

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, 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 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, Vickie Zelenka and Laura Poskochil (7:02 p.m.); Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer and Foreman Spencer Cumley. **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 approve the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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: **12/05/2023 Payroll:** 18,268.62 **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 5317.39; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 833.78/Sales-Use Tax 2269.96; **John Hancock**, ret. 1707.54; WW Classes & Testing Meals-Emp #1035: \$207.66; **Rodeway Inn**, lodging-WW Class/Test 287.22; **Google iCloud Workspace**, Sept/Oct 36.00; **GoDaddy**, annual .org domain, pawneecitynebrska.com domain 55.33; **Access Systems**, copier contract/overages 164.70; **Tuscombia Iron**, decorative light replacement 1013.92; **USPS**, mail water samp, road program to state, JEO papers 83.04; (8) boxes stamped env 3184.60; **UBT** serv chg/incoming wire fee 27.00; **UNO**, 2024 Clerk's School 443.00; **Menards**, Commercial vacuum-Cornerstone Bldg 82.87; **Access Systems Leasing**, IT Hardware Contract 209.98/Copier Contract 166.98; **Amazon Cap Serv**, Silicone wax coating 199.95; **Eakes Office Sol**, Libr copier 55.00; **H&H Auto**, rep parts/sup 409.43; **Matt Kuhlmann**, zoning-Dec 800.00; **NPPD**, elec 2260.37; **Pawnee Co Rural Water**, hydro 54.00; **Cummins Sales & Serv**, Swr plant generator maint 1191.72; **Lincoln Winwater**, stock parts 232.01; **MidWest Labs**, Swr Samples 219.57; **OPPD**, elec-wells 211.13; **OneCall Concepts**, digger locates 19.12; **NE Dept Motor Veh**, CDL driving records 15.00; **Coral's Cleaning**, office cleaning 160.00; **Schendel Pest Control** spray swr plant 70.00; **Verizon Wireless**, Fire home connect/jetpack 64.75; **Windstream**, Libr ph/int 78.69; **Hometown Leasing**, Libr copier lease pymt #1 \$100.79; **Casey's**, equip fuel 167.29. 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.

**Mayor's Recommendations for Committee Heads, Appointments, etc. – review City Street Supt. & City Engineering Appointment Request Letters from JEO –** Council reviewed Mayor Hatfield's recommendations for 2024 Committee Heads and Appointed Offices. Council reviewed the letters from JEO Consulting Group requesting Evan

Wickersham to be appointed as the City Street Superintendent and JEO to be appointed as the City Engineer.

**COMMITTEES:**

Cemetery Board – **Mayor Charlie Hatfield**

PCAL Board Assisted Living (non-voting member) – **Mayor Charlie Hatfield**

PCAL Board Member representing the City – **Kellie Wiers**

Streets, Alleys & Crossings; - **Donnie Fisher**

Parks, Recreation & Swimming Pool, PCDC Board, - **Susan Eisenhauer**

Sewer – **Laura Poskochil**

Water, Fire & Library – **Vickie Zelenka**

**Law Enforcement Agreement Committee** –

Donnie Fisher & Susan Eisenhauer

**Wage Committee** –

Donnie Fisher, Susan Eisenhauer & Vickie Zelenka as Alternate

**Workplace Safety Committee – (Council)**

Donnie Fisher & Susan Eisenhauer

**Workplace Safety Committee – (Employees)**

Kellie A. Wiers & Spencer Cumley

**HEALTH BOARD:**

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

Sheriff Braden Lang

Dr. Kent Niss

Council Member-Donnie Fisher

**REUSE COMMITTEE:**

L. Joe Stehlik (Attorney)

James Kubik

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

**ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD:**

Laura Poskochil – City Representative

Sheriff Braden Lang

Nancy Tilton

Keith Groeling

**TREE BOARD:**

Laura Poskochil – City Representative

John DeFreece

Terry Borchert

Mary Moser

**APPOINTED OFFICES:**

City Attorney: Elizabeth Ferebee

City Clerk/Treas: Tamela S. Curtis

City Street Supt: Evan Wickersham, JEO Consulting Group

Consulting Engineer: JEO Consulting Group

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation for Committees as stated. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation for Appointments as stated. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Council President:** Council Member Eisenhower moved to re-appoint Donnie Fisher to serve as the City Council President. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Zelenka, Aye; Poskochil, Aye; Eisenhower, Aye and Fisher, Abstain, whereupon motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2023:** Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2023. Council Member Eisenhower inquired about the Street Savings accounts and how they could be used. Clerk Curtis stated that the ½% Street Sales Tax money is used to help make the Street Bond Payment to USDA and the Street Reserve money is an account that was mandated by USDA that the City set up to assist with future grant matches on street projects. Clerk Curtis stated she transfers \$12,188.00 annually into the Street Reserve account as part of USDA's conditions to the Street Project.

**Sheriff Braden Lang:** Review letter from Mayor Hatfield emailed to County Commissioners re: negotiations with Sheriff's Department: Mayor Hatfield stated he has been asked to meet at 9:35 a.m. with the Commissioners during their meeting on December 12, 2023 to discuss his letter. Sheriff Braden Lang handed out the spreadsheet that Office Deputy Nancy Tilton had prepared on the comparison of average hourly rates between Johnson, Nemaha and Richardson Counties vs. what the Pawnee County deputies are currently making. Sheriff Lang continued that the Commissioners put that extra \$30,000 in the Sheriff's budget under salaries but are refusing to let him use it for the raises he would like to give his department. Council Member Eisenhower stated she had checked on what the County Commissioners were making in Johnson, Nemaha and Richardson County compared to Pawnee County and it appears that the Pawnee County Commissioners are making more than most, especially when you add in the health insurance stipend they get for not taking the county's health insurance benefit. Sheriff Lang stated that County Commissioner Seitz had stated that Johnson County Sheriff's Department would cover Pawnee County annually for a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000) but when Sheriff Lang checked with Johnson County in actuality it was closer to between \$400,000-\$600,000. Lang continued that at this time it doesn't matter because Johnson County does not have the deputies to cover Pawnee County anyway. More discussion followed with Sheriff Lang stating that Chief Deputy John Samuelson said he will give the County Commissioners two more meetings before he applies for the Lancaster County job.

**Discuss a request from Bob & Becki Smith if Pawnee City could host a lunch stop for Tour Nebraska on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>:** *There would need to be spaces/streets available to park 400 classic cars. Where can they feed them? – They come in two separate times, usually 30 minutes apart @ 400+ people at each time:* Clerk Curtis stated that Becki Smith had actually phoned her before tonight's meeting to inform the City that the Fire Department feels that they can handle taking on this lunch stop at the new fire station. It was stated that they would need to block off 14<sup>th</sup> Street (Dan Whitney Drive) from F Street East and G Street from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to the Dollar General corner on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. It was stated they felt they could handle that many classic vehicles by also using the empty lots owned by Smith Auto, Habegger's and Borchers along that stretch of G Street to park them. At this point, the Fire Dept is not sure if they would want to be responsible for the meal, but Becki had stated that the Tour Nebraska Board could also get the meal to be catered. Clerk Curtis stated she had told Mrs. Smith to stay in contact with her and to have a formal written request on what streets they would need the City to close during that timeframe on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Clerk Curtis stated that the Tour Nebraska Board really wants to have a stop in

Pawnee City because when they have come through here before most of the community was lined up for miles before, on the highways through town and after to greet the vehicles on the Tour Nebraska Route and that really meant a lot.

**Review/Act on Loren Joe Stehlik's Demolition Reimbursement Request at 718 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Street:** Council reviewed the receipts and list of expenses Mr. Stehlik submitted. Mr. Stehlik submitted over \$15,000 in allowable expenses. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve a \$4000 demolition reimbursement to Loren Joe Stehlik. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. At this time Mayor Hatfield explained how the City and PCDC's Demolition Reimbursement programs worked to a guest at the meeting.

**A Report and update from Council Member Eisenhauer: *Discuss updates on the***

***Cornerstone Building Project:*** Council Member Eisenhauer stated that the trim has been ordered and is being stained but has not been delivered yet. Eisenhauer continued that the first time she went to Axtell Lumber on November 13<sup>th</sup> she had heard lots of excuses as to why they didn't have the trim in yet as it was a "special order", etc. Eisenhauer then went back down to Axtell Lumber before Thanksgiving and they ended up going with a different company for the trim that would not entail it being a "special order" but they still don't have it and she had been told it was to be delivered at the end of last week. The doors and cabinetry that were ordered through Axtell Lumber have also not been delivered yet so it has been very frustrating for everyone including the contractors, as they had scheduled their work around these items being delivered to the Cornerstone Building. Eisenhauer did report that the toilet, sinks, furnace, hot water heater and air conditioning unit are all done and the air conditioner would need to be primed when the City is ready to use it as the hose on it is quite lengthy. The appliances and countertops have also been ordered and they are all ADA compliant. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that once the doors are put on both bathrooms, then the City can have the State Fire Marshall come do the inspection. Clerk Curtis informed the Council that she had received an email from Mary Brown our SENDD representative that her last day at SENDD is Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Mary was our CCCFF grant representative so we will move on to another SENDD representative Karsyn Bredenkamp, which makes our fourth representative since starting the Cornerstone Building Project. ***Review/Discuss Proposal on Cornerstone Building Rental Agreement:*** Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she felt the words hot plates and roasters should be removed from the listing of items not allowed. Council Member Fisher wondered about putting in there that no smoking or tobacco products would be allowed. The Base Rental Fees will be Community, Civic or Nonprofit Groups at no charge with donations accepted; Birthday Parties, Showers or Social Events at \$25.00 with a maximum of four (4) hours; For Profit Events at \$50.00 with a maximum of four (4) hours and an extra \$50.00 charged for an additional four (4) hours. All Council Members agreed with these recommendations and felt the rental fees were all very appropriate. ***Review/Discuss Brian Heinz' Window Cleaning Service proposal that was approved in December 2022, for the outside cleaning of the Cornerstone Building windows only.*** Mr. Heinz has stated to the City Clerks he would just double his total estimate to also clean the inside of the windows when the contractors are completely finished with the inside of the Cornerstone Building Project. Council Member Eisenhauer stated she felt he could go ahead and start washing all of the outside windows and upstairs he could do both inside and outside of those windows in the Cornerstone Building. Eisenhauer also stated the walls need to be washed down and wondered if Mr. Heinz would be interested in also doing that once all of the trim is up. Clerk Curtis stated she would notify Mr. Heinz that he could get started with those

windows right away and will discuss with him washing the walls down once the trim is all finished.

**A Report and update from City Foreman Cumley: *Approve Certificate of Compliance (2023) and Maintenance Agreement No. 52 (2024) with NDOT:***

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the Certificate of Compliance (2023) and Maintenance Agreement No. 52 (2024) with NDOT. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Discuss Sewer Plant issues:*** Foreman Cumley stated that they finally finished hauling all of the sludge from the Sewer Plant today, hauling a total of 62 loads. They had been working on it since last Monday. The sludge pump did not seem to be working correctly as the sludge was too thick and needed to be more of a slurry mixture to be able to be pumped into the manure spreader. The Crew had wanted to originally pull the sludge pump last week but there was no mount to put the crane on and then using the “cherry picker” wasn’t working very well, especially when the cable snapped as they were trying to pull the pump up. The City Crew finally ended up building their own little aerator that was placed by the sludge pump and that seemed to work pretty well until it got down to the bottom of the pit where they ended up having to run a garden hose in there along with moving the aerator around in order for the sludge mixture to become thin enough for it to be pumped into the manure spreader. Foreman Cumley stated once they got all of the sludge removed from the pit, they were able to pull the pump out as Iowa Pumps is to be here Tuesday to look the pump over and decide if it’s shot or not. Foreman Cumley stated that this sludge pump has been running for the past 12 years since the sewer plant was built, so it is time for it to be replaced. Foreman Cumley stated that they actually only use the sludge pump twice a year but they need it to work in order to be able to haul sludge, which is state mandated. Foreman Cumley felt a rough estimate to replace that pump will be somewhere around \$7000. ***General Discussion on things going on in the City:***

Foreman Cumley stated that they had gotten all of the extra signs put up at the school including a reduced speed limit sign to the North. Cumley had discussed with Mayor Hatfield that he felt they needed a flashing light above the new stop sign that was placed on the North intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> & E Street as right after the City Crew got it put up there was a teacher that drove right through it. Foreman Cumley has contacted Barco and they are getting him a price on a flashing light. Foreman Cumley stated that they had totally rebuilt the whole salter as the bearings were shot on the auger. They have been replaced and it is working again but he would like to look at budgeting for a new one in the next fiscal year. Foreman Cumley stated that he uses the Dump truck with the snowplow and the other two crew members use the two new pickups with snowplows. The older backup snowplow/Chevy pickup has some issues. The mole board is completely rusted through and the cost for a new mole board is \$2500 or \$5000 for a whole new snowplow. Cumley was able to get sheet metal from Russ Smith and they are going to weld over the whole mole board as it may be needed as a back up if we were to have a bad show. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that while she was at the Pawnderosa last week she noticed there is a pothole right at the entrance, the Handicapped Sign at the handicapped fishing ramp is completely gone and the fish limit sign is faded out. Council Member Eisenhauer stated these aren’t things that need top be handled immediately, but just added to their list of things to do.

**Correspondence:** Council reviewed correspondence on the League of Municipalities 2024 Annual Utilities/Public Works Annual Conference program line-up for January 11-12 in Lincoln. Clerk Curtis stated that they looked like some good Classes with Wastewater &

Water Hours would be available if any of the City Crew would be interested in attending. Foreman Cumley stated that's a tough time of the year to plan to be gone as you never know about snow removal and they have so much work lined up to get done. Foreman Cumely stated that Nebraska Rural Water Association will be holding a class in Pawnee City on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Union Bank Basement with both water and wastewater operator hours to be earned. Council reviewed the Certification on who is up for Election in 2024: City Council Members: Donnie Fisher & Vickie Zelenka and Airport Authority Board: Jim Schultheiss & Brandon Willey. Council reviewed the Municipal Code Services Legislative Report. Council Member Zelenka moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie E. Hatfield, Mayor