

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Community Center. Members present: Mayor Ratzlaff; Councilmembers Horne, Phillips, Knehans, Reynolds; Attorney McCracken; Superintendent Mahin and Clerk Meline.

Mayor Ratzlaff called the meeting to order and asked those present to join the council in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. He then stated the Open Meetings Act is posted on the west wall for viewing by the public.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve the renewal of the Class CK Liquor Licenses for: On The Brix, Palace Lounge, Knock Em' Over Alley and South 40. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve the Police Report submitted by Sheriff Schmitz. Motion carried. Sheriff Schmitz was not in attendance.

Thomas Sutton was scheduled to meet with the council in regards to a nuisance letter he received but notified the City Clerk he would not be able to attend the meeting.

Jarrod McCartney met with the council to give several updates. He spoke about the work accomplished by the interns from the Rural Futures Institute, Trevor Harlow and Trenton Buhr. Because of the work they accomplished, the Economic Development Advisory Committee will be able to move forward with the Leadership Certification. He also talked about LB357 and LB840 but because of some stumbling blocks they have encountered they will not be able to address these in time enough to get on the 2018 ballot. The earliest it could be put on a ballot is the spring of 2020. Other information: the website traffic is up 31.5% over the previous year and nearly 45% with the new website; Street Car Days was a success and the 5K/Obstacle Course was well attended; Good Living Tour was attended by 300 people during the course of the day. They hope to incorporate a form of the Good Living Tour in with the annual Street Car Days celebration next year. Nebraska Life Magazine will feature Red Cloud in its November/December issue that should be available just before Halloween. A design company has been hired for the proposed hotel and Tru-Built will do the construction. Funding will be 1/3 donations, 1/3 investors and the rest through bank loans. The Community Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce together donated \$1,800 to the Red Cloud High School Greenhouse project. He will write a grant to hopefully obtain another \$1,800 for the project. These are just some of the updates presented.

Gary Shipman met with the council in regards to the twenty (20) acres of CRP land he rented from the City out by the C & D Site for several years. The lease agreement was recently terminated. Due to payments he had received before the dissolution of the lease, he had to reimburse \$2,766.38. Attorney McCracken had followed up with the FSA and the City is not legally responsible as a 0% participant. He would like the City to consider reimbursing him the \$2,766.38 because he was originally told the city needed two (2) acres and ended up taking six (6) acres for the C & D Site. The council would like to see copies of the bills and payments before they make a decision on his request.

Next on the agenda was the time for Public Comments. Not one in attendance wished to address the council.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve the July Financial Reports and City Sales Tax Report. Motion carried. The City Sales Tax received in July for the month of April was \$15,675.32 compared to \$15,113.56 for the same month last year.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the claims presented for payment. Motion carried. These will be listed in full at the end of the minutes.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to pass Resolution #697 to publish the salaries by title. Motion carried.

An item tabled from the July meeting was the excessive speed in the downtown business district. Councilwoman Reynolds has checked into this and one suggestion was to get electric speed limit signs that show the speed you are going. The signs cost \$10,000 which isn't feasible for the City. She stated it was recommended to wait to see what the State Dept. of Transportation decides to do with the highway and let them pay for the sign.

Next Councilwoman Reynolds told the council about a recycling grant available from the NDEQ. We have till September 29th to apply for the grant.

Mayor Ratzlaff and Councilman Horne reported on a meeting they recently had with the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation about the brick streets. The meeting consisted of State representatives, two council members and two members of the Historic Preservation Commission. They stated they revisited old possibilities, looked at different scenarios, but mostly the meeting was to re-establish the relationship between the State and City and to move forward. Another meeting is scheduled for the same group, but eventually there will be public meetings.

The Fall Clean-up is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th. Reynolds asked the council if it was okay for her to seek donations to have the shredder here again, there was no objection. Then it was brought up to have the city crew pick up yard waste on that day. Superintendent Mahin stated the crew doesn't have time to help out and from past experiences knows how people take advantage. It was decided not to offer yard waste pick up.

South Heartland District Health Dept. had contacted the office as to allowing them to put an insert in with one of the monthly utility bills. After some discussion Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to allow the insert however they would like to see the insert first. Motion carried. Clerk Meline will contact them to get a copy of the insert.

The Scout Lodge was put on the agenda to discuss what the building could be used for. Earlier the council had decided to rent out the building but since there is no kitchen it has only been rented once. Currently there are no scouts using the building either. There were some residents in attendance that would like to use the building for a Fitness Center with free weights. It would be set up like the Community Center as to paying membership and using key fobs for entry. The council appointed a committee to look into coming up with a plan, equipment, etc. and present to the council. Members of the committee: Mike Goebel, Danny Bengel, Justin Zywiec, Kevin Daehling, Marianne Reynolds and someone from the hospital.

Next the council needs to change the date of the September meeting as Labor Day is the day before the meeting therefore making it difficult to get ready for the meeting. The Clerk would like an extra day to prepare for the meeting. After a brief discussion the council decided to move the meeting to Wednesday, September 5th.

Attorney McCracken presented the council with the Memorandum of Understanding between Cherry Corner Estates and the City. It was decided to do this so even when there are different employees and Board members it will be in writing the responsibilities of both parties. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve said memorandum. Motion carried.

John Hodge from Nuckolls County has agreed to be our new prosecuting attorney. In visiting with Mr. Hodge, McCracken feels they are on the same page of how to proceed with the nuisance properties, so he feels hopeful we can proceed and get these properties cleaned up. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to hire Mr. Hodge as the new prosecuting attorney. Motion carried. The council

would like Mr. Hodge to attend the September meeting to meet him and make sure everyone is on the same page on proceeding with the numerous nuisance properties.

Superintendent Mahin gave his monthly update. Since we are short-handed this summer, the guys have been helping the Cemetery Sexton with string trimming and mowing the cemetery. This has put the line crew behind on their work. They have been working on street lights. Recently had the multi-purpose floor sealed and coated. A lot of work went into getting ready for Street Car Days: cleaning main street/painting lines, curbs, painted the fascia on the park restroom building, edged the sidewalks, added picnic tables and toters. Had to replace all the steps on all three (3) lifeguard stands. Sapp Bros. took the annual engine oil samples at the power plant. He will attend a meeting with the Lower Republican Natural Resources District Board on Thursday to discuss the city dam looking for possible partnership and moving forward. There was one outage during the month for transformer maintenance and one (1) back up at the sewer plant. Most citizens didn't realize it but the power plant generated for two (2) days supplying power to the town while work was being done on the transformer at the Power Plant. Todd presented the council and those in attendance pictures of the transformer and the work that was done and still needs to be done. Three (3) bushing were replaced at the cost of \$3,500 per bushing. The immediate tap changer maintenance and testing is \$13,061 then the transformer is to have a tap changer maintenance and testing done every five (5) years at a cost of \$12,042 and an annual inspection of \$2,031. The tap changer controller needs to be replaced and this will cost \$15,519.08. This has to be done. All this will be paid for out of the Cash Management Reserve Funds set up years ago for exactly this purpose. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to enter into the Service Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried. Then Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to replace the tap changer controller. Motion carried. Next he stated he had been contacted by Alex Stogdill doing an internship with South Heartland District Health Department in Hastings who is working on walking signage that he is in the process of working on with other communities. If the City is interested there could be 6 or so signs. These signs are for directional references that would correlate to the amount of time it would take to walk to city properties or points of interest. There is no cost to the City; this is being funded by a grant. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to check into it. Horne, Knehans, Reynolds vote yea, while Phillips voted nay. Motion carried. Lastly he had met with the water system consultant from Utility Service Group in regards to power washing the exterior of the water tower. The current contract with them for maintenance does not include the power washing only exterior renovations and coatings (painting). They do have a maintenance agreement for the power washing every three(3) years with the first wash being done in 2019 since it has been two(2) years since it was last done for the amount of \$4,278 annually or \$1,069 quarterly which is how the other maintenance agreement is set up. The council just decided to look into it. There was one building permit issued since the last meeting for a fence for Thomas Sutton at 526 N. Cedar Street.

Clerk Meline presented the council with the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget to take home and look over and then asked them to determine a date for a Budget Work Session. It was decided to meet on Tuesday, August 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Old business is the nuisance properties. Attorney McCracken stated he had mailed some letters out. There was some discussion about a car and refrigerators out behind a business downtown. It was stated the car has been there a long time and the refrigerators are a safety hazard.

There was no new business to be discussed.

Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to enter into executive session at 9:25 p.m. because of the decisions made on electric equipment tonight and if it would have any bearing on a discussion in a previous executive session. Motion carried. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to resume the open meeting at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to be had and done by the Mayor and City Council, Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to adjourn said meeting at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried.

The council will hold a work session on Tuesday, August 21st to go over the budget. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m.

The following is a complete list of claims approved for payment:

Presto X, exterminating services	146.59
Rutt's Heating & A/C, gauge for pool/relief valve for PP	240.00
Nationwide, 7/16 retirement contribution	1,348.43
Medicare, 7/16 payroll taxes	518.18
Social Security, 7 16 payroll taxes	2,215.48
Withholding, 7/16 payroll taxes	1,097.44
Great Plains, telephone bills	1,011.02
United HealthCare, health insurance	6,712.67
The Lincoln National Life Ins., life insurance	186.20
R & M Disposal, trash pickup	11,786.50
State Income Tax, for July	835.84
AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted	303.71
Various, business insurance fund	6,871.70
Various, officer's salary	914.19
Various, economic development	2,195.25
Various, general fund	875.01
Medicare, 8/1 payroll taxes	574.34
Social Security, 8/1 payroll taxes	2,455.83
Withholding, 8/1 payroll taxes	1,257.61
Nationwide, 8/1 retirement contribution	1,561.22
Aramark, janitorial services	315.28
J & A Auto, parts	354.68
Olson Enterprises, fuel & repairs	1,885.56
CPI, fuel & chemicals	149.00
Cardmember Service, battery backup, safety supplies	762.15
Border States, electric supplies	4,288.83
Black Hills Energy, natural gas service	822.23
Principal, dental insurance	622.61
C & D Service Center, parts & repairs	267.09
Kenny Lumber, materials & supplies	895.87

ELECTRIC

Scarborough Construction, repairs to Power Plant roof	8,865.00
Sapp Brothers, oil samples – PP engines	100.00
Postmaster, utility bill postage	229.71
Olson Enterprises, fuel for power plant	6,867.00
SCEDD, Electric Efficiency Study grant	1,000.00
JEO, Electric Efficiency Study grant	2,735.00
Nebraska.gov, overpayment to our account	16,165.00
Electric, for bond & interest	2,000.00

Nationwide, retirement loan payment	59.81
Adams County Court, garnishment	71.03
Todd Mahin, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Jason Franssen, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Joe Hersh, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Corporate Image, plaque for Mayor Ratzlaff	120.00
League of NE Municipalities, annual dues	944.00
MEAN, Kw's purchased for June	77,433.08
Postmaster, 5 rolls of stamps	245.00
WAPA, purchased power July	6,529.26
Central NE Collections LLC, collection services	321.94
Oven Lovin' Creations, cake for Mayor celebration	219.35
Salaries	8,944.93

WATER

NE Child Support Pymt. Center, garnishment	265.50
NE Child Support Pymt. Center, garnishment	254.75
Water, for CM water reserve	625.00
NE Public Health Env. Lab, water analysis	328.00
Hawkins, fluoride	261.00
One Call Concepts, line locates	5.70
American Water Works, membership dues	300.00
Landmark Implement, filters & labor at wells	382.37
Salaries	6,405.88

SEWER

Sewer, for CM Sewer Reserve	625.00
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COMMUNITY CENTER

Weissert Hardwood Flooring, re-coated/sealed floor in MP room	1,807.40
Kim Danehey Nibbe, contract labor	950.00
Glenn Plumbing, repairs at CC	157.20
Eagle Communications, cable TV	86.59
CEI, lost contact w/computer/mic check	295.00

PARK

Presto X, exterminating services at Scout Lodge	35.31
Dutton Lainson Co., electrical for shelter house	71.14
Salaries	1,990.73

BOARD OF TRUST

Kory J. McCracken LTA, purchased property at 506 N. Seward	4,510.00
Frank Degener, mowing property for BOT	225.00

GENERAL

Hometown Leasing, lease pymt. on copier	110.00
General, police fund	1,916.51
Eakes, calendars/office supplies	536.41
Red Cloud EMT's, final training payment on EMT	129.85
JEO, dam risk reduction improvement	865.50

FIRE

J & A Auto Supply, needle valve	26.31
Heritage Bank, fire bldg. loan payment	731.98
Mid Rivers 911, 911 user fee	350.00
Energized Electric, installation of generator at Fire Hall (grant)	8,000.00
MES, bunker gear (will receive reimbursement through a grant)	7,964.30
MES, safety equipment (grant)	2,447.87

STREET

Verizon, cell phone bill	56.16
Nationwide, retirement loan payment	262.87
Road Builders, seat for loader	147.91
Dultmeier, sprayer parts	97.57
Salaries	1,999.61

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bills	338.18
C. St. Felix, refunded balance of deposit	61.82
City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bills	200.00

LIBRARY

Barnes & Noble, books	99.52
Baker & Taylor, books	386.97
Salaries	1,520.23

TVCDC

SCEDD, CDBG grant pymt. for drawdown #12	7,300.00
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TheWillia Cather Foundation, Historic Pres. Grant	1,500.00
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POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, police contract monthly payment	3,854.29
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Gary Thompson Agency, special events insurance (reimbursed)	252.00
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SWIMMING POOL

Sunset Pool, rope, rescue tubes, umbrellas	1,570.88
Salaries	6,332.38

CEMETERY

Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill	33.00
Salaries	249.89

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Red Cloud Community Schools, annual license fees collected	2,100.00
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INSURANCE

Apple Roofing, roofing/gutters from hail storm	25,619.86
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COMPOST

Salaries	778.96
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Total Expenses	\$283,875.02
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Gary Ratzlaff, Mayor

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk

