture fee and a \$10/day housing fee. The owner would pay the fees to the Pawnee City Office. After the three days, if nobody claims the dog, then Table Rock would have to find a place for the dog but Pawnee City would help them work with SHARE to see if they would take the dog. Mayor Hatfield explained that it would be very helpful if they would take a picture of the dog when it is picked up and then share it with the City Office and the Sheriff's office. The City can post it on their Facebook page and then the Sheriff's office will post it on their Facebook page. This way if we have a picture of the dog and it is picked up multiple times, we will know who it belongs to and then you can start putting pressure on the owner to do something about the problem. Eventually, the Animal Control Board would like to have owners submit a picture of their dogs when they license them. That way, when the Sheriff's office picks up a dog and when you put in the description of the dog, then you can look at the pictures and better identify the dog. Deputy Clerk Wiers explained that the City office has a "Capture Report" and logs when a dog is picked up, who picked it up, when and a description of the dog. Then, when the owner claims the dog that is also listed and we can see how many times this happens. Clerk Curtis explained that we have to show these records to the Dept. of Agriculture for our annual inspection. Mr. Ticnor explained that Table Rock keeps similar records on their dogs, too. Deputy Clerk Wiers encouraged Ticnor and Laun to call the City Office if they had more questions.

**Discussions on updating City's Retirement Account:** Clerk Curtis explained that currently, the City has a retirement plan with Northwest Mutual and there hasn't been any changes since it was taken out in the late 90s. Now, the City is the administrator of the plan so if an employee would make any changes, Clerk Curtis has to sign off on the changes and her name is listed on everyone's retirement because the City is the "owner" of the plan and Tammy is considered the administrator of the plan. All of the employee retirement account statements come to the City and then they are distributed to the individual employees. If the City would go with this new system, the statements would be mailed directly to the employees and the City would no longer be the administrator of the plan and Clerk Curtis would no longer have to sign off on anything. Council Member Eisenhower said the current system creates a privacy issue. Clerk Curtis explained that she feels uncomfortable opening up the mail and see her name listed on the retirement statement and it's a statement for the employee. With the new plan, everyone would have internet access to all of their accounts and be able to make changes themselves and nothing

would have to go through the City. There are some fees involved to change over to the new system. Clerk Curtis talked with retirement representative Chris Schaedel, and the company would waive the \$500 installation fee. There will be an annual plan administration fee of \$500 and each employee will have a \$10 fee. The \$100 document maintenance fee will also be waived. There is a surrender charge fee of \$4919.39. There are options that the City could pay that fee or the employees could pay that fee based upon the balances of their retirement accounts and the cost would be spread out over five years and if the accounts are doing well, fees could be paid before the five years. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that the fee would be 38 cents/\$1000 of value which equals out to 1.97% per year for the five years and then decreases to 1.59% after that. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that it makes more sense for the City to have the employees pay the \$4919.39 and the City would pay the \$500 annual fee because the employee shouldn't have to pay for the City to change their plan. This change is a benefit to the employee to be able to track their own plan and make their own changes in funds and the City doesn't get involved at all. If the employee loses money, it's on them and if they make money, great. If there are questions during the Council Meeting, Chris Schaedel said that the Council could call him. Council Member Eisenhauer and Council Member Fisher were present at the Zoom meeting with Chris Schaedel last week and explained to the rest of the Council that the employee could change the funds in his/her plan based upon their age and investment strategies. Mayor Hatfield explained that the investment representative at his job comes to visit the employees about every three months to see if they have questions or want to make changes. Mayor Hatfield agrees with the proposed changes. Clerk Curtis explained that the person who has been with the City the longest will have the greater surrender charge because of the balance in the account and has been in the plan the longest which is Clerk Curtis. Council Member Eisenhauer explained this surrender charge will be paid off within five years before retirement so the plan will have time to make up the difference and after the five years, the cost will decrease. Clerk Curtis made the analogy that this fee is similar to retirement funds being deducted from the employee's paycheck: you don't ever see that money and it automatically is deposited into the retirement fund. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that the current plan is a traditional IRA account so the money is taxed when funds are taken out. Now, the company is offering a ROTH IRA and funds that are deposited into the account are pre-taxed so you don't have to pay taxes on this money when you take them out when you retire. It's a huge benefit to the employees to have the ROTH IRA. Council Member Helms commented that it is easier to pay the tax when you are putting the money in versus paying the tax after you retire. Council Member Eisenhauer further explained that withdrawing the funds from a traditional IRA will put you in a higher tax bracket when you have to take the money out of the account. She further explained that making these changes now is bringing the plan in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it's a "win-win" situation. Council Member Eisenhauer made the motion to change the current retirement plan over to the John Hancock plan as presented and the City will pay the \$100 one time charge and the \$500 annual fee and the employees will pay the \$4919.39 surrender fee from the fee schedule along with the \$10 activity fee. Council Member Helms said that if the employees didn't have any objections, then he would second the motion. Deputy Clerk Wiers explained she is not happy about paying this surrender fee but the plan needs changed over and the current plan is just archaic in how it's set up now. The sooner we do it the better. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/Approve Ordinance #994 amending UTV/ATV Ordinance specifying that the inspection is only on the first time registering but they still need to re-register annually:**

Council Member Eisenhower made the motion to approve Ordinance #944 amending UTV/ATV Ordinance specifying that the inspection is only on the first time registering but they still need to re-register annually on first reading. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Helms made a motion to suspend the three readings of Ordinance 994. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review Demolition Resolution #11:** Council Member Ric Helms said he feels the Demolition program is a wonderful thing but he noticed that the Demolition Work Permit can be signed by the Mayor, Council President, City Foreman or the City Clerk. Helms said that he felt one of those four people should inspect the work that has been completed so that it brings the council members up to date to be able to vote on the reimbursement requests in case they would have questions. Mayor Hatfield explained that so far it has only been the Foreman that has signed and Clerk Curtis explained the Foreman has signed the permit because it has to do with the water and sewer and he has to check on it. Mayor Hatfield stated that it is his opinion that when a council member receives this information in their agenda packet, they should drive by the location and look at it in case they would have questions such as if there were a pile of trees left, is the property owner or contractor going to remove them? Council Members Helms said there was a pile of two toppers left at the 132 12<sup>th</sup> street site and what is going to happen to them? Mayor Hatfield explained on a property that he owns, if the old refrigerator and the rest of the debris can be taken out in under a load, it won't cost any more to haul it out but if it takes more than a load, it will cost more. It is very possible that those toppers were left because Scott Hanna said he would haul them away but we don't know. Council Member Haughton asked if Council Member Helms would like all the demolition properties to look like Alan Strong's? Council Member Helms said he would like them to look like Strong's property and Derek Niss's property because they were so clean when finished. Mayor Hatfield explained that his property will not be that clean because he plans to leave the garage but remove the house. There will be times when a property owner will complete a demolition but leave some buildings and they may not look very pretty but they have a plan for these buildings. Scott Hanna has left a building standing on 132 12<sup>th</sup> Street and he may have a plan for this building. Council Member Helms stated that it is not an unsightly building anyway. Mayor Hatfield reminded the council members that when they receive their agenda packet on a Friday, then drive by the property on Saturday and if they see something to question, then call the land owner before the council meeting and if there are questions, then you can answer them. Also, when these requests come in, the Council is only agreeing to reimburse up to \$4000 in allowable expenses. Council Member Helms questioned the sewer repair bill on Strong's request. Clerk Curtis explained that a sewer repair is the property owner's responsibility. Clerk Curtis continued to explain that for the City, if a property owner has \$8,000 listed expenses, it isn't too hard to pick out \$4,000 worth of reimbursable expenses. Council Member Eisenhower explained it will be more difficult for the property owner to then request funds over the \$4000 from PCDC for allowable expenses under their guidelines. PCDC will have to decide what to reimburse under their guidelines. The \$206 sewer repair bill is not an eligible cost but there are \$4000 worth of eligible expenses. Council Member Haughton stated to the Council that the property Scott Hanna owns doesn't run all the way to the street. That

building is actually Larry Barg's property. Mayor Hatfield explained the corner lot belongs to Larry Barg. Jim Morehead tried several times to buy that property from Larry Barg but he wouldn't sell it. Jim owned the property from the driveway down to the edge of the Osborne property. ***Review/Act on Alan Strong's Demolition Reimbursement Request at 731 J Street;*** Council Member Eisenhauer made the motion to approve the request for demolition reimbursement to Alan & Joyce Strong for \$4000. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Review/Act on Scott Hanna's Demolition Reimbursement Request at 132 12th Street;*** Council Member Helms made the motion to approve the request for demolition reimbursement to Scott Hanna for \$4000. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/take action on Semi-Annual Audit from PCDC performed by Citizen Advisory Board:** There was no discussion on the audit. Council Member Fisher made a motion to accept the semi-annual audit on PCDC performed by the Citizen Advisory Board dated February 11, 2021. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review Letter and Information on Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging's (BRAAA) request for support of \$425.00:** Deputy Clerk Wiers explained to the Council that before she worked for the City, she worked for Blue Rivers as a Resource Developer and the funds they received from the State of Nebraska were based upon the population of the area they served and while she worked at Blue Rivers, their state funding had decreased every year and so that is why BRAAA is asking for funding from the communities in order to help make up the difference in the decrease of their funding from state aid. Council Member Haughton asked how BRAAA arrived at this figure of \$425.00? Deputy Clerk Wiers explained she didn't know what the calculations were to arrive at that figure but they would have that information at their office. Council Member Helms asked what BRAAA does for us besides having meals in Table Rock. Deputy Clerk Wiers referred to the information in the packet which includes chore services, case management and meals. Case workers visit people in this area and meet with them once a month to see how they are doing in their homes. Deputy Clerk Wiers explained that her mother receives chore services through BRAAA and that person cleans and does laundry for her once each week. BRAAA also has a volunteer program called Senior Companion that has a person visit a senior in their home once each week. Council Member Helms stated his wife, Barb used to transport people to medical appointments in Beatrice and Lincoln through BRAAA. Mayor Hatfield stated that when his mother was still alive, she also had chore services through BRAAA and a Senior Companion volunteer, Mrs. Fran Herrick. Council Members Helms made a motion to donate \$425.00 to Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging (BRAAA) their request for match support towards services in Pawnee City, Nebraska. Council Member Eisenhauer asked if there were funds in the budget to make the donation? Clerk Curtis said there were funds in the General Fund to pay for this donation. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review PCAL January Board Meeting Minutes, Profit/Loss Treasurer's Report & 1/31 Bank Account Balances:** Mayor Hatfield commented that PCAL has more money coming in since they have gained more residents. Council Member Eisenhauer asked if PCAL had ever

paid back the money that the City loaned them? Clerk Curtis explained that PCAL has not paid the money back and it is due in October 2021. The other payment was deferred by USDA but it will be due in October along with the regular payment for a total of close to \$230,000. The ending cash balance in the checking account shows how well PCAL is doing now.

**Review/Approve: CDBG Fire Hall Project 19-PW-014 Expenses: Drawdown #3 for a total of \$29,775.00 with \$20,780.00 to JEO Consulting for Engineer/Architectural Services; \$3,800.00 to Thiele Geotech for Geotech exploration; \$5,195.00 DB Environmental (Asbestos Inspection) and ABC Abatement (Asbestos Abatement) with \$21,458.34 from CDBG Public Works Grant and \$8,316.66 from City match:** Mayor Hatfield brought the blue prints for the Fire Hall Project to the city council meeting for review. The Mayor explained that on the blue prints, anything drawn in blue is optional so, then people can bid on the project with and without the optional items. Council Member Haughton asked what the square footage will be on the new Fire Hall. Council Member Helms asked how many people had picked up bid sheets from JEO on the project. Four companies have picked up bid sheets. Council Member Helms stated that a contractor had contacted his nephew to give a bid on the drywall. Clerk Curtis informed the Council that the City Office had recently received a call from a general contractor asking about the reliability of area contractors including 3-D Plumbing. Mayor Hatfield stated that someone had also contacted Bosley Electric. Contractors need to contact JEO to get bid sheets which are due March 4th. The blue prints are available to the Public at the City Office. Council Member Eisenhauer made the motion to approve Drawdown #3 for a total of \$29,775.00 for the Fire Hall Project. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Report and update from Foreman Cumley: *Review Accepting Bids poster on 2004 Chevy Pickup & Snowplow for sale;*** This information has been posted on Facebook and we have had three people come look at it. Clerk Curtis has also received calls about the truck and she directed them to Foreman Cumley. Council Member Helms asked Foreman Cumley to remove the city logo sticker from the doors of the truck before it is sold. ***Review/Discuss Sargent Drilling's estimate on Generator for Well #3;*** Foreman Cumley received a quote from Sargent Drilling on a generator for Well #3 and a quote from Dave Pope. The quote from Pope was for a generator just to run the well but would not include the heaters or VFD. When it starts with the VFD, it ramps the motor slowly and so it only pulls, 20, 40, 60 amps. If we would have to start it with a generator without the VFDs it's going to pull 103 amps but because we are 230 volts out there instead of 480 volts it actually pulls twice the amperage. It's going to pull almost 210 volts to start so Sargent Drilling's generator guy said no smaller than 100,000 kilowatts but he wouldn't warranty any work if he put that in and it didn't start. So, he recommends nothing smaller than 125,000 kilowatts which brought our generator quote to almost \$49,000 so much higher than what we had quoted. The original quote was \$25,000 and there was \$10,000 from grant money which expires 12/31/21. The original plan was for \$15,000 to be out of pocket. Clerk Curtis suggested talking with Randy Hellbusch from Nebr. Rural Water to see if he had any ideas for other grants that we could apply for. Foreman Cumley suggested talking with USDA about possible grant money similar to the sewer jet trailer. Cumley was hoping to apply again next year for more grant money and the application has to be completed in August. ***Review Caterpillar paperwork showing the City's Wheel Loader is completely paid off;*** The CAT loader is finally paid off. ***Discuss Sewer Plant Issues;*** Foreman Cumley explained that they figured out what it

was doing but we wasted a lot of money to find out there was nothing that could be done to fix the issue. The flows started going off the chart at the sewer plant and last year, Cumley completed the USDA paperwork with Clerk Curtis and turned this information in for the USDA loan on the sewer plant. With the flows, the difference between what we brought into the plant and what was actually discharged, we were missing 14 million gallons. We can't even hold that much in the sewer plant. We can only hold about 800,000 gallons in all the tanks at the sewer plant. We've been trying to figure out why the numbers have been off for the last year and we had someone come down and make sure the calibration in the flow meters was correct. HOA came down last week and see if there was a miscommunication between the flow meters and the computer system that actually tallies our flow. He made some changes and then our flows were 3x what we were bringing into the plant which is impossible because it is all gravity flow down there. So, Foreman Cumley called them back and got HOA and the meter reading system company to come down at the same time and we found out the reason the numbers were always off to begin with because we usually bring in 130,000 and the effluent meter said we discharged only 50,000 to 70,000 depending upon the day. Come to find out, the flow meter with the size flume the engineers gave us at the sewer plant, our flow meter can only register up to 500 gal/minute. The actual meter itself can register more than that but it goes off of a flume there is a specific size box poured into the cement and it measures the size of that flume (it's a 10" flume) can only go to 10" deep. Sometimes we will flow 600 to 700 gal/minute. This is why our numbers are so different but without tearing out some concrete and replacing pipes underground, there is nothing we can do about it. We did find out the reason why so we can tell the state field representative. Wastewater is 95% water and 5% waste so we should only be keeping about 5% solids in the plant a day (4,000 to 5,000 gallons). It is a flaw in the flow meter that the engineers designed. Council Member Eisenhower asked about sewer certification testing. Foreman Cumley explained that Jr. Droge is taking his test on Thursday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and Sean is scheduled to take his test on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The guys have been studying and they are going to study some more this week. Deputy Clerk Wiers asked Foreman Cumley if he knew how long it will take to get the results back from the sewer testing but he wasn't sure about this since the testing is now with PSI and they are in charge of the testing which is done on the computer. The state used to take about two weeks to complete the grading. Foreman Cumley explained that during the practice tests, there were answers counted wrong but were actually correct so the crew members contacted the American Water College about this issue and had been passing these tests. Also, the speedometer on the dump truck has been fixed and cost \$200. Liberty truck repair had billed this to the County so Foreman Cumley will bring the invoice to the office so that Liberty can be called to correct the situation. The seals at the sewer plant will be redone in April on the clarifier. The clarifier froze up during the recent cold snap. The skimmer arm on the top froze, which weighs about 500 lbs. and sticks out about 8 feet from the center column and they just go all the way around. The only thing holding this on is U-bolts which have been leaking oil. So when it froze up, the shaft kept turning and the arm stayed stationary and then it dropped the arm down the shaft and it was riding on top of the barrel and the City Crew finally got it up. If it isn't balanced properly, it will wear out all of the bearings and seals. That arm has to be exactly 180 degrees from a counter weight arm that sets at the bottom of the tank. The guys in the past didn't read that and that is also what contributed to our bearings and seals going out. Foreman Cumley asked about Jeff McClintock tearing down the old elevator. Is anybody aware of that? Council Member Helms stated that MnClintock is just taking down the grain bins. Cumley asked what would happen to all of that concrete if that gets torn out? Mayor Hatfield stated that a bigger



company would probably have to tear down the old elevator. Council Member Helms suggested that when he worked at Constructors, he would run a big excavator on top of the pile and use the loader to bring the material over to it using the excavator to build the pile up higher. We could probably get Gyhra to come down with his excavator. Helms thought that Gyhra probably had a lot more concrete to haul down to the sewer plant. Cumley said there would be a lot more concrete coming down if more nuisance properties are cleaned up. Helms asked how soon the Health Board was going to look at more nuisance properties? Mayor Hatfield explained that not long ago he had tried to set up a meeting and none of the members had answered his email with a date to meet. Helms stated that when the weather starts getting nicer, Gyhra will be gone from town and busy with other work.

**Report and update from Mayor Hatfield:** Mayor Hatfield stated that the Animal Control Board had a meeting last Thursday and Sheriff Lang requested a key to the drive thru gate at the Sewer Plant which are closer to the kennels. In the past, Sheriff Lang did have a dog escape through the walk in gate which is further away from the dog kennels. If the Sheriff's Office had a key to the drive thru gate, then they could drive right up to the kennels and there would be less chance for the dog to escape. Mayor Hatfield explained to Sheriff Lang that he would bring this up at the City Council meeting and see if it was okay with the Council. Also, Mayor Hatfield had discussed before about having one-key locks at the sewer plant, so maybe order twenty locks at one time that are keyed alike and then order twenty keyed a different way and if an employee quits, then you could change out the locks and rotate them. The Council members agreed that the Sheriff's office should have a key to the drive thru gate. Mayor Hatfield will let them know.

The City Council reviewed correspondence from December 2020 total Sales Tax of \$18921.68 with ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax totaling \$4,353.63 and \$1,507.17 being Motor Vehicle Sales Tax. NDOT issued a News Release that work is to begin on North HWY 50 from Pawnee City to the Kansas State line. FYI: Mayor Hatfield will not be present at the 3/22/2021 City Council Meeting.

Council Member Helms made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor