

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, 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, Vickie Zelenka, Ric Helms and Susan Eisenhauer; Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer; Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk; Foreman Spencer Cumley and City Auditor Julie D. Bauman. **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 Eisenhauer moved to approve the August 22nd, 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: **8/30 & 9/13/2022 Payrolls:** 21,217.01 **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 6024.16; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 857.65/Sales & Use Tax 2219.93/Waste Reduction Recycle 25.00; **John Hancock**, retirement 2625.83 **Amazon Capital Serv**, pool plumbing parts 536.57; **Capital Business Syst**, elevate ph. 111.94/Libr Copier Contr 139.50; **Black Hills Energy**, gas serv 58.69; **Julie D. Bauman**, Budget Wrkshop Retreat/present draft budget 293.75; **Emily Sisco**, atty fee retainer 1000.00; **Matt Kuhlmann**, zoning-Sept 800.00; **NPPD**, elec 2996.84; **Pawnee Co Rural Water**, hydr 126.00; **Pawnee Republican**, June-Aug publ 1239.95; **NE Public Health Env Lab**. Wtr samp 15.00; **SE NE Computer Serv**, Libr computer upgrades 600.30; **OPPD**, elec-wells 337.52; Libr Materials: **Jr. Libr Guild** 2286.66/ **Gale** 2898.00/ **Magnolia Journal**, 30.00/ **Center Pointe Large Print**, 1700.64; **HOA Solutions**, install printer at Swr Plant 2994.43; **Lincoln WinWater Works**, wtr parts 1337.82; **Verizon Wireless**, Fire jetpack/home connect 64.70; **Immense Impact**, annual web sub 565.95; **Mannschreck Masonry**, City Office brick rep 200.00; **H&H Auto**, parts/sup 439.64; **Pawnee True Value**, sup/parts 88.52; **MidWest Labs**, swr samples 33.00; **OneCall Concepts**, digger locates 22.66; **Seneca SA**, garb serv/dumpsters 7155.49; **Quill**, Libr sup 556.20; **Dollar General**, Libr Sup 4.75; **Access Systems**, copier contract 164.75; **US Cellular**, emerg cell phone 47.87; **Windstream**, Swr plant ph. 63.35; **Casey's Business**, equip fuel 594.61; **League of NE Muni**, membership dues/backflow workshop 1848.00 **DEMCO**, Libr office sup 470.00; **Fastenal**, shop tools 58.72; **Hamilton Equip**, 5-year warranty on Mini-Exc 1300.00; **Midlands Contracting**, Swr Sliplining-partial 25000.00; **Petty Cash**, sup, lic Ranger, etc. 28.00; **Redfield**, Ord/Minute Books 776.28; **Schendel Pest Control**, spray swr plant 70.00; **SNYCB/Amazon**, Libr sup/materials 362.16; **Tennis Courts Unlimited**, City portion BB/Pickleball Court renovations 6430.00; **Coral's Cleaning**, office cleaning 30.00; **RoofGuard**, 2021 Wind Damage Roof Repairs 18650.00.

Council Member Helms 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.

Sheriff Braden Lang: Sheriff Braden Lang stated that it has been quite a struggle to have everything covered while Deputy Mike Cirrincione is at Law Enforcement Training in Grand Island, which he is doing very well at. Sheriff Lang stated they have been working with and walking the dog while Deputy Cirrincione is gone. Council inquired if the dog was done with his training. Sheriff Lang stated that the dog has almost completed all of his training with his next training to be in February. Sheriff Lang stated Deputy Cirrincione will be finished at the academy the first part of December, which the dog will finish his training with Deputy Cirrincione in February. The dog also has to do his certification with the State Patrol yet. Council Member Helms inquired what had happened to the Semi-Truck that was stuck in the middle of the highway North of Pawnee City earlier in the day? Sheriff Lang stated that while the truck was going up a hill the drive shaft exploded and took out the air lines at the crest of the hill. Sheriff Lang tried to pull the truck off to the side of the road, but his pickup would not move the semi at all. The truck driver had already called a wrecker from Omaha, so it took some time for them to arrive. That is the reason that the highway was blocked for three hours with traffic being diverted through Steinauer.

Rezoning application from Pawnee City Historical Society of a parcel of land from AG to RR approved by Planning Commission at their 9/01/2022 meeting. Mayor Hatfield stated that all of the paperwork was before the Council tonight on the rezoning of a parcel of land from Ag to Rural Residential, which the Pawnee City Planning Commission had approved at their 9/1/2022 meeting. There was no additional input heard. Council member Eisenhauer moved to affirm the Planning Commission's decision to approve the rezoning application changing a parcel of land from Ag to Rural Residential from the Pawnee City Historical Society. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Recess from regular Council meeting: At this time Council Member Eisenhauer moved to recess from the Regular Council Meeting. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried, and regular meeting recessed at 7:10 p.m.

Open Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request – At 7:15 p.m., Council Member Zelenka moved to open the Special Hearing to set the Final Tax Request. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. There was no public input at this time. Council member Helms moved to close the Special Hearing at 7:20 p.m. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Reconvene back into regular Council meeting: Council Member Eisenhauer moved to reconvene back into the Regular Council Meeting. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried with the regular meeting reconvening at 7:21 p.m.

Pass Resolution #7 approving 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget – Council Member Zelenka moved to pass Resolution #7 approving the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Pass Resolution #8, setting 2022-2023 Property Tax Request be set at \$222,083.85 and Proposed 2022 Tax Rate be set at .722584: Council Member Eisenhauer moved to pass Resolution #8, setting 2022-2023 Property Tax Request be set at \$222,083.85 and Proposed 2022 Tax Rate be set at .722584. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Accept Letter of Resignation from Sean McAhon effective September 23, 2022: Mayor Hatfield stated to City Crew Member McAhon that they were all sorry to see him go but understood that sometimes you have to see what else is out there and was sure he would do fine. Sean McAhon stated he would be going to work in Beatrice. Council all wished him the best with his new job. Mr. McAhon stated he owed a big thank you to everyone here especially Foreman Spencer Cumley. Council Member Zelenka moved to accept Sean McAhon's letter of resignation, with regret. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review Treasurer's Reports as of August 31st and September 13th, 2022: Council reviewed the Treasurer's Reports as of August 31st and September 13th, 2022, which includes the next payroll that has been taken out of each budgeted fund. Clerk Curtis stated she would be handing out another Treasurer's report as of 9/27/2022 at the September 26th Council meeting that will include the last payroll of the fiscal year which would give everyone a true picture of what was left in their individual fund budgets.

Amend the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget: *Open Public Hearing:* Council Member Zelenka moved to open the Public Hearing to amend the 2021-22 FY Budget. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried and public hearing was opened at 7:32 p.m. ***Hear Public Input:*** Julie D. Bauman stated the reason for the Public Hearing was to consider amending the 2021-22 Fiscal Year budget for an additional monetary requirement of \$65,000 due to the unforeseen timing of payments on the Fire Station Project. Bauman went on to state that amending the 2021-22 FY budget will not change the tax levy as it was really a timing issue of when these payments were ready to process on this project. No Public Input was heard. ***Close Public Hearing:*** Council Member Helms moved to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried and public hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m. ***Amend FY 2021-22 Budget:*** Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve amending the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget due to the unforeseen timing of payments on the Fire Station Project. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

1&6 Year Public Hearing: Council Member Eisenhauer moved to open the 1&6 Year Street Plan Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Hear public input:** Clerk Curtis stated that no changes had been made to the 1&6 Year Street Plan since the last meeting. There was no public input at this time. **Close Public Hearing:** Council Member Helms moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:49 p.m. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Resolution #9 adopting the 1&6 Year Street Plan:** Council Member Helms moved to Pass Resolution #9 adopting the 1&6 Year Street Plan. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Discuss updates on quotes for HVAC Duct Cleaning & Air Scrubber/ Installation in the Office: Deputy Clerk Kellie Wiers stated that she could never get Mighty Ducts to actually show up to look everything over in order to give the City an estimate. Deputy Wiers also reached out to the company Vision Air that Council Member Fisher had seen on Facebook but wasn't sure how reputable the company was. That leaves Radon Defense/Duct Defense Midwest being the only company to come onsite to look everything over then provided an estimate of \$1250 with a 20% deposit of \$250.00 required which included cleaning and sanitizing the duct system. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated that they had gotten a quote from Findlay HVAC to install an Air Scrubber system for \$800 which provides 24/7 surface decontamination and air purification, reduces allergens and other contaminants and protects your heating and cooling systems from potentially dangerous buildup. More discussion followed with Council Member Helms stating he felt the duct work needed cleaned and that the air scrubber should be installed. Deputy Clerk Wiers continued that the office has a dirt basement and we get many complaints from customers that our office always smells musty. Council discussed that there is possibly some mold in the basement, so cleaning the duct work and installing an Air Scrubber system would possibly help the situation. Council Member Fisher inquired if there needed to be a dehumidifier put down in the basement. Discussion was had that there was not a floor drain in the basement. Mayor Hatfield stated he thought it would be a good idea for the City Office basement to be tested for radon. Foreman Cumley brought up that the only way to get into the Cornerstone Building's basement is through a door from the City Office basement. More discussion followed on checking with the Extension Office for radon test kits and if both basements should be tested. Deputy Clerk Wiers inquired if the Council wanted to clean the duct work now or wait to find out about the radon. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve Radon Defense/Duct Defense Midwest's quote for cleaning and sanitizing the duct system for \$1250. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Deputy Clerk Wiers will check with the County Extension Office tomorrow if they have any radon test kits available. It was decided that the City should wait on the Air Scrubber system until we get the Radon test results back on both basements.

Review/Act on Terry & Suzanne Borchers's Demolition Reimbursement Request at 1604 G Street: Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve Terry & Suzanne Borchers's demolition reimbursement request on 1604 G Street for \$4000.00. Council Member Helms seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Clerk Curtis will submit Borchers's demo information to PCDC for their additional request for expense reimbursement.

Review/Discuss releasing two liens filed against T. Krogman 1604 G Street property, now owned by Terry & Suzanne Borchert: Council discussed the water liens that had been left by the previous owner and another renter of this dilapidated property. It was stated that the property now looks the best it has for many years. Council Member Eisenhauer moved that the city remove the water liens and write off the remaining balance owed on the 1604 G Street property. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

A Report and update from Foreman Cumley: Discuss updates on WesTech repairing the Vertical Screen at Sewer Plant: Foreman Cumley stated that he had gotten an email from WesTech with a new ship date on the Vertical Screen repairs now being October 7th, so that will be longer than they had anticipated. **Issues at the Sewer Plant:** Foreman Cumley stated that they have been having issues with the diffusers in the bottom of the tanks and our blowers have been running 24/7 because it is not diffusing the air properly. It has to do with the Jet Pumps not stirring the tank properly and getting plugged off so at this point they are currently waiting for a company to come down from Gretna to suck out all of the grit and sand out of the outer ring in the Oxidation Ditch, which he got a rough estimate of around \$12,000 to come do that. Foreman Cumley talked to an engineer with JEO just to have him come down and give us some ideas as far as future planning and to look at the current situation they are having down at the Sewer Plant. The JEO Engineer is looking to be down here in roughly two weeks to look everything over. Foreman Cumley stated he pulled his last sewer sample on September 1st so he really has to have the plant up and going by mid-October in order to get it functionally operational otherwise he would have to submit a non-compliance report to the State. So far they have found that all of the jet nozzles are plugged and there's no access to get into them anywhere as it is all solid welded pipe so without cutting them open they are kind of at a loss. Cumley has visited with several different people and they are kind of throwing some different ideas around on how to solve this issue. The biggest problem is the jet pumps sit on the floor of the tank, which does not have a grit chamber, so the bottom of the tank is completely full of sand, grit and debris. The pumps suck all of that up because it uses the wastewater to shoot out the jets and circulate it, which causes excessive wear on the pumps and everything else. Because the vertical screen is not in there right now and all we are using is a bar screen, somehow we have pumped it full of trash. So, all of the nozzles are plugged off. They have come up with a possible solution today that seemed to work pretty well as he had borrowed a camera from Zac Gottula, which once they ran that camera down there, they were able to try a new washing method and get it cleaned but it didn't have as much debris in it as the others that are plugged solid, he can't even get the plugs out of it. The city Crew plans to try their new washing method on that plugged side as well. Council Member Helms inquired that these are not removable or anything? Foreman Cumley stated that they could only be removable if you could move 40 feet of pipe and pull it up out of the ditch and then you'd still have to cut it open because your only access points are 16 feet away and two 90-degree elbows come out right where the jets are located. Council Member Fisher stated it is just a nightmare to keep up with the maintenance on this plant. Foreman Cumley stated that they had a clean-out on them that comes up to the surface and the idea was that you open this six-inch clean out and it was going to create enough suction from the nozzles that it would suck material out of the nozzles, bring it up to the surface and just spit it back onto the surface of the water, but there is nothing plugging off the two jets. Just because you are pumping water all the way up here, you're still pushing water out of the jets, you're never going to pull anything out, so it is just a terrible design. Foreman Cumley stated that his buddy out in Colorado does fabrication design, building boxes for all of the

mining operations out there. They have a big pump in a pond and that's what runs all of the sluice boxes and before that he had been designing really big filtering boxes that had flumes and stuff so that as the water gets sucked through, then the materials would settle out in the bottom of it. His idea was that he could design a box that would be based off the flow of the pump and then we could take a suction line that goes from there to the pump, that way the pump is only sucking filtered and clean sewage water. It wouldn't have any trash in it and it wouldn't have any sand or grit in it either, which would give the pumps longevity and then also they wouldn't have anything getting into the pipes to plug the nozzles off anymore. More discussion was had on the types of debris Foreman Cumley was talking about which included sand, dirt, rock, even clay tile from collapsed sewer lines, etc. just anything that could get into a sewer manhole. They also had another idea that came up with taking the pumps completely out of the water so that the electrical motors are not submerged in water because if you go down there and look at them, the acid in the wastewater boils the paint and ruins the seals. So his buddy's idea would be to find non-submersible pumps and put them up on the surface like the catwalk and then they'll suck right out of the box. Then they could just run a pipe over to the old flush-out so that they don't have to run any pipe and then just plug the hole in the bottom, then they don't have a pump in the tank to corrode, they don't have motors and seals to fail because they're not underwater anymore and on top of that they wouldn't get any trash in the pipe. So, these are just some ideas that they have come up with. Foreman Cumley stated he had also briefly talked with the Mayor about all of this and they agreed that it would be best to run these ideas past the engineer that is coming down before doing anything. Foreman Cumley stated that the only downfall of his buddy building something like that is that it would cost the City roughly \$12,000 and the City has two more tanks doing the same thing. The other problem that they could run into is the availability of pumps because they'd have to find a non-submersible pump that has low amperage because they run 24/7, so it could be an issue even finding them right now. Foreman Cumley stated that eventually the Lift Station is going to need sucked out also.

Discuss updates on the installation of Generator at Wells: Foreman Cumely had spoken with Sargent Drilling last week and everything was finally in. Sargent Drilling and their private electrician will be starting on the project after October 1st. Foreman Cumley told them he just wanted it all completed by winter as they will definitely need to pour concrete before it gets too cold. ***Discuss updates on constructing new Retaining Wall along the Trail on 14th Street:*** Foreman Cumley stated the retaining wall project is in progress but they had to stop working on that project to work on the sewer plant. ***Discuss updates on Pavers completing Street Project:*** Foreman Cumley stated he thought everything looked really good, except for Paver's asphaltting over one of the City's valves. Cumley stated that they will find it eventually and get it raised up as it looks as though they just asphalted over it and didn't see it. Clerk Curtis inquired about the construction sign that had been left in the Masonic Lodge yard. Council Member Helms stated Foreman Cumley had told him about it and he contacted Pavers and they will be down to pick it up.

A Report and update from Council Member Eisenhauer: Discuss the 2022 pool season: Council reviewed the 2022 Pool Season Wrap-up. Council Member Eisenhauer stated that she felt they had a really good pool season this year with good attendance for daily admissions, swim lessons and the two midnight swims they held. The Swim Lessons were held in two different weeks with discussion of either capping Level 1 and 2 at a certain number or splitting the two levels to be held at different times. The first week of swim lessons they had 19 children that were in Level 1 and 2 and that was way too many

young children at once. With such high numbers registering for the swim lesson sessions, they needed almost all of their guards at times to help teach the lessons, so that also increased the amount of pool wages this year. Eisenhauer continued that the pool inventory looks good this year. Repairs noted that need to be done before next pool season included replacing the mirrors in both shower rooms; repair north sink in girls shower room, replace the “grated plate” with a “solid plate” over the circulation pump motor and repair the blue slide to eliminate the pool of water under the slide and fix it so the water continuously runs down the slide without stopping and painting the inside of the entire pool house. Foreman Cumley stated that all water parts have been ordered to replace the plumbing in the pool house with pex pipe. Mayor Hatfield stated he has been looking for old pictures of either when the pool was being built or how the pool has looked throughout the years that he could make prints to hang throughout the entryway of the pool house. **Review/Discuss approved CRP Contract:** Council Member Eisenhauer stated the CRP 10-year Contract had been approved by the Pawnee County FSA Committee for the City and renter Todd Albers.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the thank you card received from the Pawnee City Library Staff Members for the City supporting their summer reading program. Clerk Curtis inquired if it would work for everyone to meet on Tuesday, October 11th due to Columbus Day being on Monday, October 10th and the City Offices being closed. Council was in agreement to changing the first meeting date in October to Tuesday, October 11th. Council Member Zelenka moved 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 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie E. Hatfield, Mayor