

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NELIGH, NEBRASKA

January 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Neligh was held at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Leonard Miller, Dale Wilkinson, Steph Wanek and Ted Hughes. Also in attendance were City Attorney Jim McNally, Generation Supervisor Josh Capler, Economic Development Director Gabriel Steinmeyer, Police Chief Michael Wright, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes, Librarian Jennifer Norton, News Reporters Laura Anderson and Carrie Pitzer. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Neligh News and Leader on January 3, 2018. 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. City Clerk Klabenes recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council member Wanek moved to approve the December 12th regular meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Discussion was held for the electric generation and wind power expenses in the first quarter of the fiscal year. City Attorney McNally reported how the wind power open market price was lower than the current contract price thus the current wind power cost the city more than the market price, but the market price was likely to increase. *Wilkinson moved to approve the December 2017 Treasurer's report as presented.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wilkinson, Wanek, Hughes. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held for future projects including water extension along east Highway 275, street projects and sewer plant improvements.

NELIGH AMERICAN LEGION SPECIAL DESIGNATED LIQUOR LICENSE

Wilkinson moved to approve the Neligh American Legion for a special designated liquor license for a February 10th reception at the Antelope County Ag Society building. Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Hughes, Miller, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

SEMI-ANNUAL LIBRARY STATISTICAL REPORT

Library Director Jennifer Norton presented the semi-annual library report. She reported the library was re-accredited at the highest level of the Gold Level by the Nebraska Library Commission and was recognized as a Five-Star Library by the Library Journal. She reported less than 10 Nebraska libraries received this designation. The Council congratulated Director Norton and her staff for the honors. She reported the number of visits to the library had increased over 1,000 from the previous year and total circulation exceeded 58,000 items which had increased by 2,500 from the previous year. She reported the outreach programs included 4 daycare centers which would increase after the holidays. Director Norton recognized the financial contributions of the City of Neligh, Antelope County, State of Nebraska, Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation. *Hughes moves to approve the semi-annual library statistical report.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Wanek, Miller, Hughes. Opposed: None. 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 a 14.68% increase in premium which was budgeted at 15%. She reported on 4 additional options with higher deductibles, out of pocket costs or premiums. She reported that while the renewal of the current policy saw a 14% increase in premium, it maintained the current deductible and out of pocket costs and allowed employees with January medical services to meet the deductible in January without starting over at the February renewal. *Hughes moved to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield 203 Silver H.S.A. current plan with a 14.68% increase in premium effective with a February 1st renewal.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Hughes, Wilkinson, Miller. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

ONE-AND-SIX YEAR STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Discussion was held for placing Wylie Drive and the downtown commercial district alleys between 3rd Street and 5th Street on the one year plan. Discussion was held for the alley between 3rd Street and 4th Street next to ESU #8 and Thriftway to be worked on following the completion of the ESU #8 project. Discussion was held for setting the public hearing for the one-and-six year plan. *Wanek moved to place Wylie Drive on the one-*

year plan with 4 blocks in the downtown commercial district alleys between 3rd Street and 5th Street on the one-year plan and to set the public hearing for February 13, 2018 at 7:30P.M. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wilkinson Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried. Hughes left the meeting at 7:30P.M.

RESOLUTION 2018-1 SCHEDULE OF FEES

City Attorney McNally reported the fees for 2017-2018 were updated in the schedule allowed by resolution instead of by ordinance and included the small business electric rates and the ATV/UTV/Golf car rates set in September. *Wilkinson introduced and moved for passage Resolution 2018-1 establishing and imposing rates for the use of city utility and miscellaneous services.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Miller, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Thereupon Mayor Hartz declared Resolution 2018-1 adopted.

NELIGH INDEPENDENT LIVING CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Economic Development Director Gabriel Steinmeyer presented the developer site construction costs of \$70,993.00 and the city public improvements of \$276,155.35 for the Neligh Independent Living project. Discussion was held for estimated tax increment financing projections close to covering the site construction and improvement costs instead of assessing to neighboring property owners. No action was taken.

ORDINANCE 609 REGISTRATION OF ATV/UTV VEHICLES AND AMENDING GOLF CAR VEHICLE PERMITS

City Attorney McNally reported he had amended the ordinances for consistency regarding the Police Chief or other officer to approve the vehicles conditions and placement of the permit on the windshield or front fender. *Council member Wilkinson introduced the following ordinance entitled:*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NELIGH, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SECTION 1A OF ORDINANCE 608; REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ATV/UTV VEHICLES; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

And moved that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different times be suspended. Council member Miller seconded the motion to suspend the rules and upon roll call vote on the motion, the following Council members voted YEA: Miller, Wanek, Wilkinson. The following voted NAY: None. Absent: Hughes. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted by three-fourths of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said ordinances.

Said ordinances were then read by title and thereafter, *Council member Wilkinson moved for final passage of the ordinances,* which motion was seconded by Council member Miller. The Mayor then stated the questions, "Shall Ordinance No. 609 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Council Members voted YEA: Wilkinson, Miller, Wanek. The following voted NAY: None. Absent: Hughes. The passage and adoption of said ordinance, having been concurred in by three-fourths of all members of the City Council, the Mayor declared the ordinances were adopted and approved of the same and affixed his signature thereto and ordered the City Clerk to publish said ordinances one time as prescribed by law.

ECONOMIC DIRECTORS REPORT

Economic Development Director Gabriel Steinmeyer reported that a speaker would present in February to area schools on youth entrepreneurship in rural Nebraska as part of the Northeast Nebraska Network meeting. He reported the Ag & Home Expo was coming in March. He reported that his office would be having coffee with patrons on the first Friday of each month at the Senior Citizen Center to generate and gather ideas for the community. *Wilkinson moved to approve the Economic Development Director's report.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Wanek, Miller. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Wright reported he was working on two quotes for new speed sign trailers. Mayor Hartz requested the speed sign to be placed on Highway 275. Discussion was held for the smaller speed signs along the highway, similar to Elgin or Battle Creek, required permission from the state for placement on the highway and a separate electrical hookup. The Chief reported Officer Nelson had attended an accident reconstruction class in December and with his attendance, received the software for free which was valued at \$1500. He reported the officers would be attending a different training later this month. *Wanek moved to approve the December police report of 290 calls.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Wanek, Miller. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried.

CITY SUPT. REPORT

Generation Supervisor Capler reported for Supt. Bly who was absent. He reported the part-time solid waste assistant position was still seeking applications. He reported the sewer operator had not fulfilled a two week notice and the position was offered to another city employee for consideration. He reported Curt Madsen was interviewed for a position dependent on the vacancy of the sewer operator or solid waste. He requested consideration to hire Madsen at \$13.00 an hour. *Wilkinson moved to approve hiring Curt Madsen at \$13.00 an hour.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Wanek, Miller. Opposed: None. Absent:

Hughes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Capler also reported the snow plows were ready pending the weather reports of a winter storm later in the week. *Wanek moved to approve the Supt. report.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wilkinson, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried.

ELECTRIC REPORT

Generation Supervisor Capler presented a bid tab from JEO Consulting for 3 quotes for the backup step-up transformer. Discussion was held for a concrete pad to be poured upon arrival to set the backup step-up transformer in place. *Wanek moved to approve the bid from Solomon Corporation of \$31,545.00 for the step-up transformer.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried.

City Attorney McNally reported he had reviewed the electric rates with the city clerk and found the upper rate tiers to be favorable instead of the lower tiers not as comparable with other electric companies. He recommended re-evaluating the rate schedule during budget planning when more monthly information was available. No action was taken.

Supervisor Capler reported on one outage east of town. He reported on a relay on the main subfeeder. He reported that MEAN had setup the urge test for February after deeming Neligh to be a winter peak community instead of a summer test. He also reported that what used to be a 5-year test would be run at the same time as the urge test and save the city from having to purchase additional power estimated at \$7,000 savings. *Wilkinson moved to approve the Electric report.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wanek, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Wanek moved to approve Drawdown #3 for grant administration of \$615 to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development and Drawdown #4 for construction management of \$930 to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development and \$3700 to Carhart Lumber for commercial rehab for CDBG Downtown Revitalization grant funds. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business to conduct, *Miller moved to adjourn.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Hughes. Thereupon Mayor Hartz declared the meeting adjourned. Time 8:31 P.M.

City of Neligh

Joe Hartz, Mayor

ATTEST

Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that on January 9, 2018; 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.

City Clerk

(SEAL)