

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NELIGH, NEBRASKA  
January 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Neligh was held at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Brent Pickrel, Dale Wilkinson and Ted Hughes. Leonard Miller was absent. Also in attendance were City Attorney Jim McNally, Generation Supervisor Josh Capler, City Supt. Dean Bly, Economic Development Assistant Director Lauren Sheridan-Simonsen, Police Chief Michael Wright, Library Director Jennifer Norton, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes and News Reporters Jenna Hemenway and Carrie Pitzer. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Neligh News and Leader on January 2, 2019. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Council of this meeting. Mayor Hartz offered a prayer before opening the meeting. All proceedings thereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Mayor Hartz presided over the meeting and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Law, located on the east wall of the City Council Chambers was available to the public. Clerk Klabenes recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Wilkinson moved to approve the December 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes as presented.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clerk Klabenes reported the book entry from the sewer fund to the general fund of \$10,000 for a positive fund balance to begin the fiscal year was noted on the December report. She explained the Downtown Revitalization funds were received on December 31<sup>st</sup> and would be transferred in January to the General Fund for reimbursement of December project payments. *Hughes moved to approve the December 2018 Treasurer's report as presented.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Pickrel, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

**RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD BID FOR 2019 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

Clerk Klabenes reported on the bids received for the 7<sup>th</sup> and P Street improvements from Elkhorn Paving for \$60,511.40 and A & R Construction for \$100,178.00. She reported the engineer's estimate was \$55,000. Discussion was held for the sewer camera through the brick manhole and beyond the intersection for tree root inspection. Discussion was held for obtaining a cost estimate for the next meeting for 8" PVC pipe to extend past the new cement of the intersection to replace old sewer line.

*Hughes moved to accept the City Engineer's recommendation for the Elkhorn Paving bid on the street intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> & P Street for \$60,511.40 with a start date of June 1, 2019 and completion date of August 1, 2019.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Pickrel, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

**ONE-AND-SIX YEAR STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Discussion was held for consideration for Wylie Drive cost estimate split into two projects with half of the project from N Street to Penn Park entrance. Discussion noted that the N Street to Penn Park section of Wylie Drive was in poorer condition than the farther west street. Discussion noted the downtown business district alleys on the one year plan. Discussion was held for the impact on the budget, future capital improvement projects and considering the project for payment in the next fiscal year. Discussion was held for setting the public hearing for the one-and-six year plan at the next meeting. *Wilkinson moved to set the public hearing for the One-and-Six Year Street Improvement Plan for February 12, 2019 at 7:30P.M.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Wilkinson Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

## **SEMI-ANNUAL LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT**

Library Director Jennifer Norton presented the semi-annual library report. She reported the library was re-accredited again as a Five-Star Library by the Library Journal. She reported the Neligh Public Library was one of nine libraries to receive this designation. She reported the total print circulation increased to 20,661 volumes and downloadable circulation included 25,629 E-books and 13,784 audiobooks. She reported on the guidelines used to determine the condition of circulation materials to retain or resell. She reported on a recent survey considering the meeting and storage space needs of the current facility and future expansion with capital campaign funds and donations. *Hughes moves to approve the semi-annual library statistical report.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

## **EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Clerk Klabenes presented the health insurance renewals with Blue Cross Blue Shield and United Healthcare for February 1. She reported the current policy renewal showed an 11.63% increase in premium and noted last year's increase was 14.68%. She reported the current plan was phased out and replaced with the next similar H.S.A. Silver plan with a \$3,000 individual and \$6,000 family deductible. Discussion was held for a third quote from National General based on census. Clerk Klabenes reported the third quote had not considered the previous year medical claims and she had received advisement from the insurance broker that the City of Neligh would be denied the third quote option based on recent medical claims. Discussion was held for seeking a quote from National General with review of recent medical claims. *Hughes moved to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield HSA19 Silver NB plan with an 11.63% increase in premium effective with a February 1<sup>st</sup> renewal.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Pickrel, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Hartz recommended the appointment of Tom Parks to the Neligh Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term to April 2020 and Darrel Steckelberg to the Housing Committee for CDBG loans. Mayor Hartz reported of one vacancy on the LB840 Loan Committee and Park Board and asked for public interest in serving on the board. *Wilkinson moved to approve the appointments as presented.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Hughes, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

## **ECONOMIC DIRECTORS REPORT**

Assistant Economic Development Director Lauren Sheridan-Simonsen reported the finals funds in the \$350,000 grant award was committed and several micro façade applications were to be scored. She reported that the new business construction across the street from the Economic Development office was exciting to see develop. She reported website updates were being finalized by the ED Board and Strategic Committee. She reported interviews for the ED Director were scheduled for later in the week with recommendation to the City Council at the February meeting. She reported she was in the Clearwater office Thursday mornings and was working on a QuickBooks/Excel class for the Clearwater business community. She reported on two events coming up with the Ag Expo in March and the bicycle group BRAN in June with anticipation of 700-900 people. *Hughes moved to approve the Assistant Economic Development Directors report.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Wright thanked Assistant Chief Kraig Nelson and City Attorney McNally for the work on nuisance property cases. He reported new police officer Ternus started January 1<sup>st</sup> and requested consideration for one week of vacation before employment anniversary as awarded with the hire of Officer Nelson. *Hughes moved to approve the hiring of Darin Ternus as police officer effective January 1 at a salary of \$47,365.25 and with one week of paid vacation before employment anniversary.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were

Hughes, Wilkinson, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried. *Wilkinson moved to approve the December Police report of 403 calls.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Hughes, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

#### **CITY SUPT. REPORT**

City Supt. Bly reported cardboard recycling was shipping to Green Fiber in Norfolk and plastics to FirstStar in Omaha. He reported he was awaiting further contact from the glass recycling contact. *Hughes moved to approve the Supt. report.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Pickrel, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

#### **ELECTRIC REPORT**

Generation Supervisor Capler reported the electric department had no outages to report on for the month. He reported Lineman Ellenwood was starting the final book in the Merchant program. He reported no issues with the generation plant, test runs went well and the plant was fueled and ready. He reported the electric line north of town was pending further information for discussion. *Wilkinson moved to approve the Electric report.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Wilkinson, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

#### **CONSIDERATION FOR NURSING HOME SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Clerk Klabenes reported Great Plains Appraisal was continuing to work on information compilation to further analyze for the study.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

*Wilkinson moved to approved Drawdown #18 for project funds for \$24,491.08 for completed downtown revitalization projects and construction management fees to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District for \$180.00 and Drawdown #19 for general administration fees to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District for \$1,020.00.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Hughes, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

*Wilkinson moved to approve the bills as presented.* Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Wilkinson, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

There being no further business to conduct, *Pickrel moved to adjourn.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Thereupon Mayor Hartz declared the meeting adjourned. Time 8:12 P.M.

City of Neligh

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Joe Hartz, Mayor

ATTEST

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that

January 8, 2019; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to members of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

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City Clerk

(SEAL)