

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Red Cloud Community Center. Members present: Mayor Ratzlaff; Council Members Horne, Knehans, Reynolds; Attorney McCracken; City Superintendent Mahin and Clerk Meline. Councilman Phillips was absent.

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

At 7:02 p.m. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to open the Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Regulations as well as the Blight and Substandard Study. Jennifer Hiatt, Community Planner from SCEDD met with the council to go over the plans, regulations and study. After her presentation, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve Ordinance #642: An ordinance of the City of Red Cloud, Nebraska, to accept and approve the official Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map of the City of Red Cloud, Nebraska, to provide for repeal of conflicting ordinances or sections; to provide for the effective date thereof; and order the publication of the ordinance in pamphlet form. Motion carried. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve Ordinance # 643: An ordinance of the City of Red Cloud, Nebraska, to adopt the Zoning Regulations of the City of Red Cloud, Nebraska; to provide for the repeal of conflicting ordinances or sections; to provide for the effective date thereof; and order the publication of the ordinance in pamphlet form. Motion carried. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Horne to pass Resolution #693 which declares an area in the City of Red Cloud to be considered blighted and substandard. Motion passed. Full copies of all documents are available at City Hall. Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to close said hearing at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Mike Theis, health insurance rep, met with the council to go over the health insurance. The committee that was set up to meet with the various health insurance reps had decided to go with National General. However after the apps were turned in there was a change in the premium, therefore it made more sense to stay with United HealthCare. He recommended to the council that the bidding process for the health insurance start October 1 so there isn't such a time crunch.

Next was the Sheriff's Report and Sheriff Schmitz was in attendance. The Council had been given an advance copy of the report in their agenda packet. Sheriff Schmitz informed the council that they had issued two citations to the owner of a dog for being a dangerous dog and running loose. Sheriff Schmitz encouraged the council to e-mail him or stop by his office with any concerns they may have. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the Police Report. Motion carried.

Next the TVCDC Board met with the council. Sally Hansen presented the council with an update on the Child Development Center. Some of the highlights were: there are 10 employees; forty-one (41) children are enrolled of which fourteen (14) are infants; a variety of summer camps will be offered for all children; volunteers are currently working on the outdoor classroom; volunteers are assisting in starting the Edible Schoolyard Program; the grand opening will be April 20, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.; currently have over thirty-five(35) volunteers. Rachel Olsen then spoke with the council more on the financial aspects. After a brief presentation she asked the council to consider donating \$15,000 annually for five (5) years in lieu of lawn care, snow removal, etc. At this time the council could not commit since the budget for the current fiscal

year does not allow for such a request. The council will see if their request can be allowed for in the 2018 – 2019 budget. The council asked Clerk Meline to see if there are any funds available for some kind of donation for the current fiscal year and report back to the council at the April meeting.

Jarrod McCartney, Heritage Tourism Development Director, met with the council. He stated there will be BRAN meeting Friday the 9th. Working on getting various organizations involved with possibilities of fund raisers during the time the bikers are in town. They are still anticipating 450 to 900 people in town. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 31st. The Potter Block proposed hotel is a go. Tru-Built will start work on Monday the 12th. The Cather Foundation is going to assist in raising funds for the project, but that will be their only involvement in the project. He would like the city to consider putting funds towards the project. The project will be funded by donations, investments and loans. The Good Living Tour will be coming to Red Cloud again this year but this time it will be held in Red Cloud instead of the Round Barn. The council was asked to donate \$500 towards the event. The \$500 was allowed for in the current fiscal year budget; therefore, Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to donate the \$500. Motion carried. Then he asked the council to consider paying for one of the RFI interns in the amount of \$4,000. The students have to do some service projects but the primary objective is to develop an Economic Development Plan for the City of Red Cloud, which they could then use as the basis for the LB840 plan. He also plans on them assisting Todd and him with the BRAN organization. The request for \$4,000 was not allowed in the current fiscal year budget so Clerk Meline will check to see if there are any funds available and report back to the council at the April meeting.

Next on the agenda was Public Comments a time set aside for residents to address the council with any questions or concerns. There were several residents in attendance but none wished to address the council.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the February minutes. Motion carried.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to approve the February Financial Reports and City Sales Tax Report. Motion carried. The City Sales Tax collected for December received in February was \$18,073.31 compared to \$18,506.20 for the same month in 2017.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve all claims submitted for payment. Motion carried. Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the payment to JEO in the amount of \$7,782.50 for the Electrical Efficiency Study. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve Drawdown #3 in the amount of \$5,836.87. Motion carried. The city is responsible for the balance of the JEO invoice in the amount of \$1,945.63.

Reynolds made the motion and was second by Knehans to give New Business Rebates to the Moon Block and On The Brix for the maximum amount of \$1,200. Motion carried.

Next Councilwoman Reynolds stated she had done some research on the Shredding Day she had proposed at the February meeting. It appears Woodward's will be the company doing the shredding. For two (2) hours the cost would be \$200 and Gary Thompson Agency will pick up the cost. However at present she is looking at it for individuals not businesses. She will see if she can get more donations to possibly have the shredder here longer. She is looking at holding it the same day as the Annual Spring Clean-Up to be held on Wednesday, April 18th.

Next the council was asked to consider moving the July 3rd meeting. After a brief discussion, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to move the July meeting to Monday, July 9th. Motion carried.

Next the council was informed that R & M Disposal is available on the 18th of April to do the annual clean-up. The council had a brief discussion that there will be changes as to what will be picked up since last year people totally abused what the clean-up day is for.

Attorney McCracken stated the only thing he had was for the council to decide how much deposit they would like to see in the ordinance before an impounded dog would be released for the owner to obtain the rabies shot. Once the owner brings in proof of the rabies shot the deposit will be returned. At the February meeting the council asked Clerk Meline to find out how much the rabies shot cost. A one year shot is \$16 and a three year shot is \$34. After a brief discussion, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to authorize Attorney McCracken to draw up an ordinance with a \$25 deposit. Motion carried. As far as the property out by the C & D Site goes he didn't have any updates.

City Superintendent Mahin informed the council the city crew had recently attended NIMS (National Incident Management System) training at the Fire Hall. It is a course that relates to emergency situations and establishing a chain of command in order to handle emergency situations safely and effectively. Engine #5 is going again. Cliff ran it last Friday and it operated the full 2 hours with no problems. Ordered a new submersible pit pump for engine #4 at the Power Plant. The guys have been installing a new door on the truck trailer and are working on replacing the lights in engine #5 room. There were no outages during February. He stated he has contacted Lamar about the possibility of adding a 2nd advertisement on the Billboard north of the Power Plant. Lamar will check to see if it would be feasible for them to do so. All the fire extinguishers have been inspected and put back in service. The Compost Site and C & D Site will open on Monday, March 19th. There was also a discussion about liability for the city if a hazardous material is hauled into the C & D Site. Two proposals were presented to the council to perform the carbon monoxide RICE NESHAP compliance testing at the Power Plant. This is something that needs to be done every five (5) years. There was a \$6,640 difference in the proposals therefore we will go with Western Environmental Services and Testing, Inc. which is the company that all but two (2) of the MEAN members are using. He presented the council with estimates for repairs to the sewer pump and the swimming pool pump. It is his plan to rotate the pumps out each year and get them repaired hopefully to make the pumps last longer and keep from having to purchase new ones, which are very expensive. Next an estimate to install a new heating/AC at the Scout Lodge was presented. It is rather expensive and for no more than the building is used it might be worth looking into a less expensive option.

Next was Old Business which is the condemned and nuisance properties. This is becoming frustrating for the council for all the legal hoops they have to go through and for non-compliance by the residents. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to turn the property at 105 North Walnut over to the prosecuting attorney. Motion carried. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to turn the property at 705 North Walnut over to the prosecuting attorney. Motion carried. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to move the property at 305 North Cedar over to the prosecuting attorney. Motion carried. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to consider the properties at 538 North Elm and 502 North Elm as nuisance and have Attorney McCracken send the owners a letter. Motion carried. It was also noted there are mattresses, etc. out in the yard at 222 North Seward Street, a letter will be sent. Then a couple of campers appear to be plugged in at 333 W 3rd Street

which it is illegal to live in a camper. This property is scheduled to go before the judge so Attorney McCracken will obtain pictures and send to the prosecuting attorney. Attorney McCracken stated he thinks somehow the property at 137 North Walnut Street got dropped as it was going through the court system and now doesn't appear to be there. He will check this out. Then the owner of the property at 641 North Locust Street had asked Superintendent Mahin to have the council drive by his property to see if it could come off the nuisance properties. Some of the council did drive by and they did not see any improvement. Attorney McCracken will send the owner another letter spelling out what needs to be done to be removed from the nuisance list. The Board of Trust is in negotiations to obtain the property at 506 North Seward Street. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds for Attorney McCracken to check all the properties discussed and send letters out as he sees fit. Motion carried. There was also a discussion about all the unlicensed vehicles around town and what can be done. Councilwoman Reynolds brought up the possibility of holding a public meeting to get input from residents. This item will be on the April agenda.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to enter into executive session at 9:44 p.m. for employee evaluations and contracts. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to resume the open meeting at 10:25 p.m. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to give raises to the new utility employee upon completing his three (3) month probation, Billing Clerk and Power Plant Operator. 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 Knehans to adjourn said meeting at 10:26 p.m. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Red Cloud Chief, legal notices & minutes	348.46
State Income Tax, for month of February	768.61
Medicare, 2/16 payroll taxes	430.72
Social Security, 2/16 payroll	1,841.70
Withholding, 2/16 payroll	956.96
Nationwide, 2/16 retirement contribution	1,440.25
The Lincoln National Life Insurance, life insurance	206.33
United HealthCare, group health insurance	6,712.67
Great Plains, telephones	893.45
AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted	264.27
R & M Disposal, trash pickup city properties/utility bills	11,363.50
Various, monthly deposit into business insurance fund	6,871.70
Various, monthly deposit into officer's salary	914.19
Various, monthly deposit into economic development fund	2,195.25
Various, monthly deposit into general fund	875.01
Nationwide, 3/1 retirement contribution	1,284.33
Withholding, 3/1 payroll taxes	761.07
Social Security, 3/1 payroll taxes	1,574.40
Medicare, 3/1 payroll taxes	368.24
Aramark, towel & janitorial services & uniforms for line crew	315.28
Grainger, parts	162.93
Red Cloud Hardware, ice melt	102.02

C & D Service Center, parts & repairs	788.69
Black Hills Energy, natural gas bill	3,825.39
CPI, fuel	799.57
Kenny Lumber, parts & supplies	990.03
J & A Auto Supply, parts & supplies	96.59
Olson Enterprises, fuel & repairs	1,006.25
Principal, dental insurance	622.61
Van Diest Supply Co., lawn chemicals for the year	2,478.98
Petty Cash, cert. mail, extra postage, water sample postage	112.36

ELECTRIC

Lizzy's LLC, new business rebate	1,114.70
United HealthCare, premium for new employee	465.58
Meadow Creek Floral & Gifts, flowers for Councilman Phillips	56.71
Sapp Bros. Petroleum, oil sample testing	115.00
NE Child Support Payment Center-garnishment	254.75
NE Child Support Payment Center-garnishment	265.50
ECMC, garnishment	47.92
Postmaster, postage on utility bills	227.71
JEO, balance due on electric efficiency study invoice	2,725.31
Electric, March payment to 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
ECMC, garnishment-Franssen	47.92
NE Child Support Pymt., garnishment	265.50
NE Child Support Pymt., garnishment	254.75
MEAN, purchased power for January	77,422.67
Farabee Mechanical, check jacket water system at Power Plant	1,204.00
Border States(Kriz Davis) electrical supplies	1,138.42
Farabee Mechanical, #5 engine cooling piping consultation	1,642.49
Cardmember Service, car wash & monthly adobe fee	28.04
Dutton Lainson, ballast, 250' reel of cord	437.79
WAPA, purchased power	5,343.87
Energized Electric, repairs to shop heaters	228.73
Salaries	11,939.84

WATER

Water, for cash management water reserve	625.00
NE Public Health Env. Lab, water analysis	277.00
Sargent Drilling, repairs to north wells	4,258.54
Landmark, water pump on north well	755.83
DHHS Division of Public Health, water course & textbooks	129.00

Joe Hersh, meal/mileage for schooling	261.93
Salaries	4,291.58
SEWER	
Sewer, for cash management sewer reserve	625.00
STREET/HIGHWAY	
Verizon, cell phone bill	36.18
Nationwide loan payment - payroll deducted	262.87
Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill	33.00
Titan Machinery, backhoe seals	160.31
Salaries	4,390.22
GENERAL	
General to police fund	1,916.51
Sara Bockstadter, retainer fee	75.00
Eakes, office supplies	95.97
Hometown Leasing, copier lease payment	110.00
FIRE	
Kully Pipe & Steel, parts	11.38
Heritage Bank, fire dpt. storage bldg. loan payment	731.98
Mid Rivers 911, March 911 user fee	350.00
Red Cloud Volunteer Fire Dept., fire & rescue dinner expenses	476.78
COMMUNITY CENTER	
Presto X, exterminating services	39.59
Kim Danehey-Nibbe, contract pymt. for February	950.00
Eagle Communications, cable TV	86.59
Village Pharmacy, batteries	3.29
LIBRARY	
Auld Public Library, DVD's, janitorial supplies	121.00
O'Keefe Elevator Company, elevator maintenance	295.36
Barnes & Noble, books	84.14
Salaries	1,672.05

SWIMMING POOL

DHHS Environmental Health Unit, annual pool permit 40.00

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bills 600.00

POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, February contract payment 3,854.29

BOARD OF TRUST

Garwood & McCracken, legal services 85.00

PARK

Salaries 162.13

TOTAL EXPENSES \$186,599.27

Gary L. Ratzlaff, Mayor

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk