

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

January 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Neligh was held at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Dale Wilkinson, Ted Hughes and Brent Pickrel. Absent were Mayor Hartz and Leonard Miller. Also in attendance were City Attorney James McNally, City Supt. Dan Donaldson, City Clerk Danielle Klabenes, Economic Development Director Lauren Sheridan-Simonsen, News Report Anne Dexter, Garrett Jacobsen and Don Weinman. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Antelope County News on January 5, 2022. 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. All proceedings thereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Council President 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**

*Council member Wilkinson moved to approve the December 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes with the correction of the heading change of hiring a library custodian changed to hiring of a Dial-A-Ride driver. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Pickrel, Wilkinson, Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.*

## **TREASURER REPORT**

Clerk Klabenes reported that the lease purchase financing funds of \$297,215 had arrived at the end of December with the funds included in the General Fund cash balance. She reported the first tranche of the American Rescue Plan funds of \$132,829 were also placed in the General fund cash balance. She reported other collections received in December included the MEAN settlement of \$96,096 in the Electric fund, a paving assessment payoff for R Street and the first LB840 loan disbursed was paid in full. *Council member Pickrel moved to approve the December 2021 Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Wilkinson, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.*

## **LB840 REPORT FROM CITIZENS ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Representative Garrett Jacobsen presented the semi-annual report on the LB840 program activities since the last report provided in May 2021. He reported the LB840 program had received \$40,712 in sales tax revenue. He reported that \$28,967 was expended for community grant programs, professional fees, loan application fees and advertising. He reported one new loan was issued to EHH Shamrock for \$14,000. He reported the committee found the LB840 program to be spent in a manner appropriate with state statutes. *Wilkinson moved to approve the Citizens Advisory Review Committee report on the LB840 program as presented by Garrett Jacobsen. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Hughes, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS REPORT**

Economic Development Director Sheridan-Simonsen reported the Economic Development Board had met the previous night and elected Tyler Pedersen as Chairman. She reported the February meeting was going to be moved to February 8<sup>th</sup> to meet with a quorum. She distributed booklets featuring the historic attractions in Neligh that are also featured in the new app. She reported on work underway for the Antelope County Job and Career fair which anticipates 200 students to attend with the option to take 2 tours among Blackburn Manufacturing, Pitzer Digital, Two Rivers, Stealth and the Neligh Electric Generation Plant. She reported the housing grant was submitted before the January 7<sup>th</sup> deadline and notice of award was expected in March. She reported the Chamber was preparing for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Antelope County Ag & Home Expo to take place on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. She reported the first home built in Clearwater from the community housing group was successfully sold within 2 weeks. She reported she would be attending the next Leadership session in Lincoln with focus on the legislature and meeting with Senators and the Governor. *Pickrel moved to approve the Economic Development Director report. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Pickrel, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.*

Director Sheridan-Simonsen reported the Economic Development board recommended a façade grant for the Flenniken Electric building totaling \$2,492 for a grant of \$1,000. She reported the project was to replace a garage door and noted that due to supply chain issues, the door could take 5 months to arrive. *Wilkinson moved to approve an exterior façade grant application for the Flenniken Electric building for \$1,000.00. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Pickrel, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.*

## **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Wright was absent due to illness. *Wilkinson moved to approve the December police report of 274*

*calls*. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Hughes, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

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

City Supt. Dan Donaldson reported the cart tipper was installed on the garbage truck in anticipation of the new garbage tote option but due to the design some modifications were made to allow attachment with current dumpsters to fit. Donaldson reported the concern was shared with the vendor installing the tipper and the vendor removed material and labor charges of \$1,300 from the invoice. He also reported on two leaks detected. One was repaired on a 4 inch water main to the sewer plant and the other on the force main from the park lift station to the sewer plant. The Supt. also reported on the removal of a large tree in the Riverside Park campgrounds. Discussion was held for removing 2 dead scotch pine trees. *Pickrel moved to approve the City Supt. report as presented*. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Pickrel, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

Discussion was held for 3 bridge inspections to be completed for a cost estimate of \$5,100 by JEO Consulting. *Wilkinson moved to approve the cost estimate of \$5,100 to complete 3 bridge inspections*. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Hughes, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

#### **ELECTRIC REPORT**

Electric Generation Supervisor Capler was absent. City Attorney McNally reported on a higher than usual charge for transmission congestion that came across the November billing from MEAN. He provided a 24-month listing of the same charge noting the November amount was out of range. He reported the bill was paid and a better explanation would be available at the February meeting.

The City Attorney reported on an option to market the renewable energy credits found on the cities wind energy bills. He reported the renewable energy credits can be sold to companies needing to purchase green energy. He reported on an option to market such credits with Grand Island and Nebraska City. A draft of an agreement with Grand Island was provided as well as a copy of the broker agreement Grand Island has. Discussion was held that Grand Island is not asking for fees to market the renewable energy credits with Grand Island's supply of energy credits but Grand Island is extending the same option to Neligh as Nebraska City currently holds to market the energy credits. *Wilkinson moved to approve entering into a contract with the City of Grand Island to include Neligh's renewable energy credits in the purchase and sale of renewable energy credits agreement*. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Pickrel, Hughes, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

*Wilkinson moved to approve the current claims filed and to approve payments made for recurring claims made during the preceding month, except the Blackstrap invoice for \$392.90*. Seconded by Pickrel. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Pickrel, Hughes. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

*Pickrel moved to approve Drawdown 39 for \$1,685.78 to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District for grant administration of the Downtown Revitalization project*. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

#### **FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE**

Discussion was held for rescheduling the February 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to an alternative date for a quorum to be present. *Pickrel moved to move the regular scheduled February City Council meeting to Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM for a quorum to be present*. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Hughes, Pickrel. Opposed: None. Absent: Miller. Motion carried.

There being no further business to conduct, *Pickrel moved to adjourn*. Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Pickrel, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Thereupon Council President Hughes declared the meeting adjourned. Time 7:40 P.M.

City of Neligh

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Ted Hughes, Council President

ATTEST

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that on January 11, 2022; 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 for public inspection at least twenty-four hours before the meeting; 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.

(SEAL)

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City Clerk