

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PAWNEE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 735 8TH STREET, ALL IN PAWNEE CITY, PAWNEE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.**

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by advertising in the Pawnee Republican, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Affidavit of Publishing on file in the office of the City Clerk. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice and the Agenda are on file in the office of the City Clerk. The availability of the agenda was communicated in advance 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 Vickie Zelenka, Donnie Fisher, Laura Poskochil and Susan Eisenhower; Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk, Tamela 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 Eisenhower moved to accept the June 12, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

The Treasurer submitted the following claims for consideration: **6/20/23 Payroll: 14,787.92; Union Bank & Trust, FWH 3870.83; NE Dept. of Rev, SWH 566.48; John Hancock, retirement 1564.56; Allstate, cancer/accid 218.06; Ameritas, vision 86.10; Madison National Life, life ins 47.42; United Health Care, health 6563.70; Windstream, internet service @ City Office, phone @ swr plant 194.29; Spectrum, internet & phone @ shop 184.97; BHE, gas service 278.81; PCDC, April 2023 sales tax 11,822.49 Seneca Sanitation, May 2023 garbage service, dumpsters @ pond & pool, city wide clean up 7225.10; Quill Corp., office supplies 97.94; Access Systems, IT care services 905.30; Bottom Line, library mag subs. 39.00; Coral's Cleaning Services, office cleaning 120.00; Hearst Mags, library mag subs. 12.00; Nebr. Public Health Environmental Lab, wtr sample tests 33.40; Randy & Amy Gyhra, demo reimb 4,000.00; Sargent Drilling, flow meter gate valve @ swr plant 20, 224.05; Stehlik Law, atty fees on Reuse loans 654.50; Little Brown Jug, pool concessions 714.09; Capital Bus. Syst, Elevate phone system 111.94; Kyle's Service Center, tires 546.00; PC Public Schools, pool concessions 32.94; Verizon Wireless, home connect & jetpack 64.32; Zee's Backhoe Services, wtr heater @ library 942.56; PC Library Foundation, library loan reserve & payment 8400.00; Pawnee Co. Clerk, handi-bus agreement 1436.00. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.**

**Budget Worksheets for One-on-One Budget Workshops:** Clerk Curtis asked Council if they had any questions on their budget worksheets of their individual funds before the One-on-One budget workshops scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup> with Julie Bauman. Council Member Poskochil mentioned she had hoped the technical assistance program from Wichita University

would have started because they would probably have recommendations for changes to include in the budget.

**Discuss/Approve Wage Recommendations from Wage Committee:** Council Member Eisenhower explained that she and Council Member Fisher met to discuss employee wages. They wrote three options. Option #1 proposes a 3% raise; Option #2 proposes a 2% raise; and Option #3 is based upon the 2023 employee performance reviews. Three employees scored at the top level and two employees scored at the middle level and one at the third level. Council Members Eisenhower and Poskochil recommend Option #3. Eisenhower also reminded the Council that Crew Members Barloon and Droge will receive a \$1.00/hr. raise when they complete their sewer operator certifications. Barloon is scheduled to take the sewer test in August. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve Option #3 wage increases which are based upon 2023 performance reviews effective October 1, 2023. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis explained that this motion will have to be written in ordinance form and read at the next two meetings (July) with suspending the last reading so that it can be advertised between July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Report and update from Council Member Eisenhower on the Pool:** Council Member Eisenhower explained the pool vacuum is broken. The plug and the receiver plug melted. She has looked for a new plug and receiver plug but they are out of stock and the current vacuum was purchased in 2019 for close to \$5000 but was actually only used in 2021 and last year for a season and a half plus the warranty has expired. She has considered finding an interim vacuum for less than a \$1000 to take care of the deep end where most of the debris floats to. Hopefully, the current one can be repaired but it could take awhile to get the parts. Discussion was had if there was training and if operating the pool vacuum is included on a task check list. Foreman Cumley replaced the GFCI outlet (outdoor outlet). The pool cash register also broke and displays an error message but can't be fixed and it is "frozen." A new one was ordered, and it has been set up and taken to the pool today to start using. Council Member Eisenhower showed Raina and Terra how to operate the cash register this morning before the pool opened. Currently, there are six guards and two are fifteen years old so they cannot work more than 8 hrs./day or more than 38 hrs./wk. Therefore, there may be times the pool is closed because there are not enough people to work. Mayor Hatfield explained that Omaha is having staffing problems and lifeguards are having to work at more than one pool and some pools will not be open.

**Report and update from Foreman Cumley: *Discuss quote to sandblast/paint clarifiers at Sewer Plant:*** Foreman Cumley requested a quote to paint and sandblast the metal in the clarifiers from a company recommended by the Auburn Board of Public Works, Pittsburgh Paint and Tower. The representative didn't give Cumley a written quote but suggested the City budget for the expense of \$54,000 for each clarifier (two). Cumley stated he feels it is not worth \$54,000 and if any metal broke, it could probably all be replaced for less than that. ***Discuss Stage 2 Water Rationing:*** Things haven't changed at the wells (nothing gained or lost). Cumley said tomorrow will be a full week of water rationing and he will check the wells to see if the City is saving anymore water. Cumley also suggested encouraging citizens to water late in the day to cut down on water evaporation due to the heat. Lincoln doesn't allow anyone to water during the day and if things don't improve in the next three weeks, Lincoln will probably ban any watering of lawns

and gardens. **Discuss meeting with JEO set for July 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. to discuss wells:** Evan Wickersham happen to stop in the office last week and Cumley talked to him about the situation with the wells, so Evan was going to relay the message to another engineer in the office that deals with wells. Then, JEO called and set up a meeting to discuss digging a new well. Clerk Curtis will make a post on Facebook about the water rationing and there will be a comment added to the water bill with posters are already being displayed around town. Curtis had contacted the local newspaper to write a story about the current water situation, but she has not heard back. She will add an alert to the website. Discussion was had about possible repercussions for not rationing water, so it was decided to give people a warning first and document that. The next step will be to contact the Sheriff's office for them to issue a ticket as outlined in ORD 3-122. The offender would then have to appear in court.

**Review PCAL Minutes & Treasurer's report:** Council reviewed the minutes and financial report from the May 18, 2023 meeting. PCAL has \$20,000 left to pay on their loan to the City.

**Review Nuisance Letters and Dog Tickets going to Court prepared by City Attorney**

**Ferebee:** City Atty Ferebee prepared five nuisance letters that were mailed to Ed Raper, Ramon Herrera-Mora, Janice Lewis, Jeff Osborne and Kara Lee. She also prepared letters and petitions for Chad Clark, RJ Carmichael and Jason Carter. These three people did not license their dogs or pay their fines in 2022. If the nuisance continues, then the abatement process will start. Scott Hanna was present to update the Council that Jeff Osborne now has half the road in front of his house covered with "stuff." Hanna reported that Mr. Osborne is taking stuff out of the Percival house and moving it to his own house. Mr. Hanna owns the property located east of Osborne. It was reported that someone from the Sheriff's office will take pictures of the property and hand him the nuisance letter from the city attorney.

**Review the Total IT Care Account Review from Access Systems: Clerk Curtis and Deputy Clerk Wiers had a Zoom meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> with Joshua from Access Systems:** Deputy Clerk Wiers explained the service was not good at first, but they have improved greatly since then and are pretty prompt, now, when there are IT issues.

**Correspondence:** The City Council reviewed correspondence from April 2023 total Sales Tax of \$31,526.64 with ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax totaling \$7,881.66 and \$2,793.80 being Motor Vehicle Sales Tax. Council reviewed the email from the League on Municipal Equalization Funds (MEF).

Clerk Curtis had included a reminder about one-on-One Budget Workshops with Julie Bauman are scheduled July 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> and the Budget Workshop Retreat is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Zelenka moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor