

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Red Community Center. Due to the absence of Mayor Ratzlaff, President of the Council, Gene Horne conducted the meeting; other members present were Phillips, Knehans, Reynolds; Attorney McCracken; City Superintendent Mahin and Clerk Meline.

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

The Police Report was presented to the council. Sheriff Schmitz was not in attendance. Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Sharon Beitler, Administrator of the Red Cloud Housing, met with the council to present the Modification of Cooperation Agreement. This agreement states the Municipality agrees that it will not levy or impose any real or personal property taxes or special assessments upon the Local Housing Authority and the Local Authority agrees to make certain payments in lieu of taxes which they put back into maintenance of the units. She gave some back ground on the establishment of the Housing Authority and other information. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to sign the Modification of Cooperation Agreement. Motion carried.

Amanda Hajny, Cherry Corner Estates Administrator, and Roger Bohrer, Board member, met with the council to present their profit/loss statement. She stated they do have three (3) vacancies. Next there was discussion as to a possible Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Cherry Corner Estates. The council will continue with the mowing and yard maintenance, as well as snow removal. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to have Attorney McCracken draw up a Memorandum of Understanding by the July meeting. Motion carried.

Jarrold McCartney, Heritage Tourism Development Director, met with the council to give some updates. He stated the Cather Spring Conference had a record setting attendance and local food services were used during the conference. The Alumni Banquet was also a success with good attendance as well as the Community Foundation dinner. Next he informed the council the BRAN riders will be in town starting Wednesday and leave early Thursday morning. There are 374 bikers registered and then with the support vehicles and families there could be 500+ in town. Host cities receive a \$3,000 scholarship and if the town is voted the Best Host Community there is another \$3,000 scholarship. The scholarships are for the 2019 – 20 school year. He also discussed the Good Living Tour that is moving from the Starke Round Barn to the City Park on Saturday, July 7th. A skateboard park will be set up during this event. Sponsors are still needed for the Good Living Tour. Update on the hotel is they have conducted interviews for an architect. He then had the interns (Trenton Buhr and Trevor Harlow) introduce themselves to the council and what they are working on during their stay in Red Cloud. There was also some discussion on LB840 which is the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act. There will be more on this at future meetings.

Next on the agenda was the ten (10) minutes allowed for Public Comment but no one in attendance wished to address the council.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the minutes from the May 8th meeting. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve the May Financial Reports and the City Sales Tax Report. Motion carried. The City Sales Tax received in May for March was \$14,937.38 compared to \$14,221.94 for the same month last year.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynold to approve the payment to JEO in the amount of \$3,241.25 for CDBG Grant #16-PP-009, Electric Efficiency Study.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve Drawdown #6 for the Electric Efficiency Study in the amount of \$2,430.94; the balance of \$810.31 is paid by the City. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve payment to SCEDD in the amount of \$7,300 for 15-PW-002 for the TVCDC Grant. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve Drawdown #12 for the TVCDC Grant in the amount of \$7,300. Motion carried.

Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the payment to SCEDD in the amount of \$1,000 for CDBG Grant #16-PP-009, Electric Efficiency Grant. Motion carried.

Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve Drawdown #7 for the Electric Efficiency Grant in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried.

Knehans then made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the payment of all claims presented to the council for their approval. Motion carried. These will be listed in full at the end of the minutes.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to pass Resolution #695 which allows the closing of Fund #15 – unemployment. The balance of this fund will be deposited into the Cash Management Account under unemployment. Motion carried.

Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to pass the annual Special Events Resolution #696 requesting the closure of Highway 281 for the Street Car Days Parade to the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Motion carried. This is done on behalf of the Red Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tabled from last month was the excessive speeding in the Downtown Business District of concern to Councilwoman Reynolds. However she asked that it be tabled for the July meeting.

Reynolds then presented to the council the Nebraska Forest Service's Greener Towns Grant. This is a grant for planting native prairie grasses. It is a \$25,000 grant that has to be matched by the City. There was some discussion but some of the other council members seemed to have some reservations. Next she told them about a Civic & Community Center Financing Fund that can be used for indoor swimming pools and water parks.

Attorney McCracken stated he has no update on a possible replacement for a prosecuting attorney. He did state Sara Bockstadter, Attorney will still prosecute one of our nuisance properties even though she has resigned as our Prosecuting Attorney.

Next Superintendent Mahin gave the council a general update: Utility Crew had attended a safety meeting in Superior; cleaned and prepared the pool for the summer; Brad Burgess cut new marquees for the scoreboards at the ballfields. R & M powder coated them and then the City Crew hung them above the scoreboards. This project is being paid for by the ACE money set aside for Community Projects and the Red Cloud Athletic Association. He attended the quarterly ACE/MEAN/NMPP meetings held in Kearney. We will be receiving a sizeable FCRC Credit and also an Energy Charge Credit. We are to receive this towards the end of June. He

contacted three (3) people in regards to providing the swathing and baling for the City Hay Ground. Rasser Farms were the only ones to stop by and further discuss the opportunity. They will take care of the City Hay Ground at a 60/40 share. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to have Attorney McCracken execute a contract for a crop share lease for the City Hay Grounds. Motion carried. He also told the council there were no power outages during the month of May. Next he stated some complaints have been received in regards to grass piles on City properties. A remedy to this would be to purchase a dump trailer. This would allow the employee to load the mower, drive to their destination, mow, dump the grass in the trailer and haul off to the compost site when the trailer is full. Currently he drives the mower to the properties, mows, dumps the grass and drives on to the next property. Then the grass is piled until there is enough to get the skid loader and truck out to pick all the piles up and haul to compost site. This is time consuming plus it takes another employee to drive the truck. The dump trailer would save time and money and the extra work. The dump trailer would cost around \$7,000. After some discussion, Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to purchase the trailer. Motion carried. Next he would like the council to consider a Vendor Permit similar to what the Chamber of Commerce uses during Street Car Days. By using this vendors needing to hook up to power during the year other than Street Car Days would have to apply to the City for the application and pay \$50 to hook up to the power at the park. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to come up with a Vendor Application. Motion carried. He then told the council that he heard back from JEO in regards to the status of the multiple party interests in the repurposing of the city dam. They stated that at this time, there is no interest from anyone to pursue this. Therefore we are back to the beginning. He feels the city should not be held liable for the damage done to the dam by the landowner. JEO has been told to suspend working on this until the council decides where to go from here. Whether the dam is removed or repaired the council is looking at excessive expenses anywhere from \$20,000 up to \$200,000 to be in compliance with the State. The City does not have funds available for such a project.

Two building permits were approved since the last meeting. Approved were a shed for Theresa Small and a shed for Gary Bennett.

Under Old Business are the nuisance properties and properties turned over for prosecution. Since we no longer have a prosecuting attorney there isn't much the council can do now. However, Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to have Attorney McCracken send a letter to the owners of the property at 305 North Cedar Street. Motion carried. Then Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to have Attorney McCracken send a letter to the owner of the property at 526 North Franklin Street. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to enter into executive session at 9:10 p.m. for employee evaluation and lease/contract issues. Motion carried.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to resume the regular meeting at 10:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to give a raise to a lineman. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to be had and done by the City Council, Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to adjourn said meeting at 10:03 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Presto, pest control

108.07

Social Security, 5/16 payroll	1,919.92	
Withholding, 5/16 payroll		1,028.32
Medicare, 5/16 payroll		449.00
The Lincoln National Life Ins., life insurance		186.20
Red Cloud Chief, legal notices		731.09
Bear Graphics, checks		430.60
AFLAC, insurance-payroll deductions		303.71
NMPP, utility bills		550.00
Nationwide, 5/16 retirement contribution		1,425.20
R & M Disposal, city pickup and utility bill collection	11,203.50	
State Income Tax, May state income tax		773.24
Great Plains Comm., phones & internet		895.61
United HealthCare, group health insurance		6,712.67
Business Insurance, monthly tr. to insurance fund		6,871.70
Various, officer's salary		914.19
Various, economic development		2,195.25
Various, general fund		875.01
Dultmeier Sales, materials & supplies		65.33
Aramark, uniforms, towels, janitorial services		472.92
Eakes, office supplies and janitorial supplies		470.70
Municipal Supply Inc. of NE, materials & supplies		201.53
Nationwide, 6/1 retirement		1,476.56
Medicare, 6/1 payroll		495.78
Withholding, 6/1 payroll		1,105.10
Social Security, 6/1 payroll		2,120.02
CPI, fuel, tire repair, chemicals		219.18
Cardmember Services, Arbor Day Tree		320.75
J & A Auto Supply, supplies		170.71
Petty Cash, postage, money for pool to make change		190.61
Olson's, gas & repairs		1,156.17
Black Hills Energy, natural gas		1,407.66
Kenny Lumber, materials & supplies		1,536.96

ELECTRIC

South Central State Bank, new business rebate		1,200.00
NE Child Support Payment Center, 5/16 garnishment		254.75
NE Child Support Payment Center, 5/16 garnishment		265.50
Postmaster, postage on utility bills		231.21
JEO, electric efficiency grant		1,790.63
Electric, for bond & interest		2,000.00
Adams County Court, garnishment		.74
Todd Mahin, towards cell phone bill		44.00
Jason Franssen, towards cell phone bill		44.00
Joe Hersh, towards cell phone bill		44.00
League of NE Municipalities, line workers safety course		1,250.00

St. Of NE Power review board, annual dues	185.63
Echo, relays	121.06
MEAN, purchased power for April	66,054.22
Border States, split bolts	1,248.21
H K Scholz, meters installed at power plant	36,467.00
NE DOL/Office of Safety, annual power plant boiler inspection	24.00
NE Child Support Payment Center, 6/1 garnishment	265.50
NE Child Support Payment Center, 6/1 garnishment	254.75
WAPA, purchased power for May	3,518.91
Salaries	11,276.59

WATER

Utility Service Co., Inc., quarterly maint. Agreement	9,553.69
DHHS-Div. of Public Health, water operator license for Joe	115.00
Water, for cash management water reserve	625.00
NE Pubic Health Env. Lab, water analysis	269.00
Sargent Drilling, pump & well tests	500.00
NE Rural Water Assn., annual dues	175.00
One Call Concepts, line locates	13.62
Salaries	4,342.24

SEWER

Sewer, for cash management sewer reserve	625.00
B J Harris, coil for sewer plant	42.25
NDEQ-Fiscal Services, principal & interest payment	10,628.80
Iowa Pump Works, sewer pump	4,265.00

LIBRARY

O'Keefe Elevator, elevator inspection	295.36
Barnes & Noble, books & DVD's	194.03
Do It Yourself, subscription	19.96
Nebraska Life, subscription	24.00
Nebraskaland, subscription	18.00
Auld Public Library, office supplies, DVD's	51.82
Salaries	1,462.27

FIRE

Kenny Lumber, materials & supplies	149.72
J & A Auto, filters, clamps, etc.	40.08
Heritage, loan payment on storage bldg.	731.98
Mid Rivers 911, 911 user fee	350.00
Danko, nozzle	464.57

Cornhusker Cleaning Supply, supplies	13.52
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COMMUNITY CENTER

Kim Danehey Nibbe, May contract payment	950.00
NE Fire Sprinkler, annual fire sprinkler inspection	398.00
CEI Security & Sound, monitor, checked sound system	265.00
Eagle Communications, cable TV	86.59
Sundown Services, clean carpets & furniture	235.00

SWIMMING POOL

Hayley Fisher, reimbursement of suits	398.33
Landmark Implement, parts	3.12
Sunset Pool Supplies, chemicals	4,696.01

BOARD OF TRUST

Frank Degener, mowing properties	200.00
R & M Disposal, dumpster for 1005 N. Webster	568.54
Garwood & McCracken, legal fees	60.00

STREET

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Verizon, cell phone	39.67
Nationwide, loan retirement payment	262.87
Salaries	2,188.33

GENERAL

Hometown Leasing, copier lease payment	110.00
General to police fund	1,916.51
Kohmetscher Feed Service, dog food	24.75
Nationwide, faithful performance bond	159.00

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit	100.44
Customer, refunded balance of deposit	99.56

PARK

Flatland Timber & Metal, sign for ballfield	600.00
Kully Pipe & Steel, materials – ballfield sign	104.08
Salaries	2,307.87

PLANNING GRANT

SCEDD, Drawdowns #5 & #6	8,296.45
TIF	

CPI Elevator, annual share of TIF	2,930.10
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RCCFF, donation for interns	4,000.00
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POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, May contract payment	3,854.29
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CEMETERY

Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill	33.00
Salaries	728.68

COMPOST

Salaries	788.14
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Total Expenses	\$246,898.20
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Gene Horne, President of the Council

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk