

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

April 11, 2017

The regular meeting of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Neligh was held at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Mayor Joe Hartz and Council Members, Leonard Miller, Steph Wanek and Ted Hughes. Absent: Dale Wilkinson. Also in attendance were City Attorney Jim McNally, Policeman Kraig Nelson, Economic Development Director Greg Ptacek, Generation Supervisor Josh Capler, Deputy City Clerk Rhonda Heithoff, Jennifer and Ed Pellatz, Vanessa and Jackson Nelson and Tessa Hain. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Neligh News and Leader on April 5, 2017. 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. Deputy City Clerk, Rhonda Heithoff, recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Council member Hughes moved to approve the March 14th regular meeting and the March 31<sup>st</sup> special meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wanek, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

*Wanek moved to approve the March 2017 treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Hughes, Miller. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.*

### SWINGING BRIDGE

City Attorney James McNally reported about the swinging bridge. He had spoken to City Engineer John Zwingman about the bridge who had contacted 3 contractors. He reported that the 3 contractors were not interested because it is a small project and they were concerned about the liability. He reported \$13,500 was left from the anonymous donor of the Old Mill Bridge project. He had researched online for ideas and would like to research some more. The matter was tabled to next month.

### ARBORIST LICENSE FOR CRAIG HECKERT

Jim McNally advised that Council approval was needed for only the first year of an arborist license. After the first year Heckert will need to renew the license with the City Clerk. *Wanek moved to approve the Arborist license for Craig Heckert. Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Hughes and Miller. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.*

### LICQUOR LICENSE FOR BUFF'S DEW DROP

A special designated liquor license for the Baker wedding at Riverside Park was requested. *Wanek moved to approve the special designated liquor license for Robert Hanson of Buff's Dew Drop at Riverside Park Pavilion on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wanek and Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.*

### APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Hartz recommended the re-appointment of Laurie Huffman to the Tree Board for a 3 year term. Mayor Hartz recommended the appointment of Andy Elder to the Economic Development Board for the unexpired term to October 2019. Mayor Hartz also recommended the appointment of Andy Elder to the CRA for an unexpired term to Sept 2017. The Housing Authority appointment was tabled to next month. *Motion was*

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

## **ECONOMIC DIRECTORS REPORT**

Economic Development Director Greg Ptacek asked for permission to close 5<sup>th</sup> Street from L Street to the alley for the Children's Mobile Museum from May 3-May 5<sup>th</sup> as part of Nebraska's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood. *The motion was made by Hughes to approve the street closing of 5<sup>th</sup> Street from L Street to the alley for the Children's Mobile Museum on May 3 through May 5.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Hughes and Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Greg Ptacek Economic Development Director requested action for the downtown revitalization applications. The applicants were Creative Woman funding request \$1,500.00, Antelope County Chiropractic funding request \$1,500.00 and Neligh Flower Shop funding request \$532.50. *The motion was made by Hughes to approve the applications as presented.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Discussion was held to pledge a commitment of \$2,500.00 from the Lottery fund to CORE contingent upon an award of grant and a project in Neligh. The Council advised the pledge be taken from LB840 instead of the Lottery fund. Discussion was held for more advertising in the community about CORE. *The motion was made by Miller to pledge a commitment of \$2,500 from the LB840 fund contingent upon a grant awarded and a project accepted in Neligh.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Hughes, Miller. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Greg Ptacek recommended committee names for the board whom will conduct interviews for the Economic Development Director position. He reported he had received 15 applications for the position. Ptacek reported that interviews would begin the week of April 17<sup>th</sup> or April 24<sup>th</sup>. He plans to have a recommendation by the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committee names recommended were Terry Jensen, Andy Elder, Melissa Smith, Steph Wanek, Greg Ptacek and Joe Hartz. *Hughes moved to approve the recommended committee members as presented.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Hughes and Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Ptacek reported that he had information from a meeting about purchasing thermostats for peak load times. He will visit with Josh Capler and research it more. Discussion was held for interest in purchasing a house downtown to use for parking. Ptacek will do the research for the project. *The motion was made by Miller to approve the Economic Development Directors report.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Miller, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Policeman Kraig Nelson filled in for Chief Wright. He reported that the camera system should be installed by May 15. The new cameras should have a better resolution than the old ones. *Wanek moved to approve the March police report of 369 calls.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

## **CITY SUPT. REPORT**

City Supt. Bly accepted Carl Bruce Pitzer's resignation as of April 7, 2017. Pitzer was a solid waste department employee. Walt Patras had been hired to fill the position. *Wanek moved to approve the resignation of Carl Bruce Pitzer, with regrets.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Discussion was held for a wage increase for a solid waste employee. Discussion was held for the health issues involved with the position handling solid waste. Discussion was held for the raise increments provided to water, electric and sewer departments with certifications or licenses. Discussion was held for considering a human resources committee or a performance review system for raises over a cost of living increase, certification and licenses, and long term employment. *Hughes made the motion to approve a 50 cent raise per hour to*

*William Brandt which will be effective the next pay period beginning April 15, 2017.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Miller, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Vanessa Nelson and Tessa Hain approached the board for selling ice cream at the pool for a Women of Neligh service project. They stated that they would run it like it has been done in the past. They planned to order from Schwann's and the profit would be given to the city for pool improvements. *Hughes made a motion to approve the Women of Neligh service project of selling ice cream at the Neligh pool.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wanek, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Supt. Bly recommended hiring Will Paul and Tyson Belitz for summer employment. *Hughes made a motion to approve hiring Will Paul at \$9.50 per hour and Tyson Belitz at \$9.00 per hour.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wanek, Miller. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Ed Pellatz, representative for the Antelope County Ag Society, met with the Council to discuss building a shelter in Riverside Park with the Antelope County Ag Society and possible other organizations contributing. A revised bid from Carharts was \$14,812 for a 30 x50 foot open building. The city will do the electrical and the dirt excavation. Discussion was held for concern about the liability when constructing the building. Council requested that a barrier be put up around the construction area. Paul Ruterbories will be the builder with an estimated June 1 deadline. After other contributions the city will pay for half of the cost of the building. *Hughes made a motion to approve the building project and contribute half of the cost after donations.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Hughes, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

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

#### **ELECTRIC REPORT**

Generation Supervisor Josh Capler reported he had revised the Neligh Electric rebate form. He compared items with NPPD, ERPPD and OPPD. He added LED fixtures. Water heaters and some other items were not changed. *Hughes made a motion to approve the amended rebate form.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Miller, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Jim McNally City Attorney reported that the line of credit for MEAN power agreement had been reduced by \$25,000.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

Discussion was held for McNally Law providing an updated file to upload to the City website for a one-time fee of \$300 and future updates were included in the fee. Currently Clerk Klabenes scans the code book into the website one chapter at a time. *Miller moved to approve the online municipal code book for a \$300 one-time fee.* Seconded by Hughes. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Hughes, Wanek. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Motion carried.

There being no further business to conduct, *Wanek moved to adjourn.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Miller, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Wilkinson. Thereupon Mayor Hartz declared the meeting adjourned. Time 8:30 P.M.

City of Neligh

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Joe Hartz, Mayor

ATTEST

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Rhonda L. Heithoff, Deputy City Clerk

## **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that April 11, 2017; 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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Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)