

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022, AT 6:00 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, Susan Eisenhauer and Ric Helms; Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk, Tammy Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer and City Foreman, Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** Bruce Haughton.

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 Helms moved to accept the May 23, 2022, 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: **6/7/22 Payroll:** 22,202.30; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 5831.44; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH, May 2022 sales & use tax, 3034.28; **John Hancock**, retirement 1385.95; **Credit Mgmt. Services**, employee garnishment; **Windstream**, library ph. & internet 125.96; **Access Systems Leasing**, monthly IT hardware contract 209.98; **Amazon Capital Services**, office, ACB & repair supplies 1763.03; **Findlay HVAC**, check cond pump on furnace @ office & replace wtr heater @ pool 251.60; **H&H Auto Parts**, repair supplies 237.16; **Matt Kuhlmann**, June 2022 zoning services 800.00; **Meyer Lab**, pool supplies 169.90; **NPPD**, electric service @ wells, swr plant & city 5499.56; **Stallbaumer Lumber & Hardware**, pool repair supplies 1516.52; **Capital Business Systems**, Elevate Phone System & library photocopier contract 251.44; **Lifeguard Store**, guard swimsuits 76.99; **Lincoln Winwater**, plumbing parts for pool 155.02; **Little Brown Jug**, pool concessions 2127.89; **Nebr. Public Health Environ Lab**, wtr sample test 15.00; **Pawnee Co. Rural Wtr**, pond wtr hydrants 54.00; **Petty Cash Fund**, startup money for pool 150.00; **Quill Corp.**, library maint. supplies 335.01; **U.S. Cellular**, emergency cell phone 47.61; **Verizon Wireless**, home connect & jetpack 64.10; **OPPD**, electric @ wells 250.97; **American Fence Co.**, install fence @ pool 6802.00; **American Water Works Assoc.**, membership dues 77.00; **Beatrice YMCA**, swim lesson training 360.00; **Coral's Cleaning Services**, office cleaning \$120.00; **Elk Creek Welding**, posts for pool shades 1616.16; **Emily Sisco**, June 2022 atty fees 1000.00; **Heather Farwell**, reimb lifeguard training 350.00; **One Call Concepts**, digger hotline locates 16.26; **Pawnee City Thriftway**, supplies 41.64; **Small Engine Specialists**, law mower repair 275.99; **Victoria Ward**, lifeguard training 450.00; **Barco Municipal Products**, street signs, 1220.76; **Fastenal**, drill set & bits 166.50; **Friedly Oil**, diesel equip fuel 1382.40; **Gottula Trenching**, replace lead line, backflow test 1292.52; **Midwest Labs**, swr sample testing 199.00; **Pawnee Co. Register of Deeds**, lien filing fees 20.00; **Suther Bldg. Supply**, plumbing supplies 77.94;

Casey's Bus. Mastercard May 2022 equip fuel 739.48. Council Member Eisenhauer 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.

Review May Treasurer's Report: Mayor Hatfield reminded Council that the one-on-one budget workshops with Julie Bauman are scheduled on Thursday, June 16th at the City Office as listed on the meeting agenda. Council Member Eisenhauer explained that at a prior meeting, \$17,000 in excess pool funds from last year's budget were to be earmarked when they were deposited into a General Reserve Account. These funds were used to finance the Fire Hall Project, but this action may not have been approved by Council and she asked that this be listed on the next agenda just to make sure proper procedures were followed.

Sheriff Braden Lang: Review letter Sheriff Lang sent to dog owners; Sheriff Lang discussed the letter that was sent to Matt and Becky Scott in regard to their dogs. The office has not received any more reports but he did observe that the "snow fence" is still there and has not been replaced. Mayor Hatfield stated that one of the neighbors reported to him that it has been quiet and has not seen the dogs running off their property. Deputy Mike Cirrincione was present with Sheriff Lang. He explained that there was a positive response to the Sheriff's office survey concerning adding a K-9 unit. He would be in charge of handling the dog with an approximate cost of \$10,000 and he has received \$8,000 in pledges. The 1 yr. old dog (a German Shepherd breed) came from the Czech Republic and is currently living in Pennsylvania. Since he is considered a "green" dog, he would need 3 – 4 weeks of training which would cost \$2500 and include narcotics detection and assailant apprehension plus the Omaha Police Dept. has a K-9 trainer who would train Deputy Cirrincione and the dog for free in patrol tactics. The dog would live with Deputy Cirrincione, and he has some experience with dog handling as his own dog is trained in detection and tracking. Orscheln's in Tecumseh would donate food every month to feed the dog as they also donate food to the K-9 unit in Tecumseh. There is an additional cost for canine health insurance for \$46.60/month but all preventive care such as vaccinations and heartworm medication are covered. Deputy Cirrincione will address the County Commissioners tomorrow morning at their regular meeting to hopefully, obtain approval for a K-9 unit. Sheriff Lang stated that there are mostly good points to adding a K-9 unit, but this would result in more arrests and putting people in jail which would increase costs and the budget is already in the red. There is so much more crime in town, and they have been understaffed and not able to deal with it. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she feels this is a great idea and it would fall under ARPA funding because it is supporting security. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to provide \$5000 towards the purchase, training, insurance, etc. for a K-9 unit in Pawnee County. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Sheriff Lang encouraged the Council to attend the County Commissioners meeting tomorrow morning to show support of the K-9 unit.

Discuss/Approve Wage Recommendations from Wage Committee: Council Member Eisenhauer presented information to the Council with figures for graduated wage increases based upon each employee's performance evaluation score and the increase in the Cost of Living. It was discussed that when a crew member would obtain their sewer certification their increase in pay would be around \$40/month but currently, the City is paying Mr. Kuhlmann \$200/month to be the backup sewer operator for Foreman Cumley but works part-time. Mayor

Hatfield asked for clarification on paying Matt Kuhlmann the extra \$200/month until a crew member would obtain sewer certification which has been difficult to obtain in the past year. Also, the \$200 is cheaper than paying a fine for being out of compliance. Mr. Kuhlmann has also been a help for Foreman Cumley because of his knowledge and experience. Gary Droge, Jr. is scheduled to take the wastewater test next month in Kearney, but Sean McAhon would rather complete both wastewater classes through WEF (Water Environment Federation) before he takes the test again. Council Member Eisenhauer stated Foreman Cumley has completed a lot of work at the pool and she proposed that the Pool budget pay 1/8 of Foreman Cumley's salary that has been paid out of other funds. Council Member Helms expressed concern on percentage wage increases but moved to approve 3% wage increases for all employees plus a 0.40/hr. increase for crew members when they obtain their sewer certification. Council Member Eisenhauer stated she felt raises should be based upon job performance. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. DC Wiers asked if anyone had talked with Matt Kuhlmann to make sure he had the same understanding about the \$200/month and that he would lose this money when a crew member became sewer certified? ***Discuss Zoning Line Item on General Budget – What are the thoughts on Zoning/Floodplains Administrator Matt Kuhlmann's Salary in the Next Fiscal Year— currently is being paid \$600/month (\$7200/year) from Zoning and \$200/month (\$2400/year) for Sewer Certified Backup Operator;*** Council Member Eisenhauer moved to retain this payment in place until such time as we have a certified backup sewer operator. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis stated she will research in past minutes for clarification about Matt Kuhlman being paid as backup sewer operator until a crew member becomes sewer certified.

Review/Approve updates to the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Seneca Sanitation:

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Seneca Sanitation as written. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review Letter/Approve Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging's request for support of \$425.00

(this line item was budgeted for in General Fund): Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging's request for support of \$425.00. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review Termination Letter from LTC Strategic Solutions, LLC – the Management

Company for PCAL: Ken and Linda Klaasmeyer submitted a letter of resignation to John DeFreece and Caralyn Friedly effective July 31, 2022. John DeFreece sent an email that he has contacted Amie Schrack (a previous consultant) to see if she would be interested in taking over Ken and Linda's responsibilities. Caralyn Friedly has two more names interested in the position.

Review Information from Pat Hatfield/NPPD after talking with Mike Habegger on the streetlights along the highway:

Pat Hatfield had stopped in the City Office and explained to Clerk Curtis that Mike was concerned about the lighting on the 4-lane highway if it were to change to a 2-lane highway with a suicide turn lane in the center. If so, the State may have their

engineers complete a “light study” to see if there were any dark spots along that highway. If there were dark spots, the State would have additional streetlights installed at their expense, but the City would pay for the additional electricity costs.

Review/Discuss Email from Mike Habegger on New Fire Station and Tele-Squirt Ladder Fire Truck Updates; Review/Discuss Auto Loss Notice completed on City’s Ladder Fire

Truck: The Fire Dept. reported that a rodent had chewed through wiring in the hydraulic section for the ladder and it will cost more to repair than the value of the truck. Clerk Curtis had turned in a claim to insurance and the insurance adjuster called the City Office today to report that a claim adjuster will inspect the truck at Danco in Snyder, NE. There would be cash value on the truck with a \$100 deductible. The Fire Dept. is already looking for another truck to replace this one.

Report and update from Foreman Cumley: Items for discussion are: Report on City-Wide Clean-up held June 6th :

Foreman Cumley stated they picked up more washers and dryers this year than before but it went well. **Review Quote from E.T.’s Lawn & Leisure on trading in Polaris next Fiscal Year for one with Power Steering while still in good condition:** The current side-by-side is two years old, and it would be helpful to trade it in for a bigger one that can be more useful. The quote includes \$7000 trade-in for the current side-by-side. The new one would have heat, solid cab and doors, power steering, flip-up windshield with wipers and would also be a little bit wider. Council Member Helms asked if it is legal to drive a UTV on the highway? Mayor Hatfield said it is not legal in the state of Nebraska but there is a bill in the legislature now. Is there an exception for a utility? Are they allowed on a two-lane highway? Mayor Hatfield suggested contacting the city attorney for clarification. This side-by-side would cost \$13,274.22 divided among six funds (General, Street, Water, Sewer, Pool and Park) and would cost each fund \$2215.00. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the purchase of the UTV from E.T.’s Lawn & Leisure with a trade in of our current UTV for \$13,274.22 with the cost split six ways among the above six funds. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Report on NDOT Drive Around Town: Foreman Cumley reported there are trees by HWY 65 that need cut and will be taken care of when the crew is able to get into the ditch. Todd had pointed out that the trees on the West side of the 4-lane highway need trimmed as well as the trees West of K street that have limbs hanging over the highway and are a nuisance for semi-trucks. These trees are on the City ROW, but it is the property owner’s responsibility to trim them. Council Member Eisenhauer suggested sending letters to the property owners with a date to have this completed. Clerk Curtis suggested referring this issue over to the tree board. Also, there may be different requirements for mowing and tree removal for properties bordering the state highway. Council Member Helms suggested contacting the city attorney for clarification. Foreman Cumley will submit a list of the properties to the City Office so that landowners can be contacted about this issue and then Council Member Helms will contact the Tree Board and city attorney. **Sewer:** Repairs may be made this year but paid from next year’s budget.

Report and update from Council Member Eisenhauer--Items for discussion are: Discuss Tennis Court Renovation updates: Tennis Courts Unlimited has been notified their bid has been accepted and work should start mid-Summer. **Discuss Pool update:** The shade structure is complete, and the pool is operating well. Mallory Branek was promoted to head guard with a

raise because of her leadership and initiative in saving a child from drowning and another incident when a citizen had taken an inappropriate video of female guards walking into the pool. Mallory also completed swim instructor training. Council Member Eisenhower has become aware that some of the satu-rock has spoiled and the City needs a structure with a concrete pad and a cover to store this product and the salt, also. She feels it is a good idea for the City to use part of the Park funds to create a structure for Streets since they are both part of the General Fund. It would cost under \$10,000 to put the salt in this structure and then store the satu-rock in the area at the shop where the salt had been stored. The city crew can do some of the work but then the City will have to hire someone to finish the structure. Park Fund is offering to pay for this project to benefit Street Fund. Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve the payment of the cost to build a structure at the City Shop to house the salt used on city streets paid from the Park Fund. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Correspondence: Review page from the League's Nebraska Municipal Review listing Pawnee City as one of eight recipients for a CCCFF Grant: Clerk Curtis added this item to the agenda so the Council could see what other projects had been approved. The City has been approved for \$75,000 with a 50% match for a total cost of \$150,000 to finish the inside of the Cornerstone Building.

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 8:23 pm.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor