

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NELIGH MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
January 29, 2020

A special meeting of the City Council, Economic Development Board and Chamber of Commerce of the City of Neligh was held on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Joe Hartz and Council Members Brent Pickrel, Leonard Miller, Dale Wilkinson and Ted Hughes. Economic Development Members present were Andy Elder, Traci Jacobsen, Krista Schindler and Tyler Pedersen. Absent was Al Stelling. Chamber of Commerce members present were Steve Simonsen, Jill Kallhoff and Traci Jacobsen. Absent was Matt Goracke. Also in attendance were City Attorney Jim McNally, Economic Development Director Lauren Sheridan-Simonsen, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes, Luann Schindler, Brian & Gloria Christiansen, Rich & Mary Burgess, Craig & Melissa Smith, Cody and Abigail Frank, Jennifer Norton and Diane Carlin. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in four public places on January 21, 2020. A copy of the City Council acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Mayor Hartz offered a prayer before opening the meeting. All proceedings hereafter 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 Council Chambers is available for the public. Clerk Klabenes recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **DIRECTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Discussion was held for continuing with a simultaneous movement on both housing and job creation as both are needed to work together and support each other. Discussion was held that Neligh should be looking for people that want to be business owners in a small town. Discussion was held for reaching out to people and announcing that Neligh is open for business with LB840 funds to assist new businesses. Discussion was held on dilapidated housing and City Attorney McNally explained one process for resolving housing conditions through the court, but audience and board members acknowledged the difficulty with absentee owners and owners with limited finances to rectify housing conditions. Discussion was held for Economic Development to continue developing a revolving loan program for homes to be built on a lot as the board had budgeted for and initiated for the current fiscal year. Discussion was held for the three boards in attendance to have a joint meeting again every 2 to 5 years.

Discussion was held that the Economic Development office furnace would have to be repaired or replaced and would be discussed at the February City Council meeting. Discussion was held that the windows were old and would not open. Discussion was held that the building location is an entry point coming into town to remain an attractive lot.

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POSITION**

Discussion was held that the Assistant Director position has helped with the Chamber of Commerce increasing membership by 20% which has financially improved the Chamber. Discussion was held that the position helps considerably with the AG & Home Expo, the social media forums for advertising and marketing Neligh and the partnership between businesses and the city. Discussion was held that the position was a good fit and a valuable position to maintain the economic development. Discussion was held for reviewing the job description for including tourism and marketing services and a copy of the current job description was shared. Discussion was held for hiring a professional marketing firm to assist with a professional video and in further marketing Neligh. *Council Member Hughes moved to authorize the Economic Development Board to hire a full-time assistant director.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Miller, Hughes, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

#### **CONTRACTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Discussion was held for consideration of the contract with the Village of Clearwater upon the contract expiration. Discussion followed that some housing grant funds were available to Neligh due to the merge with Clearwater for a stronger application. Discussion was held that economic development resources were available to Neligh through other agencies due to the contract with Clearwater. Discussion was held that when Neligh began LB840, Neligh was the only community in Antelope County to begin LB840 and that when the Village of Clearwater adopted LB840, a contract for services was opened with Clearwater. Discussion was held that the Village of

Orchard had recently adopted LB840 and formed the necessary boards and Orchard was having a meeting the following week with Ewing and Clearwater to discuss economic development. Discussion was held that by not continuing to contract services with communities in Antelope County would be taking a step backwards instead of progressing forward. It was the consensus of the boards to continue contracting services with Clearwater.

There being no further business to conduct Council member Wilkinson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Miller, Wilkinson, Hughes. Opposed: None. Thereupon Mayor Hartz declared the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:20 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 the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Council on January 29, 2020 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 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.

(SEAL)

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk