

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PAWNEE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 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 Donnie Fisher, Vickie Zelenka, Laura Poskochil & Susan Eisenhauer (both by phone); Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer; Foreman Spencer Cumley; Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk. **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 those present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Zelenka moved to accept the December 26, 2023, 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: **1/02/24 Payroll:** 10807.22; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 3157.23; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 479.84; **John Hancock**, retirement 1619.96; **Community Ins**, Firemen's fire Pak ins 2654.50; **Access Systems Leasing**, monthly IT hardware contract 209.98; **NPPD**, electric service @ wells & sewer plant 2492.99; **Lincoln WinWater Works**, repl probe rod, wtr parts 434.49; **US Cellular**, emerg cellphone 47.92; **Pawnee Co. Rural Water**, pond wtr hydrants 45.00; **SEND**, 2022/23 admin fees 4,500.94; **Hometown Leasing**, Libr copier contr 100.79; **One-Call Concepts**, digger locates 23.16; **PC Thriftway**, bleach/office sup 23.25; **Ferebee Law Offices**, Jan atty services 1000.00; **H&H Auto Parts**, saw blades/filters 156.05; **Julie D. Bauman**, annual audit FY 2022-2023 15,345.00; **Matt Kuhlmann**, Jan zoning 800.00; **Midwest Labs**, swr sample tests 598.07; **OPPD**, electric @ wells 223.58. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Sheriff Braden Lang:** *Discuss how to handle the \$3,658 in ARPA Funds returned from Co.:* Sheriff Lang had been called to an emergency, so was unable to meet with Council to discuss the ARPA funds that had been turned back into the City. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that Sheriff Lang had originally talked about using this money to improve their evidence room, possibly moving it to a bigger area. Item tabled until Sheriff Lang can discuss this further with the Council. At this time Council Member Eisenhauer updated the Mayor and Council from the decisions the County Commissioners made on the Sheriff's Department at their last meeting. The County Commissioners approved a \$2/hour raise for both Deputy Samuelson and Deputy Bredemeier. They also approved a \$10,000 hiring bonus for Certified and Reciprocity Officers to be paid over a 3-year period, paid out every four (4) months. The Commissioners also agreed to pay \$30/hour for part-time officers that are already certified in the State of Nebraska. Council

Member Eisenhauer stated that even though Sheriff Lang had stated his department would give up the County purchasing a new vehicle for the Sheriff's Department, the County Commissioners stated they are still going to get the Department a new vehicle as they were planning to use ARPA funds to purchase it.

**Mike Habegger, Pawnee City Fire Dept: *Discuss replacing Grass/Brush Fire Rig & selling Chevy Pumper truck:*** Mike Habegger, PC Fire Dept. wanted to keep the Council in loop of things on purchasing a truck for a new grass rig and possibly selling the Chevy pumper truck. Habegger stated they have talked to the Rural Board about a pickup that they are looking at purchasing to make it into a Grass/Brush Fire Rig. Russ Smith has offered a 2013 Chevy 3500, 4 wheel drive dually truck to the department that he purchased. It rolled on its side and had some minor damage. He has repaired all of the damage. The truck will need a flatbed installed on it as well as a tank, pump etc. The Rural Board has agreed to purchase the truck and they are currently getting bids and trying to figure out the most economical way to get the pump and tank on the truck. Mr. Habegger stated he knew that in previous conversations, it was noted that there wasn't any money budgeted for a new grass rig, so they have visited with the Rural Department, which they are in agreement with purchasing the 2013 Chevy truck for \$25,000. Mike stated that they had originally talked about replacing the 1999 GMC 2500 Grass Rig that they currently have but have since decided that it would be best to have both of the grass rigs available to use. Mr. Habegger also stated that they would also like the City Council to consider selling the Chevy Pumper truck that the department has. Since the Department had acquired the ladder truck, it realistically takes the place of the pumper truck since it has all the same equipment with the ladder as an additive. Mr. Habegger stated he just wanted to also make sure that if they sold that Chevy pumper truck, it was not going to affect the City's ISO rating, as there is room in the new Fire Station to keep that truck. Mike inquired that if they did sell that pumper truck, could they use the funds from the sale to offset the price of the new grass rig? Clerk Curtis stated that unfortunately this is the same situation as when the City sold the old Fire Hall, since there was nothing budgeted in the Fire Budget to be spent on these items, then the City can't spend that money, even if the pumper truck was sold. Mr. Habegger inquired what funds were in the Fire Budget? Clerk Curtis stated that there would be approximately \$8500 left in capital expenditures that could be spent on the grass rig and they budgeted \$10,000 in the repair and maintenance line item, so if there weren't any big expenses that needed to be repaired or replaced, like a pump or anything, then those funds could also be used towards finishing up the grass rig. Clerk Curtis added that the City could reimburse the Rural Fire Department for the City's portion of the costs of completing the grass rig, but it would need to be added to the 2024-25 budget and couldn't be paid out until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Clerk Curtis continued that the reason nothing was added into the 2023-24 Fire Budget was because when Council Member Zelenka asked Fire Chief Dave Glynn what the Fire Department needed to budget for, he told her on two occasions that they didn't need to budget for anything extra this year. Clerk Curtis stated that maybe it would be best if the City also talked with Mr. Habegger when it was time to start working on the City Budget. More discussion followed with Council Member Zelenka stating she would be in contact with Mr. Habegger in April to start thinking about items the Fire Dept might want to include in their budget so he can have an answer back to them by June when they are working on the City Budget. Clerk Curtis also stated that she would check with Randy at Community Insurance to inquire about if selling that Chevy Pumper Truck would affect the City's ISO Rating and let Mr. Habegger know what she found out.

**Review/Accept Julie Bauman’s Consulting Agreement with the City for Pawnee City Assisted Living (PCAL):** Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Consulting Agreement with Julie Bauman on the Pawnee City Assisted Living facility. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/Discuss New Management Agreement with Amie Schrack for Pawnee City Assisted Living (PCAL):** Council reviewed Amie Schrack’s new Management Agreement, which had no changes made to it from her previous Management Agreement that had been approved in August 2022. Council Member Eisenhauer stated she would recommend the City request these items be added into Ms. Schrack’s Management Agreement: #1. That the PCAL Board require her attendance in person at least once each quarter at a PCAL Board Meeting at no extra costs and 2. under 1-g. on her contract, add: Provide documentation or a letter to the PCAL Board as to how she is attacking the backlog in Medicaid payments to the PCAL facility. Eisenhauer stated that she felt she needed to provide documentation to the Board as it states she is to “Assist with overseeing Pawnee City Assisted Living in accordance with all Federal, State and local government requirements and approved third party requirements such as Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver,” which apparently has not been happening. More discussion followed with Council Member Zelenka stating she feels that her recommendation is #1. Ms. Schrack should attend in person at the monthly PCAL Board meetings for the first six (6) months and then quarterly for the last six months of this contract so she can be “hands on” assisting the Board in getting the PCAL financials back on track again. All Council Members were in agreement with Council Member Zelenka’s recommendation regarding the attendance of Ms. Schrack at the PCAL Board Meetings. The next item Council Member Eisenhauer felt needed to be corrected was #3. The Mayor represents the interests of the city, not the city council, therefore all signature identifications should state “City Representative” and the Mayor’s signature should be required on ALL portions of the contract, not just Exhibit A. Council Member Eisenhauer stated her last item was #4: to remove from the Management Agreement, Exhibit A, second bullet mark: (Subject to Management Provider’s availability). Council Member Eisenhauer stated that in this Management Agreement it states that Ms. Schrack’s fee includes on-site monthly visit, which she should be able to correspond with the monthly PCAL Board meetings as they meet the same date, time and place each month, the third Wednesday of the month at the PCAL Facility, so there is no reason why Amie should not be able to make that work out with her schedule to visit the facility that day. All Council Members were in agreement with those four (4) recommendations to be made to this Management Agreement before they approve the contract with Ms. Schrack. Clerk Curtis and Deputy Clerk Wiers will send these recommendations over to the PCAL Board for them to discuss at their next Board meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Review emails from Kelly Gentrup, SENDD re: Review/Approve Contract between SENDD and the City of Pawnee City:** Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Mayor signing the contract with SENDD for Administrative Assistance. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Review/Discuss email from Kelly Gentrup/SEND D re: Transportation Tech ReUse & Set Public Hearing:** Council discussed the email from Ms. Gentrup on the options on Transportation Tech’s ReUse Loan. Council Member Zelenka moved to set a Public Hearing on

the Transportation Tech ReUse Loan for the 2/12/2024 Council Meeting at 7:05 p.m. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**A Report and update from Foreman Cumley:** *General Discussion on things going on in the City:* Foreman Cumley stated that he did not have much to report except for the huge snowstorm that hit our area earlier this week. Cumley reported that it was just City Crew Member Jr Droge and himself as Lucas Barloon was home sick. The snow was extremely hard to push as it was very deep at 10-12” and the bottom layer was heavy slush. Foreman Cumley stated that they did the best they could and worked late to remove the huge piles of snow throughout the downtown area before people came back to work on Wednesday morning. The Mayor and City Council all stated they felt the City Crew did an extremely good job with being short of help and the amount of snow that was received in town.

**Correspondence:** Council reviewed a letter from Austin Partridge, regarding the name change from First National of Nebraska to Northland and a letter from Charter Communications regarding the upcoming Franchise Renewal with Spectrum. Council Member Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor