

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, 735 8TH STREET, ALL IN PAWNEE CITY, PAWNEE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by posting said notice in four prominent places, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Affidavit of Posting 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, Bruce Haughton, Ric Helms and Susan Eisenhauer, via telephone conference call; Tamela S. 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 December 28, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Council Member Eisenhauer 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: **1/5/21 Payroll:** 9826.02 **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 2887.07; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 420.52/Sales-Use Tax 3254.75; **NW Mutual**, retirement 1170.94; **Madison Nat'l**, life ins 48.70; **ABC Abatement**, asbestos abatement @ 1332 F St, 4820.00; **Community Ins**, ½ Fire Pack renewal 1947.50; **Constellation New Energy**, gas costs 43.72; **NPPD**, elec 2757.61; **Pawnee Co Rural Water**, pond hydrants 38.12; **OPPD**, elec-wells 196.35; **Russ' Muffler & Repair**, hand rail metal 34.44; **Sheraud Warren**, rmb wtr class/license 195.00; **Turnbull Ag Tires**, new tires-Swr plant tractor 1840.00; **Utility Equip**, line locator 3658.67; **Capital Business Sys**, IT Contract 676.38 **Casey's Business**, equip fuel 543.99; **Emily Sisco**, atty fee retainer 1000.00; **H&H Auto**, rep parts/supplies 1153.12; **Hamilton Equipment Co**, repl hydraulic controller-mini ex 50.76; **Hiawatha Farm & Home**, safety fence/drill bits 210.62; **Matt Kuhlmann**, zoning-Jan. 800.00; **OneCall Concepts**, digger locates 12.68; **MidWest Labs**, sample testing-s/h 420.00; **PC Thriftway**, bleach 3.19; **Nebraska Machinery**, loader headlight 149.76; **Iowa Pump Works**, new ox ditch pump 5902.23; **Ty's Outdoor Power & Service**, snow plow-2021 Chevy PU 6457.02. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Public Hearing-USDA-RD Financial Assistance on Sewer Jet Trailer: Mayor Hatfield and Clerk Curtis stated that we are having this Public Hearing again because the newspaper did not get the legal ran in the newspaper to publish the notice of the hearing back in December. Council Member Helms made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis stated that the City is able to get 55% of the total costs of the Sewer Jet Trailer paid for in grant fees with financing the remaining balance through a USDA-RD Loan at 2.125% interest compared to the 4.25% interest rate that we were offered through the company the City is planning to

purchase the Sewer Jet Trailer from, Iowa Pump. Clerk Curtis continued that the loan payments can be spread out for three, four or even up to 10 years, whatever will work best for the City budget-wise. The total cost of the Sewer Jet Trailer is right at \$84,700 which included the additional two nozzles. Foreman Cumley stated that they just had to get Falls City in town today to jet out a sewer line between 3rd and 4th Streets and I Street. It was stated that it would be nice when the City had their own equipment to handle these sewer issues instead of hiring out another municipality Council Member Helms felt the City getting their own Sewer Jet Trailer with the funding coming from USDA-RD was a wonderful idea. **Public Input:** There was no other public input heard at this time. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review December Treasurer's Report: Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2020.

Russell Stolz, 1403 F Street: *Discuss filling in his ditch to finish seeding his yard:* Russell Stolz met with Council to discuss the request to fill in his ditch at 1403 F Street to finish seeding his yard as he has been reworking his entire yard and would like to be able to mow the ditch instead of hiring someone to use a weed eater each time. Mr. Stolz requested the City assist him in filling in the ditch on the South side of his property at 14th & F Streets. He is willing to purchase the tubes but would like to discuss how much something like this would cost. Foreman Cumley stated that there is a storm drain that goes under the highway and comes out right there at his property, but it has been covered up with dirt again. Cumley stated that when the Street Project was going on, they dug out that storm drain tube that comes out at Mr. Stolz property. That storm drain runs water that runs all the way down 14th street, but right now the drain is plugged again. More discussion followed on Mr. Stolz purchasing the tubes, the size of tubes, etc. It was decided that it would be best for Foreman Cumley to meet with Mr. Stolz and show him exactly where that storm drain comes onto his property and how deep the City would need to dig to get to that storm drain tube and then Foreman Cumley can report back to the City Council at the next regular meeting.

Sheriff Braden Lang: Sheriff Braden Lang was unable to meet with the Council due to illness.

Bob Miller, Chamber re: Flower Watering Downtown: Bob Miller, representing the Pawnee City Chamber of Commerce met with the City Council to discuss the City Crew possibly taking over watering the flowers in the summertime during the week with volunteers to do the watering on the weekends. Mr. Miller stated that the Chamber has a trailer and water tank that could be hauled with the City's UTV to have the City Crew water the flowers on the decorative light poles during the weekdays and also the Highway island flowers twice a week. Volunteers have been handling the watering of these flowers in the past but more and more of these volunteers do not have a vehicle any longer that allows them to do the watering, so it is getting harder and harder to find people to do the watering. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she felt these decorative flowers were a benefit to our city and she felt the City needed to enter into a partnership with the Chamber to assist with this project. Mr. Miller stated that any issues that come up with the trailer, battery, pump, etc. would be taken care of by the Chamber. Miller went on to state that he had spoken with Foreman Cumley a while back about the City's summer help possibly

doing this duty during the weekdays with their UTV. Discussion was had on the City not hiring any summer help this year due to adding Mr. Warren on as a full-time City Crew Member. Foreman Cumley did not see an issue with a member of the City Crew doing the weekday watering of the flowers. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to enter into a partnership with the Pawnee City Chamber of Commerce to have the City Crew water the flowers on the decorative light poles and the Highway island flowers starting this next summer from May through September. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review Hail Damage RFPs from three contractors: Council reviewed the three Request for Proposals received from Contractors for the Hail Damaged City Buildings. The RFP's came in from Roof Guard, LLC: \$70,420; Josh Glynn with Schoens Roofing: \$104,469.18 and Scott Hanna: \$114,000.11. Much discussion followed on the contractors and who Clerk Curtis had sent the RFPs out to in addition to running an advertisement in the newspaper. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve the RFP from Roof Guard, LLC for \$70,420.00 to repair the Hail Damaged City Structures/Buildings. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Discuss pictures of New City Office roof leaking; Fred Wiebelhaus with LARM came to look at City Office Roof and the Sewer Plant Building with flat roof: Council reviewed the photos Clerk Curtis had included in the agenda packet of the roof leaking above the City Office. Clerk Curtis had handed out the letter from Fred Wiebelhaus with LARM on his findings from looking at the new City Office building roof and the flat roof at the Sewer Plant. Council reviewed the pictures from the water leak in the new City Office. Mr. Wiebelhaus' letter stated that on the City Office roof he noticed a wear crack near a seam, which was also a low area of the roof, as indicated by the puddling of the water in that area. That roof damage appears to be damage from normal expansion and contraction of the roof membrane and not caused by wind or hail damage. On the Sewer Plant flat roof Mr. Wiebelhaus stated in his letter that the coating has severe weather checking and cracking on it and is just aged and weathered but was not caused by any hail damage. Foreman Cumley was with Fred on both of these roofs while he was here to inspect them. Foreman Cumley plans to seal those cracks on the City Office roof as soon as it dries off. Mayor Hatfield stated that they have a really good product called GacoRoof at Stallbaumer Lumber that a lot of his contractors use to seal problem areas on roofs that have been leaking. Foreman Cumley stated that he felt the Sewer Plant flat roof is the original roof that was put on from the original sewer plant back in the late 30's, but it has not ever had any leaks to date.

Review/Act on Bruce Haughton's Demolition Reimbursement Request: Council reviewed the documents provided for the demolition reimbursement request from Bruce Haughton. Mr. Haughton stated that he was done cleaning up everything except for the air conditioning unit is still sitting there that he would give away if someone could use it. Foreman Cumley stated he would be interested in taking a look at it. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve the demolition reimbursement request from Bruce Haughton in the amount of \$1,995.00. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Fisher, Aye; Eisenhauer, Aye; Helms, Aye and Haughton, Abstain, whereupon motion carried.

A Report and update from Foreman Cumley: Review emails from Chris Rauner, Co. Hwy Supt re: changes to Maintenance Agreement; Review/Approve Final Draft of City/County Road-Street Maintenance Agreement: Clerk Curtis stated that since the Council had approved the last draft copy of the City/County Maintenance Agreement back in November, County Highway Supt. Chris Rauner had met with the Commissioners and they made a couple other small changes. The Council reviewed the final draft copy of the road-street maintenance agreement. Council Member Helms stated he had a real problem with the County not helping with the bridge just past Boston Street as he felt it was right on the City Limits line, which was half City and half County responsibility. More discussion followed with Clerk Curtis stating that possibly Council Member Helms and Foreman Cumley should both meet with the Commissioners to discuss in person the issues they were discussing tonight with this City-County road/Street Maintenance Agreement. Council Member Haughton stated he would also go along with Council Member Helms to meet with the County Commissioners. Mayor Hatfield stated he felt it was best that we just table this item so that members of the Council could go and meet with the Commissioners in person so it could all be discussed face to face. **Review/Approve Maintenance Agreement No 52 with NDOT:** Foreman Cumley and Clerk Curtis stated that this State Maintenance Agreement included the cost for the State to do the snow removal on the highways. Clerk Curtis stated so it is the total 4.60 lane miles of surface maintenance in the amount of \$7107.00 less the 5.50 lane miles of snow removal that the State is handling for \$3,657.50. Council Member Helms stated that when he had talked to Lincoln about the State continuing to remove the snow off of the highways, he thought it would be for all four lanes going up highway 50 and not just the inside lanes. Foreman Cumley stated that he had understood it from former Foreman Johnson that the State would only be removing snow on those two inside lanes, which is how they are currently handling the snow removal. Council Member Helms made a motion to approve Maintenance Agreement No. 52 with NDOT. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Report Back on Warranty Timeframe of New Pump for Sewer Plant from Iowa Pumps:** Foreman Cumley reported that he had spoken to Iowa Pumps and the company that makes the pumps for them won't warranty the pumps for more than one-year from date of purchase as the City can't guarantee that it wasn't something more than just water going through the pumps and which also means that the bearings are submerged 24/7 so they just can't put any warranty on it longer than that. **Report Back on finding steps/running boards for new pickup:** Foreman Cumley stated that he had checked with Smith Auto, Brinkman Bros and online but hasn't had any luck except for Brinkman's being able to get running boards for \$425, but that's not really going to help as a step to get into the pickup. Foreman Cumley went on to state that you can't get a step yet as it has not been made to match the new 2021 body style of this pickup. More discussion followed with Council Member Helms inquiring if Foreman Cumley cared if he called up to Big Rig to check if they have anything available through them yet. Foreman Cumley stated he did not care. Council Member Helms will report back at the next Council meeting.

A Report and update from Clerk Curtis: Review Snow Removal Ad from last year – any changes?? (Included current snow & ice removal plan, too) Clerk Curtis inquired if the Council wanted to run the snow removal ad in the newspaper as they had last year or if they wanted anything changed on the advertisement. Council Member Helms stated he thought everything looked good to him and the City should run it as is. Clerk Curtis will send it to the newspaper to publish for a couple of weeks.

Review email from Nemaha NRD re: Hazard Mitigation Plan; Approve Resolution #5, adopting the Nemaha Natural Resources Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020: Council reviewed the paperwork from Nemaha NRD regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member Fisher made a motion to approve Resolution #5, adopting the Nemaha Natural Resources Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Correspondence: Council reviewed correspondence from NPPD's End of Year Message & NPPD-Monolith Materials-Norris Public Power District Joint Announcement – Facilitation of a Significant Addition to the Renewable Energy Landscape in the State.

Covid Updates: Vickie Zelenka reported on the Pawnee County Task Force bi-weekly meetings she is continuing to attend. Zelenka stated that at the January 8th meeting the Emergency Manager reported that Pawnee County currently had 174 cases with two deaths being attributed to Covid. Ms. Burke stated they are still working on a vaccination plan with the SouthEast District Health Department. The hospital stated they had their peak in November with Mondays being their biggest test day, averaging 28% testing positive. They have seen a decrease in the hospital side and are also working with the health department on vaccinations. Dr. Voigtlander discussed the various mutations of Covid-19 virus that have been showing up. The best way to prevent this is to not get the infection, which brings us back to the non-pharmaceutical measures of basic handwashing, which will decrease the mutation from occurring. Schools are opening back up with no exposures noted.

Cornerstone Building Railing: Mayor Hatfield stated that back when AHRS re-designed the decorative railing on the Cornerstone Building, AHRS had agreed to cover \$2400 of the costs, which left \$1800 that needed to be collected to pay for the decorative design. Mayor Hatfield had stated back in August that there was a family that was willing to donate money to pay for the rest of the costs. Mayor Hatfield stated it was his family that came up with the rest of the costs in memory of his parents. Mayor Hatfield then shared with Council a picture of a brass plaque that will be put on the decorative railing outside of the Cornerstone Building that stated In Loving Memory of Earl & Lola Hatfield, which his daughter Raina had designed. On one side of the plaque there will be carnations etched onto it, which was Lola's favorite flower. On the other side of the plaque there will be irises etched into it, which Earl loved to grow. Mayor Hatfield also stated that found integrated within the flowers are the initials of each of Earl & Lola's grandchildren. Council Members all showed their appreciation to Mayor Hatfield's family for collecting the extra money needed to make this beautiful handrailing at the Cornerstone Building happen. Council Member Helms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie E. Hatfield, Mayor