

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 AT THE 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 (via telephone conference call); Council Members: Vickie L. Zelenka, Ric Helms and Susan Eisenhauer; newly elected Council Members Bruce Haughton and Donnie Fisher; Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer, Deputy Clerk Kellie Wiers and Spencer Cumley, City Foreman. **Absent:** Council Member John Dahlgren.

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. Council Member Helms made a motion to accept the November 23, 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: **12/8/20 PR:** 16,101.54; **UB&T**, FWH 4689.79; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 679.96/Sales & Use Tax 3133.92; **NW Mutual**, ret. 1095.08; **Madison Nat'l**, life ins 48.70; **Amazon**, concrete/drill bits/sanitizer/masks 581.31; **Capital Business Systems**, IT plan 676.38/copier contract 146.40/Libr copier contract 132.50; **Independent Salt Co**, pallets of str salt 490.00; **NE Public Health**, wtr samples 30.00; **US Cellular**, tablet mo. service 53.53; **Verizon**, Emerg Cellphone/Fire Jetpack, 95.90; **NPPD**, elec 6002.36; **Pawnee Co Rural Water**, hydrants 38.12/meter pit pipe 94.05; **OPPD**, well elec 195.539.17; **Emily Sisco**, Dec. retainer atty fees 1000.00/court atty fees 657.00; **Stehlik Law**, ReUse atty fees 1838.00; **Leading Edge Printing**, 2020 Tax Forms 174.64; **MidWest Labs**, swr samp 205.00; **Matt Kuhlmann**, Dec. Zoning contract 800.00; **NE Muni Power Pool**, Power Manager Support 5128.00; **One Call Concepts**, digger locates 8.83; **H&H Auto**, rep parts/sup 112.14; **Pawnee City Thriftway**, supplies 42.84; **Pawnee Republican**, publications 240.26; **Black Hills Energy**, gas serv 246.34; **Casey's General Store**, equip fuel 404.48; **Constellation NewEnergy**, gas costs 25.27; **Friedly Oil**, equip fuel 675.25; **JEO Consulting Group**, Eng-Str Report 1000.00; **LARM**, Ins-2021 Chevy Pickup 487.12; **PC Thriftway** supplies 21.94; **Pawnee True Value**, supplies 41.14; **Seneca SA**, Nov. Garbage pickup 6056.38; **Small Engine Specialists**, chainsaw/chain/file 597.97; **Valley Vet Supply**, new boots Emp #1009 \$169.95; **Windstream**, phone/internet 459.01. Council Member Helms made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Elected Officials Sworn into Office:** Council Member Vickie Zelenka stepped down from her appointed Council Member position and Council Member Dahlgren who was absent stepping down from his elected Council Member position. Mayor Hatfield thanked Council Member Zelenka for doing such a fine job while serving on the Council, stating he was happy that she still wanted to be

appointed to any committees that may have open positions. At this time, newly elected Council Members Donnie Fisher and Bruce Haughton were sworn in by City Clerk Curtis.

**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 2021 Committee Heads and Appointed Offices. Mayor Hatfield stated that he had one more change on the updated Mayor's Recommendations listing that Clerk Curtis had handed out to everyone at tonight's meeting, he was switching the PCDC Council Representative back to Ric Helms.

**COMMITTEES:**

Cemetery Board – **Mayor Charlie Hatfield**

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

PCAL Board Member representing the City – **Duane Westing**

Streets, Alleys & Crossings; PCDC; Tree Board - **Ric Helms**

Parks, Recreation & Swimming Pool, - **Susan Eisenhower**

Sewer – **Donnie Fisher**

Water, Fire & Library - **Bruce Haughton**

**Law Enforcement Agreement Committee** –

*Donnie Fisher & Susan Eisenhower*

**Wage Committee** –

*Donnie Fisher, Susan Eisenhower & Ric Helms as Alternate*

**Workplace Safety Committee – (Council)**

*Ric Helms & Susan Eisenhower*

**Workplace Safety Committee – (Employees)**

*Kellie A. Wiers & Spencer Cumley*

**HEALTH BOARD:**

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

Sheriff Braden Lang

Hospital Administrator Ruth Stephens

Council Member-Bruce Haughton

**REUSE COMMITTEE:**

L. Joe Stehlik

James Kubik

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

**ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD:**

Mayor Charlie Hatfield

Kellie Wiers

Sheriff Braden Lang

Nancy Tilton

Keith Groeling

Laura Poskochil (if approved by Council at 12/14/2020 meeting)

Mayor Hatfield stated that he had asked for those interested to turn in proposals for the City Attorney position and only received the one proposal from our current City Attorney Emily Sisco. Council Member Eisenhower stated she thought that it was the same proposal that Ms. Sisco had presented to the City last year which included these proposals: Hourly Rate of \$145/hr for all legal services; \$18,000/year to include attending all City Council meetings, code and ordinance review and providing legal advice to the Mayor, Council or staff or 12,000/year without attending all Council Meetings and to bill attending meetings at an hourly rate of \$145 per hour. Both fee proposals would exclude handling any

litigation on behalf of the City, which would be at a rate of \$145/hour. Council Member Eisenhauer wondered how everyone felt about the amount of time Ms. Sisco was putting in as the City Attorney for the \$1000/month retainer she was receiving and if they felt the City was getting their money's worth. Much discussion followed that the Mayor, Council Members and City Employees need to possibly re-adjust their thinking in going to City Attorney Sisco on legal questions they may have for the City, as she is being paid a retainer by the City whether we are using her services or not. Sheriff Braden stated that he has contacted City Attorney Sisco several times throughout the past year he has been Sheriff. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve as Mayor Hatfield had recommended the:

**APPOINTED OFFICES:**

City Attorney: Emily Sisco

City Clerk/Treas: Tamela S. Curtis

City Street Supt: Evan Wickersham, JEO Consulting Group

Consulting Engineer: JEO Consulting Group

Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Mayor Hatfield stated he would recommend appointing Bruce Haughton to serve as the new City Council President, which he had visited with Bruce and he agreed with taking the position if the Council was in approval of the Mayor's recommendation. Council Member Helms made a motion to appoint Bruce Haughton to serve as the City Council President. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Fisher, Aye; Helms, Aye; Eisenhauer, Aye; Haughton, Abstain, whereupon motion carried.

**Approve appointing Vickie Zelenka to serve on the Planning Commission:** Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve appointing Vickie Zelenka to serve on the Planning Commission. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Mayor Hatfield thanked Vickie Zelenka for agreeing to still serve on these boards where needed. Mrs. Zelenka stated she wanted to stay a part of the City Government and by serving on City Boards, she would be able to stay active.

**Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2020:** Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report as November 30, 2020.

**Public Hearing-USDA-RD Financial Assistance on Sewer Jet Trailer:** Council Member Helms made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:26 p.m. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Mayor Hatfield asked Clerk Curtis to discuss the USDA-RD financial assistance the City is applying for. 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. Council Member Helms asked Clerk Curtis how much the total cost of the trailer would be. Clerk Curtis stated she thought it was a little over \$84,000, which included the additional two nozzles. Public Input: There was no other public input heard at this time. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to close the public hearing

at 7:33 p.m. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Sheriff Braden Lang-** Sheriff Braden Lang met with Council to discuss the Right of Way (ROW) Issue that Council Member Helms had placed on the agenda. Sheriff Lang stated he had visited with City Attorney Emily Sisco on what City Ordinances would enforce the removal of this vehicle off of the City ROW as he has never had this come up. Sheriff Braden stated he had talked with Foreman Cumley earlier and stated that there was a cement pad that is poured on the ROW. Council Member Helms stated that is a driveway approach. Lang stated this is where the car is, but it still falls within the City Street ROW, which would be 33' from the center of the road on either side of the street. So that is what he has been discussing with Emily on what the options are. Sheriff Lang stated he had visited with the property owner and part of his hold-up is the cold weather that we have been having, he's already in the process of putting the car back together to get it moved. Council Member Helms stated the property owner at 10<sup>th</sup> & B Street has had the one car parked in the City ROW with the engine removed for over a year now and nothing has ever been done about it. Council Member Helms stated that both of the vehicles now have engines out of them. Sheriff Lang stated that the red one had been in the back of the property. Helms stated yes, but the other vehicle has been sitting in the City ROW for over a year now because he had kept an eye on it and complained about it, but not to the right people. Council Member Helms continued that there has been an issue just like this because when Jayme was Sheriff over on I Street between 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Street, West of John Wherry's residence they had a camper and also a car broke and tore down, wheels and brakes off of it on jack stands for a long period of time sitting on the City ROW and Sheriff Reed took care of the issue at that time. Helms inquired to Clerk Curtis if she knew if there were new people living in that house now? Clerk Curtis stated that yes, this is a different family living in the green house on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> & I Street. Council Member Helms stated that these new people also have a camper sitting there on the City ROW, just like the last family did and Jayme had gone up and talked to them and the previous family and they got their stuff moved off right away. Council Member Eisenhauer inquired if Sheriff Lang had a copy of the email that Clerk Curtis had sent to City Attorney Sisco that also included a possible ordinance (City Code 5-409 Parking; Display or Repair) that could be used to enforce this as Council Member Helms had made copies and handed them out before tonight's meeting? Sheriff Lang had not, so Council Member Eisenhauer shared a copy with him. Foreman Cumley stated to Sheriff Lang that Clerk Curtis had just showed him that City Code, so it is in our Ordinance book that it is not allowed. Foreman Cumley stated that it makes it bad for snow removal by us City Crew Members and he would go and help the property owner move it, if he needed help towing it out of the way. More discussions continued with Mayor Hatfield asking what our next move was going to be. Sheriff Lang stated that this was going to still need some continued conversations back and forth with Emily and the property owner has told Sheriff Lang that he was hopeful that by the end of the week he would have the engine put back into the car, then he just has to put the axle back under it so it can be moved. As far as the City Code goes, he wants to talk with City Attorney Sisco more on whether this situation applies to it or not because technically it is a driveway, but it is also a City ROW, so basically it would be like you had it parked at the "end" of your driveway. Council Member Helms stated that in other words, if he wanted to tear down his pickup, he could do it on his driveway approach on the highway. Clerk Curtis stated to Council Member Helms that State Highways are different, and you would have to abide by State Statutes also, not just our City Ordinances. Council Member Eisenhauer stated she felt the point that Sheriff Braden was trying to make is that

he still needs to go and visit more with Emily about it before proceeding any further, especially since the code does not specifically say ROW it says public ways. Sheriff Lang continued that any City Street in town is going to have the 33' ROW but it is also his driveway. Helms stated, yes a driveway into the front door of his house, as he didn't think it ever should have been put there in the first place. More Discussion was had on this ordinance not specifically saying ROW with Foreman Cumley stating that it may work better to use the ordinance that talks about all City Streets, Alleys and ROWs are to be treated the same as public ROW. Sheriff Lang stated that the reasoning behind the whole Right of Way from what he gathers is for ditches, public utilities like water and sewer lines, so they have access to them, so I know that is the reasoning behind having the ROW 33' from the middle of the street, but I'm having trouble tying all of this to a certain City ordinance, so that is why I need to visit with Emily more on this issue. Clerk Curtis stated that this was the best City Code that she could find, so that is why she sent it to Emily, in hopes that she could possibly find something with a little more detail to it. Mayor Hatfield stated that it sounds like Sheriff Lang has more discussions to have with City Attorney Sisco before this issue gets resolved. Sheriff Lang stated he had emailed back and forth a couple times with Emily today, but she was also busy with Court, so he will get back with her this week and see what she thinks. Mayor Hatfield asked that this item be put back on the next agenda for Sheriff Lang to report to Council his progress on this situation.

**A Report and update from Mayor Hatfield & Deputy Clerk Wiers: *Animal Control Board Discuss/Approve Changes to Dog License procedures on issuing tickets:*** Deputy Clerk Wiers stated that at the Animal Control Board Meeting last week they had decided to change the deadline from March 31<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> that a dog owner has to have their dog licensed by to avoid being ticketed. Council felt this was a great idea because this last year the ticket process seemed to have drug out forever. ***Approve Laura Poskochil to serve on the Animal Control Board:*** Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve Laura Poskochil to serve on the Animal Control Board. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**A Report and update from Council Members Eisenhauer & Helms, Deputy Clerk Wiers & Foreman Cumley: *Discuss Safety Committee Meeting held 12/2/2020:*** Members of the Safety Committee reported that they had been discussing the LARM Safety Grant application putting prices together for purchasing the snow fencing that will be used to go up around the demolition project where the new fire hall is going at around \$500. Deputy Clerk Wiers also put prices together on purchasing safety shirts for the City Crew Members at \$300 and fire extinguishers to go in City equipment at over \$350. The Safety Committee decided they will submit those two items to LARM for the safety grant money to go towards those purchases. The Safety Committee also discussed Covid sanitizing protocol of wiping down shared spaces and high touched areas such as keyboards, phones, door handles and light switches. The City Employees are also wearing masks in the office and having people wear a mask if they have to come into the office.

**Review Letter from Husker Rehabilitation no longer providing occupational medicine services; *Update from Deputy Wiers on PCRH looking into providing these services to the City:*** Deputy Clerk Wiers stated since receiving the letter from Ginger at Husker Rehabilitation that they will no longer provide occupational medicine services, she had been corresponding with Dawn Friesel at Pawnee County Rural Health Clinic. Ms. Friesel had given her a cost estimate of \$150 with the clinic nurses doing the health history

portion along with taking the employee's temperature, blood pressure, etc. and then the Physical Therapy department "Rehab Visions" would take care of the physical mobility and lifting portion of it. It was discussed that the City only uses this service for "pre-employment physicals" for City Crew Members. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated that this price is higher than the City had been paying at Husker Rehab in Beatrice, but Ms. Friesel had stated they would not be making any money by doing this service for the City. Discussion was had on it only being the Beatrice location of Husker Rehab that was closing as there were other locations in Lincoln that could still provide this service. More discussion was had on keeping the business in town and the amount of money it would cost in wages and travel expenses to send an employee to Lincoln for a pre-employment physical exam.

**Covid Discussions:** Council reviewed Governor Ricketts updates to Executive Order #20-36 on the Open Meetings Act and his press release "Successfully Slowing the Spread" & Covid Vaccination Plan updates. Clerk Curtis had handed out the latest press release from Governor Ricketts on the new Directive Health Measures that went into effect on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. **Pawnee Co Task Force:** Vickie Zelenka stated she planned to keep going to the Pawnee County Task Force meetings which are back to holding zoom meetings every two weeks. She stated that before tonight's meeting she checked the Southeast District Health Department's website, and it showed a total of 139 positive cases in Pawnee County with one death. Mrs. Zelenka gave an update from the PCTF meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> where they discussed the Covid vaccination that at the time was still waiting to be approved by FDA, the hospital is continuing to see an increase in cases with mostly elderly requiring hospitalizations; Mr. Rottinghaus with Pawnee City Schools reported they continue to operate in the green mode with sports being started and the play production team being able to overcome quarantine & qualify for state (then winning state); Dr. Voigtlander discussed information about vaccines and that the previous infection shows that the secondary infection is less severe than the first. Vickie stated that she had shared with the task force that the City had passed the Mask Proclamation at their last regular Council meeting and that a lot of the businesses have posted the proclamation on their front doors. Vickie handed out an updated Phased Public Health Restrictions tied to Coronavirus Hospitalizations Rate spreadsheet to everyone. Zelenka stated the Pawnee Co. Task Force will meet again via zoom on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Review/Approve CDBG Fire Hall Project 19-PW-014 Expenses:** Council Member Eisenhower made a motion to approve CDBG Fire Hall Project 19-PW-014 Drawdowns #1 & 2 for a total of \$46,635.36 with \$37,920.00 to JEO Consulting for Engineer/Architectural Services with \$33,104.16 from CDBG Public Works Grant and \$4,815.84 from City Match and \$8,715.36 to SENDD for Administration paid from the CDBG Public Works Grant only. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review 2020 Real Estate Tax Statements:** Council Member Helms made a motion to approve paying the 2020 Real Estate Taxes before first half and second half due dates. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review Letter from NDOT on Year-End Certification of City Street Supt:** Council Member Eisenhower made a motion to approve Resolution #3 authorizing the Mayor to sign the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form for calendar year 2020.

Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review/Approve Application for Investment of Funds with the NFIT for the year 2021 & State Statutes 13-801 & 13-802:** Clerk Curtis explained that NFIT (Nebraska Financial Investment Trust) savings account with Union Bank & Trust was made when NPAIT was moved to Chicago, Illinois last year. PMA that took over NPAIT no longer handled sweeping funds back and forth from the City's Utility and General checking accounts to the NPAIT savings, so Clerk Curtis had to really keep an eye on those checking accounts. At the beginning of 2020 Union Bank and Trust made the NFIT saving account that would do the sweeps between the General/Utility checking and the NFIT Savings account, so Clerk Curtis transferred most of the City's funds in the General and Utility NPAIT accounts over to the General and Utility NFIT savings accounts. This has been a very good transition and keeps the City's money in Nebraska instead of leaving the state. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to approve the application for investment of funds with NFIT for the 2021 year. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

**Review letter of request from Randy E. Gyhra to vacate the portion of an alley between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Street and K Street, in Block 11, Hollinshead's Addition to Pawnee City, Pawnee County, NE:** Council discussed the letter of request from Randy E. Gyhra to vacate the portion of the alley between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Street and K Street which he has been mowing for years. Foreman Cumley stated he did not see a problem with vacating that portion of the alley if the City reserved an easement for all utilities. Clerk Curtis stated that wording is included in the Resolution and would also be included in the Ordinance if the Council passed the Resolution setting a public hearing on this. **Notice of Resolution and Resolution:** Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to pass the Notice of Resolution & Resolution #4 setting a Public Hearing for December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. on the request by Randy E. Gyhra to vacate the portion of an alley between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Street and K Street, in Block 11, Hollinshead's Addition to Pawnee City, Pawnee County, NE. Council Member Haughton seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Driveway Tube:** Council Member Helms inquired about the request to extend the entrance drive in his driveway that runs into that alley an additional 8 feet. Foreman Cumley stated that Randy used that driveway to pull onto his property with his semi, so that is why he is asking if he can extend it and since that is his second driveway, Foreman Cumley recommended that Randy would need to be responsible for the 8' extension himself. Council Member Helms stated that Randy would need to get a building permit, but he agreed with Foreman Cumley's recommendation on the driveway extension.

**A Report and update from Foreman Cumley: Review/Discuss quotes on purchasing a new line locator & pamphlet on how a line locator works:** Foreman Cumley stated that the City had a very old line-locator, which recently stopped working. They tried changing the batteries, but they had leaked battery acid all over and ruined the wiring. Cumley stated he had even tried sottering the wires together, but they just couldn't make it work. Foreman Cumley stated he was kind of disappointed because his Crew and him had just watched a bunch of YouTube videos on how to work a line locator and had really started to use it a lot. Foreman Cumley stated he had visited with John with Black Hills Energy to ask what line locator product they used and why they liked it. Foreman Cumley stated that

in looking for prices, this \$3600 price is what most of them run. This company, the Utility Equipment Company is where the City just purchased their metal finder through, so he called to get a quote from him, and this is also the exact same unit as Tecumseh and Black Hills Energy uses. The RD7200 5W Kit line locator unit that is included in the agenda packet is what they use along with the City Utilities in Tecumseh using it. They both had told Foreman Cumley that you can get the same unit in several different brands, but they're all going to cost right at the same amount of money. Foreman Cumley called around and they only varied in price by about \$100. Council Member Helms inquired what all this would detect? Foreman Cumley explained that when you have a tracer wire, like our new transmission water main going North of town all has tracer wire along with the new water mains in town, then you can use that wire to find out where your water line is located at. What they used it for recently is when they had the blow off out past Matt Christen's house that was leaking, they didn't know where the main water line actually was. So first they were able to locate the main to put some flags in to know where it was. Then he didn't want to rip the corp stop going to the air release off of the main so they were able to hook up to where it comes above the ground and then trace it to exactly where it tapped onto the main so he could dig ahead of it and then work our way back to it instead of accidentally digging on top of it. Foreman Cumley also stated they used it when they found that lead water service line, just West of the Faith Baptist Church so they could trace the lead line back to know where the tap was. Foreman Cumley continued that every time that we have a service where the main is on the opposite side of where they are able to trace it back to where they tapped it, then that locator really does help a lot and they could use it for all sorts of other stuff. The model the City is looking at purchasing they are able to hook up the fire hydrants and do more of their steel main in town because they can put an induction clamp on the fire hydrant. Council Member Helms inquired if this locator would pick up electrical. Foreman Cumley stated it would if you had a direct hookup to it. Cumley continued that it comes with a little box and you either have to put an induction clamp around it or directly hook to the metal as it sends an electromagnetic current through the metal that creates a field around it so big and then the wand picks that field up when you walk across the ground. Foreman Cumley also stated that he finds it more critical now to have access to the line locator because our mini excavator has a limited reach. With the old backhoe, it had the "extend a hoe" so usually he would start like three feet away from where his targeted spot was and then he could dig back to it. With the mini, if they start too far away, then they've got to go all the way back around the hole as he doesn't like to dig across the line because then you also risk pulling it out as well, so it would be nice to have the line locator, so they know more precisely where they need to be at. Mayor Hatfield inquired if this locator could be used on sewer line, too. Foreman Cumley stated only if it had a tracer wire in it. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to purchase the RD7200 5W Line Locator Kit for \$3658.67 from Utility Equipment Company. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Discuss Updates on Demolition at 1332 F Street:*** Foreman Cumley reported that all of the trees and stumps have been removed except for the three larger ones that will need dug out by a bigger excavator. Today they removed all of the metal, like soffits and gutters off of the house, tore off all of the bricks along with fireplace and chimney out, separating everything out that they can to avoid getting charged extra at the dump they end up taking all of the rest of the house to. They also removed 16' of the driveway leaving room to park the roll-off dumpsters on. He talked to the company in Falls City and they stated that they won't have the big roll-off dumpsters available until after the beginning of the year. He told her he would like to have two big dumpsters on site so then when they have one of them full, they can dump it while they haul off the other



one. The lady wasn't sure she could guarantee that the City could get two dumpsters at one time. Council Member Helms inquired if he could make a suggestion that may work – if the City had a big enough truck, could we haul to that same dumpsite with it to keep the excavator busy. Helms continued he wondered if the City couldn't rent a side dump and put Rasty running that truck as a City Employee? Clerk Curtis stated that yes we could do that, but Rasty would have to be considered a City Employee. Helms felt that the City could probably rent that side dump from Gyhra's as long as Rasty is going to drive it, if that would help Foreman Cumley out any. Foreman Cumley stated that he had a couple different ideas for how the City could efficiently rent an excavator and having dumpsters at the same time because we definitely can't just have the excavator sitting there doing nothing waiting for dumpsters. Cumley's first idea was just to rent an excavator and he would just crush the house into a tiny little pile and just take it out of the foundation and put it up on the lot, then that would allow the crew to just load that out with the loader whenever, just using the excavator long enough to pile the house and dig the stumps and foundation out of the ground. That would be the fastest way to get the use out of the excavator and send it back. Council Member Helms stated that the side-dump could also haul out the basement whenever it is available. More discussion was had on the amount of time the City would need to rent an excavator for – either a couple days or for a full week. Council Member Helms stated that it ends up being right at the same price to keep the excavator for a full week as it would be for three days and not risk needing to rent it for additional days which would cost us more. Council Member Helms stated he could get an excavator rented for a whole week from Komatsu for \$1800 plus \$1200 transportation fee for a total of \$3000. More discussion followed on how long to rent an excavator for, discussing if employees were sick or possibly quarantined from Covid, a bad snowstorm would hit or even a water main break that could possibly pull the City Crew off of the excavator if we only had rented it for a couple days. After more discussions, Council Members were all in agreement that it would be safer to just rent the excavator for the whole week if we decided to rent it from Komatsu. Foreman Cumley stated he would go and pick up the orange snow fence to put around the property this week before anymore demolition was done if he had the Council's approval for the price estimate that Deputy Wiers had found of around \$480 for 700 feet. Council agreed with this. Council Member Helms stated Foreman Cumley could come up and get all the t-posts that he needed to from his place to use to put the snow fence up. Foreman Cumley inquired if he wanted to wait to rent an excavator until they had dumpsters here or how did they want to handle that? More discussion was had that the dumpsters couldn't be here until after the beginning of the new year, but Foreman Cumley just wanted to get the excavator here so he could just dig the foundation out and lay everything to the back of the property and remove the stumps as he felt we could just do this while waiting for the dumpsters to show up. Council Member Helms asked if Foreman Cumley wanted him to take care of ordering the excavator or if he was going to do it as Komatsu wanted a two-weeks heads up on the City renting a machine from them? Clerk Curtis inquired about using the County's excavator? Foreman Cumley stated he had talked with the Chris Rauner, County Highway Superintendent a couple days ago about possibly using the County's big excavator as they recently put a thumb on the bucket and all of this demolition work was being done just as much for the Rural Fire Department as it was for the City Fire Department, since they are combined. Chris stated he would take this request to the County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday to get their permission. Foreman Cumley stated he didn't see the County letting this happen, but it was worth a try. Mayor Hatfield stated to just keep them posted on what he found out. **Sargent Drilling at the Wells:** Foreman Cumley stated that Sargent Drilling has been working at installing Static/Pumping Water Displays & hooking up the

Pressure Transducers at the wells. They got done with Well #3 and will be back again to finish up after the beginning of the year. ***New Chevy Pickup:*** Foreman Cumley reported that the new Chevy pickup has been picked up from Brinkman's in Tecumseh, taken to Ty's in Omaha to get the snowplow put on & is now at Gary Gross' in Lincoln to get the new flatbed box put on in the next couple of weeks.

***A Report and update from Council Members Eisenhauer: Discuss making PT City Crew Member Sheraud Warren a permanent Full Time City Crew Member; Discuss increase in wages from \$11.00/hr:*** Council Member Eisenhauer stated what she would like to see done is moving our part-time summertime help City Crew member Sheraud Warren from that status over to a permanent full-time City Crew member with benefits. Right now, he is being paid \$11.00 an hour, which is the summer help rate of pay and we have been able to keep him on and according to Foreman Cumley he has been doing a really good job and from what she had went by and seen him working, he is doing a great job for the City. Eisenhauer stated that she really feels that he is a good employee to keep for the City, making him full-time, especially with the house demo project going on and snow removal season being here. Eisenhauer continued that Clerk Curtis had told her that when we moved Jr. Droge from the summertime help over to a full-time City Crew member the City raised his wages up to \$16.00/hour and then when he earned his water certification the City gave him a \$.25 raise. Sheraud Warren had went on his own and got his water certification license this past summer. Council Member Helms stated that Mr. Warren paid for that out of his own pocket and did it all on his own. Council Member Helms inquired to Foreman Cumley what that had cost Mr. Warren? Council Member Eisenhauer stated that was part of her whole plan here, was for the City to reimburse Mr. Warren for the costs associated with getting his Water Certification License and then to have Clerk Curtis figure out where she is going to take his wages from as we're going to have to amend the budget anyway because of the unexpected culvert project. Eisenhauer stated that she would like to see him also get the full benefit package in addition to a raise in wages as the City needs to keep him on as the worst thing that could happen is for him to find another job elsewhere at a decent wage per hour. Council Member Fisher stated that for Sheraud to take the initiative to go ahead and get his Water Certification License on his own speaks volumes as to what kind of an employee he is. Foreman Cumley stated that Warren would have already had his CDL but he had lost all of his records when he was in the military so he has been trying to gather all of them up and finally just got his Nebraska Driver's License and will be taking the CDL test the next time the Driver's License Examiners are in town. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to move Sheraud Warren into full-time City Crew status at \$16.25/hour plus benefits effective 12/14/2020 and also reimburse him for his water certification costs. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Foreman Cumley reported that City Crew Members Jr. Droge and Sean McAhon have finished up all of the Sewer Certification Training as of today and are both signed up to do the computer testing, so can take the test within the next 6 months but have an estimated mid-January test date.

***Review Correspondence from: Santa Parade:*** Council reviewed the flyer from the Pawnee City Chamber that is sponsoring a Santa Parade to be held December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. around Pawnee City. ***League Conference:*** Council reviewed the League of Municipalities 2021 Annual Utilities/Public Works Virtual Conference program line up and registration costs to be held virtually on Jan. 12-15. Foreman Cumley stated that his whole City Crew had already paid to watch the same "Jason Series Webinars" to get water and sewer certification hours that are offered through this League Conference so they

wouldn't be interested in registering again. Clerk Curtis felt that there were other parts of the program that might be beneficial for her or our UB Clerk to sit in on, namely "Landlord Responsibility for Unpaid Utility Bills and New Disconnect Laws" and "Legal Remedies if someone messes with the Meter". Council Member Eisenhauer stated that if the City paid the registration fee, then all three of you Clerks or any of us Council Members could sit in on the Webinars, so she felt it was a good idea. All Council Members agreed with this. *Christmas Eve:* Mayor Hatfield stated that President Trump declared Christmas Eve a Federal Holiday and he would like to see the City give our City Employees the day off. Council Member Helms made a motion that on Christmas Eve all City offices will be closed and considered a paid holiday for all City Employees. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Eisenhauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor