

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 9, 2018 in the conference room of the Red Cloud Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Mayor Ratzlaff; Councilmembers Horne, Phillips, Knehans, Reynolds; Attorney McCracken; Superintendent Mahin and Clerk Meline.

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

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

Ashley Olson, Cather Foundation Executive Director, met with the council in regards to the Civic & Community Center Finance Fund for restoration of Cather Historic properties. She informed the council the State Legislature passed bill LB379. What this bill does is allows the Nebraska State Historical Society to transfer clear title of six(6) Cather sites in Red Cloud to the Cather Foundation at no cost. It also allows the before mentioned grant to be awarded to municipalities for preservation and restoration of historic buildings owned by non-profit organizations if a contractual relationship is created between the municipality and the non-profit organization. As with most State and Federal Grants the money is to be run through a government entity. This is a matching grant but as with other Cather projects the matching funds will be obtained from private donations and grants. The project will in no way affect local sales &/or property taxes . She did state the Foundation does collect sales and lodging taxes and pays property taxes on three of their properties. After a brief discussion, Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Horne to enter into a contractual relationship with the Willa Cather Foundation in order for them to seek the grant funds. Motion carried.

Steve Bell and Brian Hof met with the council pertaining to the greenhouse the school will be building. Steve Bell was the spokesperson and asked if the council would consider waiving the \$500 tapping fee? After a brief discussion, Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Horne to waive the \$500 tapping fee. Motion carried.

Then Steve Bell talked to the council about the possibility of installing a RV Dump on his property located at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Elm Street. He stated he would be willing to install the RV dump but would like the city to consider removing the trees. Some members had some concerns as to it being located in a residential area and how the neighbors would feel about it. After some discussion, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to table to the August meeting to give residents the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Bridget Daehling from the Gary Thompson Agency met with the council to go over the business insurance. It did take a six percent increase from last year. This mostly was due to the increase of valuation of the buildings. The city currently has a \$1,000 deductible. There is the option to increase the deductible to \$2,500 that would save \$450 annually and \$5,000 would save \$905 annually. The council felt the savings wasn't significant enough to raise the deductible. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to accept the policy as presented. Motion carried.

During the Public Comments segment, Trevor Harlow and Trenton Buhr, Rural Futures Institute interns informed the council they are ready to present their economic development plan for the City of Red Cloud. They will hold a meeting with the council on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at the

Community Center Conference Room at 2 p.m. Later on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> they will hold public meetings.

Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve the June minutes. Motion carried.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve the June Financial Reports and City Sales Tax Report. Motion carried. The City Sales Tax received in June for the month of April was \$15,487.17 compared to \$15,866.97 the same period last year.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve the payment to JEO in the amount of \$2,735 for 16-PP-009(Electric Efficiency Study). Motion carried. Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve the drawdown #8 in the amount of \$2,051.25 with the City paying their share of \$683.75 for the total of \$2,735. Motion carried.

Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to pay all claims as presented. Motion carried. These will be listed in full at the end of the minutes.

Next was the excessive speed in the downtown business district. Councilwoman Reynolds stated she is not ready to make her presentation. She asked that it be tabled.

The Red Cloud Housing Authority had sent a letter to the council with a couple of candidates to fill the vacancy on their board. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to appoint Christy Meline to the Housing Board. Motion carried.

Clerk Meline asked the council if they would like to hold a Fall Clean-up. After a brief discussion it was decided to hold one in September. Clerk Meline will contact R & M Disposal to set a date. The council did ask this be put on the August agenda to discuss the clean-up in more detail.

Next Mayor Ratzlaff brought up the current rate for burials in the cemetery. He had contacted a couple of towns to see what their fees are. They currently charge \$400 for a grave opening/closing for a regular grave and \$200 for a cremation and infant grave. Franklin charges \$650 for weekends and Holidays. Red Cloud currently charges \$200 for a regular grave and \$100 for cremation/infant grave. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to raise the regular grave to \$300 and leave the cremation/infant fees as is. Knehans and Reynolds voted yea while Horne and Phillips voted nay, the tie was broke by the Mayor Ratzlaff by a nay vote. Therefore the motion failed. Phillips then made the motion and was seconded by Horne to raise to \$400 for a regular grave and leave the cremation/infant as is. Horne, Phillips voted yea, while Knehans and Reynolds voted nay. The Mayor broke the tie by voting yea passing the motion.

Next the council was informed the office had proof of rabies shot for fifty-six dogs that have not been licensed and needed to know if the council wanted to pursue getting them licensed. Clerk Meline stated two notices had went out in the utility bills. After some discussion was held it was decided to visit this problem at the end of the year to see how to go about encouraging residents to license their dogs in 2019.

Attorney McCracken stated he had drawn up a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and Cherry Corner Estates but would like Superintendent Mahin and Amanda Hajny to look it over and then it will be presented to the City Council at their August meeting. As to obtaining a new Prosecuting Attorney he feels John Hodge from Nuckolls County will be willing to take the position. We should know sometime in August.

Superintendent Mahin gave the council an overview of work accomplished since the last meeting. The mosquito fogger has been calibrated and the guys will start spraying soon. With no remaining summer help the rest of the crew has been helping Dalton out with the string

trimming and mowing at the cemetery. He was able to find a dump trailer like he wanted and it is working out well for the guys. The utility crew have been removing old poles and replacing broken poles and they have also removed the old H-Structure behind the Post Office. Scarborough Roofing recoated the north roof of the Power Plant. There were two power outages in June, both caused by wind storms. The annual capability testing at the power plant for NMPP was held and it passed. Three permits were issued: fence permit for Donna Strickland, fence permit for Devon Cox and a permit for a greenhouse for Red Cloud High School.

The council was presented with some items proposed for the upcoming 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year. This was done to let the council know what Superintendent Mahin would like to see allowed for in the budget as well as items submitted by the council for consideration. This was a lengthy discussion but necessary to give Superintendent Mahin and Clerk Meline some guidance of what the council would like to see in the budget.

In Old Business, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to allow Attorney McCracken to investigate a claim of unsafe living conditions at the house at 1021 North Locust Street. Horne, Knehans, Reynold voted yea while Phillips voted nay. Motion carried. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to have Attorney McCracken send a letter to the owner of 502 North Elm Street. Motion carried. Attorney McCracken informed the council that the house at 226 North Cherry Street has been sold as well as the house at 206 North Cherry, so that will get that area cleaned up.

Under new business, Horne stated he had a name of an individual that will take care of pigeon problems like there currently is at the future home of the hotel. It is his understanding there is no charge and was wondering if the council wanted to check into it. It was decided to contact him. He then informed the council that during Street Car Days there will be a presentation made to Mayor Ratzlaff for his twenty plus years of service to the City of Red Cloud. This will be held in the Community Center at noon serving cake and probably coffee, water &/or tea.

Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to enter into executive session at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried. The purpose of this was to strategize on the City dam and infrastructure improvements and upgrades to the power plant and wells. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to resume the open meeting at 10:44 p.m. Motion carried. Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to proceed with the updates discussed in executive discussion. 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 10:45 p.m. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The following is a complete listing of all claims approved for payment:

Principal, dental insurance	622.61
C & D Service Center, parts	158.66
State Income Tax, for month of June	895.70
Withholding, 6/16 payroll taxes	1,078.28
Social Security, 6/16 payroll taxes	1,977.16
Medicare, 6/16 payroll	462.40
Nationwide, 6/16 retirement contributions	1,434.30
AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted	303.71
The Lincoln National Life Insurance, life insurance	186.20
United HealthCare, health insurance	6,712.67
Great Plains Comm., telephone bills	1,070.80

Red Cloud Chief, legal notices	660.13
R & M Disposal, trash hauling	11,153.50
R & M Disposal, underpayment	26.00
Various, business insurance fund	6,871.70
Various, officer's salary fund	914.19
Various, economic development	2,195.25
Various, general fund	875.01
Medicare, 7/1 payroll taxes	543.68
Social Security, 7/1 payroll taxes	2,324.56
Withholding, 7/1 payroll taxes	1,117.75
Nationwide, 7/ 1, payroll taxes	1,371.10
Aramark, janitorial supplies & services	315.28
Superior Outdoor Power Center, parts & repairs	165.97
Eakes, office supplies	379.21
Kenny Lumber, materials & supplies	416.56
C & D Service Center, parts & repairs	2,946.81
J & A Auto, parts	87.31
CPI, fuel	1,436.27
Black Hills Energy, natural gas service	978.65
Principal, dental insurance	622.61
Olson Enterprises, gas & repairs	502.86
Petty Cash, postage, donation, etc.	160.19
Norder, chemicals	141.16

## ELECTRIC

NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	254.75
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	265.50
Postmaster, utility bill postage	233.21
JEO, CDBG Electric Efficiency Study	3,241.25
BlueCross BlueShield, supplemental insurance	876.57
Electric, for bond & interest	2,000.00
Adams County Court, garnishment	71.03
Border States, electrical supplies	3,791.76
MEAN, purchased power for May	67,202.48
Protective Equipment, tested gloves	74.67
Energized Electric, repairs to City Hall air cond.	123.52
Farabee Mechanical, rebuilt injector pump-PP	2,470.52
Cardmember Service, supplies & freight	103.89
WAPA, purchased power for June	5,523.72
Northern, annual fee	149.00
NE Municipal Power Pool, elec. Distribution services/EIA forms	2,775.00
Salaries	15,954.11

## WATER

NE Public Health Env. Lab, underpayment on inv. #499829	48.00
Hawkins, fluoride	105.00
Hawkins, fluoride	180.50
Water, for CM water reserve	625.00
Todd Mahin, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Jason Franssen, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Joe Hersh, towards cell phone bill	44.00
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	254.75
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	265.50
NE Public Health Env. Lab, water analysis	274.00
Village Pharmacy, supplies for water samples	4.00
One Call Concepts, line locates	9.84
Hawkins, fluoride	180.50

## SEWER

Sewer, for CM sewer reserve	625.00
Don Rutt Plumbing, auger & camera sewer line	267.50

## FIRE

Heritage Bank, storage bldg. loan payment	731.98
Mid Rivers 911, July 911 user fee	350.00
T-Shirt Engineers, uniforms	209.21
R C Municipal Airport, fuel for fire trucks	190.05
Landmark, repairs	117.09
Platte Valley, pagers	1,253.40
Kenny Lumber, parts	20.29

## SWIMMING POOL

Medicare, pool taxes	108.92
Social Security, pool taxes	465.62
Withholding, pool taxes	149.70
Jameson Painting, 1 gallon of epoxy paint	61.81
Sunset Pool Supplies, chemical	122.53
Salaries	4,172.73

## COMMUNITY CENTER

Presto X, pest control	39.59
Kim Danehey-Nibbe, contract payment	950.00
Sundown Services, hallway & kitchen floors	875.00
Eagle Communications, cable TV	86.59

## STREET

Norder Supply, chemical	121.27
Verizon, cell phone	43.86
Nationwide, retirement loan payment	262.87
Salaries	2,351.93

## LIBRARY

Baker & Taylor, books	367.85
Auld Public Library, DVD's, janitorial supplies, etc.	107.80
MidWest Automatic, fire sprinkler inspection	380.00
Salaries	1,622.84

## PARK

M & M Trailer, dump trailer	4,950.00
Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill	33.00
Van Diest, yard chemicals	392.90
Salaries	349.97

## BOARD OF TRUST

Frank Degener, mowing	200.00
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## CONSUMERS

Keith Pulse, refund deposit	200.00
City of Red Cloud, applied deposits to utility bills	400.00
City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bill	200.00

## GENERAL

Hometown Leasing, copier lease payment	110.00
General to police fund	1,916.51
Garwood & McCracken, attorney fees for 5/4 – 6/27	8,061.19

## POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, June contract payment	3,854.29
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## C & D SITE

Kucera Construction, dozing	320.00
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kingsbury Septic, portable toilets for BRAN riders 460.00

COMPOST

Great White Shredding, Community Shredding Day 300.00  
Salaries 806.16

INSURANCE

Gary Thompson Agency, business insurance 88,625.00

CEMETERY

Salaries 2,946.26

Total expenses \$288,679.02

Gary L. Ratzlaff, Mayor

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk