

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CORNERSTONE BUILDING, 601 G 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 Charles Hatfield, Council Members Pat Hatfield, Vickie Zelenka, Donnie Fisher and Susan Eisenhauer; Kellie Wiers, Deputy City Clerk and Tamela Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer; Foreman Spencer Cumley. **Absent:** None.

Mayor Charlie 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, next to the storage closet, accessible to the public. At this time, all those present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Zelenka moved to accept the September 9, 2024, Special Budget Hearing meeting minutes. Council Member Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Council Member Eisenhauer moved to accept the September 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Council Member Zelenka moved to accept the September 9, 2024, Special Interviewing 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: **9/24/24 Payroll:** \$11,681.85; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 2891.12; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 428.25, waste reduction & recycle fee \$25.00, Aug 2024 sales & use tax 2064.32; **John Hancock**, retirement 1381.19; **Allstate**, cancer/accid 193.29; **Ameritas**, vision 86.80, **Madison National Life**, employee life insurance 53.71; **United Health Care**, health ins. 6647.49; **BHE**, gas service 184.38; **Spectrum**, internet/ph @ shop 184.97; **Pawnee City Dev. Corp.**, July 2024 sales tax 6157.09; **SA**, Aug 2024 garb serv 6887.89; **Windstream**, phone @ swr plant 63.59; **NPPD**, electric service 3815.84; **Access Systems**, IT services 931.60; **Binder Bros.**, concrete 1175.00; **Pawnee True Value**, repair supplies 119.44; **Amazon Capital Services**, smoke alarms, CO detectors, gas monitor 1771.22; **Capital Bus. Syst**, Elevate ph syst 192.77; **Center Point LP**, libr materials 2081.55; **DEMCO**, libr office supplies 517.18; **Surnali (Diversified Drug Testing)** empl drug test 78.00; **Feld Fire**, bunker gear 25,000.00; **Dollar General**, office supplies 5.38; **Friedly Oil**, equip fuel 964.77; **Midwest Labs**, swr sample tests 161.50;

Nebr. Dept. of Agriculture, animal facility license fee 175.00; **Northern Safety Co.** safety vests, cones 350.32; **Pawnee Republican**, publications 479.31; **Rooster's Rentals**, swr line repair 450.00; **Schaardt Lawn Care**, library lawn care 775.00; **SENECS**, library IT services 600.30; **Uribe Refuse Services**, porta potty rental 200.00; **Arbor Ink**, dog license books 88.89; **Brodart**, library office supplies 71.20; **Findlay HVAC**, repair @ shop 353.25; **League of Nebr. Municipalities**, membership dues 1555.00; **Lincoln Winwater Works**, wtr parts 284.68, **Casey's Bus. Mastercard**, equip fuel 992.28, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Eisenhower 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. Discussion was had about water heaters. Since the Cornerstone Building is not used very often, a sewer smell developed after a recent gathering because there is not much water used. The clerks had been taking turns running water in all the faucets and flushing the toilets but there is still an odor. The heating element on the water heater at the pool keeps burning out and the water heater was replaced not long ago. Also, the water gets too hot and has burned people taking showers. Foreman Cumley will contact Travis Findlay to get quotes for "on demand" water heaters for the Pool (2) and Cornerstone Building.

Review Treasurer's Report with Individual Fund Balances as of 9/20/2024: Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report prepared by Clerk Curtis. Budget year ends 9/30/2024. Clerk Curtis explained sewer slip lining will be completed soon and paid out of this budget year. Council Member Eisenhower explained concrete camper pads will be completed soon. DC Wiers will check the camping reservation book and inform campers about the project.

Tyler Keenan, JEO presented the Water Preliminary Engineering Report (PER): Tyler Keenan explained the report and Leah Boudreau wrote the report. Tyler explained the purpose of the PER is to evaluate the City's water system with a goal to seek funding from the SRLF which is a requirement for them. The Water Demand for Pawnee City's current population is 83 GPM (gallons per minute) which is about 120 gallons per day per person. Well #1 was built in 1956; Well #2 in 1966 and Well #3 in 1977. So, these wells are old and Well #1 has the worse drawdown (pumping water level) which is below the screen. Foreman Cumley explained at this point, the pump can suck in air which makes the water cloudy and milky looking which happened a couple of years ago when the City was on water restrictions. The pumps were turned down so they would pump slower to help prevent air getting into the water line. Tyler continued that only Well #3 has a back up generator and this well is operated with electricity from OPPD. The wells are in decent shape and the water quality is good but the community has hard water. If there was a problem with the pumps, the water tower can store approximately two days' worth of water. Overall, the system is in good shape but there are concerns. The wells are 47, 58 and 68 years old; only the water system in town dates back to the 1940's. Alternatives to consider include building a new well, connection to a nearby water system, water main replacements, install a portable generator for Well #1 or Well #2 and replace water meters with radio read meters. Pawnee City is currently not charging enough for water usage to cover all expenses which was addressed at the last city council meeting and will be addressed again at this meeting. Each alternative is costly and has its own requirements but the most expensive alternative is connecting to a nearby water system with the projected cost for that being \$6.5 million. Tyler recommends the City decide which alternatives it wants to pursue and then look at funding. If the City wishes to pursue an improvement project, the first step is to submit a pre-application to the

Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC) for review and consideration of financial assistance. Discussion was had about all the alternatives and funding sources. Tyler explained it is easier to include all the alternatives that the City would like to pursue on the pre-application and then later select the alternatives that may be more economically feasible. Council Member Eisenhower moved to submit an application to the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC) to complete options 1 (new municipal supply well), 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D (water main replacements), 4 (additional well generators) and 5 (water meter replacement). Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Tyler will submit the well site application to the state for the City. Foreman Cumley brought a sample of material that holds water in the ground from the test wellsite to the meeting. It looks like coarse sand and it was hoped that it could have been coarser but the material still looks good.

Review/Approve Ordinance #1065 amendment to 3-118 water rates (second reading):

Council Member Zelenka moved to approve Ordinance #1065 amendment to 3-118 water rates effective 10/1/2024 on second reading. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Motion to suspend the 3 readings to go into effect with 10/1/2024 Water Billing:** Council Member Eisenhower moved to suspend the three readings of ORD #1065 to go into effect with the 10/1/2024 water bill. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Approve Ordinance #1066 amendment to 3-102 Water Deposit (Second Reading):

Council Member Zelenka moved to approve Ordinance #1066 amendment to 3-102 Water Deposit effective 10/1/2024 on second reading. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Motion to suspend 3 readings to go into effect the start of the new FY 10/1/2024:** Council Member Eisenhower moved to suspend the three readings of ORD #1066 to go into effect 10/1/2024. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Pawnee City Community Foundation, Request for Sub-division of Lots; Review Survey Jeff Boden's PCCF Addition's proposed sub-division map; Review/Approve Resolution #12 approving PCCF's application for the sub-division of lots: Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve Resolution #12 approving PCCF's application for the sub-division of lots. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Report and update from Council Members Eisenhower & Fisher; Deputy Clerk Wiers & Foreman Cumley; Review Meeting minutes/Discuss Safety Committee Meeting held 8/23/2024; Discussion was had about the safety committee applying for the LARM grant to purchase orange safety vests, orange safety cones, fire detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. The crew members will use the vests and cones when they are working on streets. The detectors will be installed in the Cornerstone Building, City Office, and City Shop. **Discuss City being Approved for LARM Grant:** DC Wiers explained the City of Pawnee City was approved for the LARM grant and the City received the reimbursement check the day of the meeting.

Appoint New City Representative to serve on Animal Control Board: Past Council Member Laura Poskochil was the City representative on the Animal Control Board. Council Member Zelenka volunteered to be the City representative for the Animal Control Board. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve Council Member Vickie Zelenka as the city representative for the Animal Control Board. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Discuss quote from Stallbaumer Lumber to make new dog kennels: The recent inspection from the Dept. of Agriculture stated there were two boards on a kennel that had been chewed and needed replaced. Previously, the Animal Control Board had voted to purchase two metal welded wire dog kennels (6 ft. x 4 ft. x 8 ft.) with waterproof shades at a cost of around \$288.99 each. After the ACB meeting, DC Wiers discussed this with Foreman Cumley who said the City Crew could rebuild the kennels at the sewer plant. Foreman Cumley got a quote from Stallbaumer Lumber for materials which was \$863.62 to rebuild the current four kennels. Discussion was had about protection from the weather so if plywood was added around three sides, which would probably be an additional \$450.00. There is \$1483.11 left in the current ACB budget. Council Member Eisenhauer stated an employee from Alpha (a pet food company) had suggested requesting a donation to purchase materials to replace the current kennels. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve purchasing materials to replace the current dog kennels at the sewer plant not to exceed \$1200.00. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Council Member Eisenhauer will contact Alpha to request a donation towards purchasing materials for the dog kennels.

Report and update from Clerks Curtis & Wiers: Discuss the City sponsoring the Angel Tree & Mitten Tree again: Clerks Curtis and Wiers explained to the Council that there is a need in the community for the angel tree and it is a way to give back to the community. Plus, all three clerks in the City Office enjoy working with the angel tree program. Last year, the program served at least 60 children. The Pawnee County Memorial Hospital nurses are big contributors towards the program. DC Wiers had talked with Shelly Dettman from Table Rock Head Start and she said the students could use winter hats and mittens and some students may need a winter coat. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the City Office sponsoring the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree programs again this year. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. DC Wiers will contact the Pawnee City Public Schools to ask them to include information in the school newsletter.

Report and update from Foreman Cumley: Items for discussion are: Discuss Foaming Root Killer Salesperson: Foreman Cumley explained he received a call from a salesperson from Industrial Chem Labs about a foaming root killer that you put in the sewer lines to kill tree roots for up to three months. Cumley thought the salesperson was sending a sample to use but the City received a bill for \$148.00 so he called the salesman and they will mail out a revised bill for around \$43.00. If not, he will send the product back to them. Foreman Cumley stated other cities use a similar product but he is not sure how effective it is and if he wants to continue to use it. Once a line is slip lined, you would not have to use this product but many towns around Pawnee City use it when they “jet” a sewer line. Council Member Eisenhauer moved to approve the purchase of Root Begone foaming root killer for the sewer system. Council Member Fisher

seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. **Discuss new City Crew Employee Brandon Holthus started working for the City on 9/17/2024:** Foreman Cumley stated Mr. Holthus is doing well and he has taken the sewer certification textbooks home to start studying for the test. **Discuss updates to various City projects around town:** The sewer main repair on HWY 50 is completed. Johnson Service Company is in town this week to do slip lining at the school and should be done by the end of the week. Foreman Cumley had contacted the school ahead of time to schedule the slip lining and was told that this week would be fine but now there are volleyball games scheduled every night for four nights. Foreman Cumley and Clerk Curtis explained there is a sewer main that runs underneath the football field and then turns off under the elementary school. There was a bunch of inflow into the sewer line from the creek nearby and there are other problem lines that will be sealed up. The City is being proactive with this area to prevent major problems later especially with the part of the line that runs underneath the elementary school. Recently, the Crew found extra taps on a water line but had to decide which ones to cut open due to houses being on the line at one time but have since been demolished. Foreman Cumley sent information for the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit to the EPA and the lead/copper information to the State. He found this information at the state is a “living” document so the document must be updated whenever there is a change and then the State submits the information to the EPA. The Crew has found 45 lead service lines in the city which are mostly located on G street. Water from these lines will have to be sampled every year until they are replaced. Hopefully, funds will become available to help pay for the replacement of the lead lines. The City Crew plans to finish installing benches at the Van Horne Park, soon. Keith Klepper has requested a water tap at his shop but Cumley is waiting for him to submit his water tap application. The vertical screen is down at the sewer plant and the motor has been removed and sent off. The bearings and the windings are bad. It would cost \$1900 for a new motor like the same one we have or \$900 for a motor from HEMI. Foreman Cumley would like to purchase two motors from HEMI so there is a backup motor available. Council Member Hatfield moved to approve the purchase of two motors for the vertical screen from HEMI for \$900.00 each. Council Member Zelenka seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. There are more road repairs that need completed. The driveway at 509 10th needs repaired due to the drain at the end of it. The first option would be to cap the drain and install an approach and put in trench drains at the bottom of that approach and then that would tie back into the culvert. Constructors would like to re-grade the front of her yard from the driveway to the storm drain to the west so water that doesn't make it into the drain can get back onto the road and into the curb and gutter. The second option would be to redo the whole culvert and install some type of drain. This would all be completed at Constructors' expense. The crew also needs to back fill dirt on both sides of the whole road by Palmer Café.

Water Utility Board & Council Workshop in Roca, NE Sept. 25th from 5:30-8:30: If anyone wants to attend, they need to sign up soon.

Review Correspondence from: Council reviewed the spreadsheet on July 2024 Sales tax of \$19,077.13 with ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax totaling \$4,104.73 and \$2,658.23 being Motor Vehicle Sales Tax. Notice of Proposed Tax Increases (pink postcards) with hearing held on 9/19/2024 were received. The property by the Fire Hall will be removed from the tax roll on

Dec. 31st. Clerk Curtis explained that the City is being taxed on the PCAL park property across the street from the facility. The property was given to PCAL but still in the City's name. There isn't any liability insurance on the property.

Council Member Zelenka moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all in favor of the motion and meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

ATTEST: Kellie A. Wiers, Deputy City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor