CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief the Mayor and City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cloud Community Center. Members present: Mayor Brown; Councilmen Horne, Beitler, Goebel, Mahin; Attorney McCracken, Superintendent Clark and Clerk Meline.

Mayor Brown 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 Beitler to approve the Police Report. Motion carried. Sheriff Schmitz was not in attendance.

Ashley Olson, Executive Director of the Willa Cather Foundation met with the council to bring them up to date on possible funding. She stated the State Legislature passed LB379 in the spring of 2018 which allowed the Nebraska State Historical Society to transfer clear title of six Cather sites in Red Cloud to the Willa Cather Foundation at no cost. The transfer took place in January of this year. In February over 8,000 collection pieces were also returned to the Cather Foundation. In July of 2018 she had met with the council to get approval for the partnership of the City of Red Clod and the WCF in order for the foundation to seek funding from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund. At the time a letter of intent to apply for the funding was signed by the Mayor. The actual grant application was filed on February 14, 2019. The request is for $562,000 which will be matched with private donations the foundation has collected to help with the restoration of the six properties. She should know by the 30th of this month if they will be awarded the grant. If awarded the City of Red Cloud would review and approve the contract, accept payment of grant funds and pass them onto WCF. Half would be released upon the signing of the contract and the other half upon completion of the project. She wanted to make it clear that this project will not affect local sales tax or property taxes in any way. The Cather Foundation sought out private donations and grant funds as means of funding the grant match. Ashley also stated the Cather Foundation collects sales and lodging taxes and pays property taxes on three of their properties. Properties used for educational mission are exempt from property taxes as allowed by law.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Mahin to request a three month extension on the Planning Grant (Electric Efficiency Study) project 16-PP-009. Motion carried.

Horned made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to authorize Mayor Brown to sign the letter requesting the extension. Motion carried.

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

Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve the Financial Reports and City Sales Tax. Motion carried. Clerk Meline informed the council the City had received $3,714.00 from ACE which was deposited into Cash Management Community Projects bringing that total to $9,153.05. The City Sales Tax received in February for December collection was $13,508.22 compared to $18,073.31 for the same month last year. This is the lowest tax collection since the 2011 – 2012 Fiscal Year.

Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Mahin 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 Beitler to approve the New Business Rebate to The Valley Child Development Center and Riverside Housing LLC. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was whether to hold a Spring Clean-up. The council was given a copy of the items that are not picked up to see if they would like any changes. After some discussion the council felt we need to pick up appliances, iron & metal. This will need to be kept separate from other items and will be picked up and hauled to the City Compost iron pile by a volunteer, not by R & M Disposal. The money from the sell of the iron pile is used to help finance the clean-up day. Therefore, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to hold the Spring Clean-up on Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 and to pick up appliances, iron and metal. Motion carried.

The hours of the Compost Site was on the agenda to see if the council wanted to maintain the hours from last year or make a change. From the report prepared for the council they felt since Monday has little traffic that they would like to close on Monday’s and will keep the other days as is. Beitler made the motion and was seconded by Horne to not be open on Monday’s any longer and leave Wednesday, Friday and Saturday hours as is and to open the Compost Site on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Motion carried.

Superintendent Clark gave the council an update on happenings from the month of February. Repairs were made on engine #3. Cherry Corner Estates had a couple of roof leaks but the problems were remedied. There was an issue of the south door on the west side of the Community Center being left unlocked. It was figured out who was leaving it unlocked and the problem was remedied.

There has been some question over the last few months on the quotes for sewer pumps as to whether if was the sewer plant pump or the sewer machine pump. Both pumps are now at Iowa Pump works for repairs. The quote for the sewer machine pump is $1,944.78 compared to another quote from Nebraska Environmental Products in the amount of $3,122.67. Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Mahin to have the sewer machine pump repaired for the amount of $1,944.78. Motion carried. The other pump for the Sewer Plant is warranty work.

Then he informed the council that Mike Kalin from JEO will be down to get him brought up to speed on the Electric Efficiency Study. Mike stated the crew has been busy moving snow which resulted in lots of overtime. There was a couple of issues of sidewalks not being cleaned in the residential areas. Remember that sidewalks in residential areas are to be cleaned within twenty-four (24) hours after the snow stops. In the Business District it is five (5) hours after the snow stops or by 8:30 a.m. if the snow comes during the night.

Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to sign the agreement with JEO for phase II water system mapping updates and sewer mapping updates. Motion carried.

Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Horne to accept the proposal from Harold K. Scholz Company of $42,300 to furnish and install station power meters at the power plant. Motion carried. This will be paid for from the Capacity Compensation money the city receives monthly from MEAN. This fund was set up several years ago to help pay for repairs and or updates at the plant.

A quote was received from Sargent Drilling for a 3 year warranty on the south well VFD in the amount of $1,885. The council asked Superintendent Clark to obtain more information on exactly what is covered before accepting the quote.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to approve the quote from Sargent Drilling to install gate valves at the north and south wells in the amount of $4,431.94. Motion carried.

The council also discussed summer help for both weed trimming and the swimming pool. They would prefer an adult be hired for the weed trimming and managing the pool. They instructed Clerk Meline to start advertising for the positions.

The council was informed there are a few problems with the new skid loader and the company will pick it up and bring a loaner to use till the problems are remedied. They also talked about getting radios for the employees to use instead of their cell phones. The radios being checked into are bought in pairs and are hands free. The council is in favor of trying some radios to make sure they are what will work best for the employees.

Attorney McCracken stated he has been contacted by U S Cellular pertaining to replacing their tower up at the old packing plant. As of yet he has not received any formal proposal or request. So until that happens no action is required. He then informed the council he had just sent a letter to Rodney Timm explaining the issues about the Dam Project that could affect his property.

There were no building permits.

There was no discussion on the nuisance and or condemned properties and there was no new business.

At 8:50 p.m. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to enter into executive session for an employee evaluation. Motion carried.

At 8:52 p.m. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to resume the open meeting. Motion carried.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Goebel to give a raise to the Billing Clerk. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to be had and done by the Mayor and City Council, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to adjourn said meeting at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Principal, dental insurance 448.96

R & M Disposal, trash collection 12,330.00

Withholding for 2/16 payroll 1,070.46

Social Security for 2/16 payroll 1,840.76

Medicare for 2/16 payroll 430.52

Nationwide, 2/16 retirement contribution 1,275.46

Great Plains Comm., telephones 994.31

T-Shirt Engineers, uniforms 1,788.36

Red Cloud Chief, legal printing 355.67

AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted 269.81

The Lincoln National Life, life insurance 153.99

Various, business insurance 7,358.16

Nationwide, retirement loan payments-payroll deducted 318.96

Various, officer’s salary 695.82

Various, economic development 2,083.35

Various to general fund 2,499.99

Various to Board of Trust 833.34

Various to Historic Preservation 500.01

Nationwide, 3/1 retirement contribution 1,319.41

Withholding for 3/1 payroll 1,101.89

Social Security for 3/1 payroll 1,869.54

Medicare for 3/1 payroll 437.22

Aramark, janitorial service & towels 351.60

Eakes, office supplies 493.95

Ingram Feed & Seed, pole saw 548.60

Dultmeier Sales, squeegee head, sump pump 250.23

Anistine Fire Equipment, annual fire ext. inspections 641.00

BCBS, group health insurance 6,263.30

State Income Tax for February 797.58

J & A Auto, parts 73.21

Olson Enterprises, fuel & repairs 700.42

CPI, fuel & batteries 1,284.77

Cardmember Services, flags, HR resource manual, etc. 463.96

Black Hills Energy, natural gas services 3,666.24

Kenny Lumber, snow shovel, garage door opener, batteries, etc. 168.01

Petty Cash, postage, meeting expenses 101.50

ELECTRIC

Hometown Market, new business rebate 1,200.00

Adams County Court, garnishment 75.70

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 254.75

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 265.50

Postmaster, 2 rolls of first class stamps 110.00

Postmaster, utility bill postage 252.60

Electric, to bond & interest fund 2,000.00

Jason Franssen, towards cell phone bill 44.00

Joe Hersh, towards cell phone bill 44.00

Adams County Court, garnishment 16.82

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 265.50

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 254.75

NMPP, NOx records, training fee, utility bills 1,409.78

Border States, combination wrench, gloves, lighting 918.39

Hydraulic Equipment, repairs to 2002 bucket truck 17,530.74

MEAN, purchased power 79,691.30

Riverside Housing, new business rebate 414.86

TVCDC, new business rebate 940.15

Blue Cross Blue Shield, supplemental insurance 178.17

WAPA, purchased power for the month of February 5,343.87

Salaries 10,410.35

WATER

Core & Main, repairs to water reader 547.10

Utility Service Company, Inc., quarterly maintenance agreement pymt. 4,447.50

Water to CM water reserve 625.00

NE Public Health Environmental Lab, water analysis 443.00

Village Pharmacy, water sample supplies 4.00

Salaries 4,512.76

SEWER

Sewer to Cash Management Sewer Reserve 625.00

STREET

Verizon, cell phone 47.25

Landmark, skid loader 8,700.00

Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill 33.00

Barco, warning light 135.03

C & D Service Center, parts 52.80

Salaries 4,410.75

LIBRARY

Lara Strobl, mileage 46.40

Office Net, backup battery 172.99

O’Keefe Elevator Company, elevator maintenance per agreement 307.17

National Geographic, 1 year subscription renewal 39.00

Country Gardens, 1 year subscription 21.37

The Library Store, office supplies 321.77

Auld Public Library, DVD’s, summer reading program materials 243.68

Baler & Taylor, books 417.86

Salaries 1,714.52

FIRE

R C Volunteer Fire Dept., fire/rescue dinner 558.00

Heritage Bank, loan payment on storage bldg. 731.98

Mid Rivers 911, 911 user fee 350.00

MES, protective gloves 159.89

GENERAL

Hometown Leasing, copier lease payment 110.00

John V. Hodge, attorney fees 75.00

General to police fund 1,916.51

COMMUNITY CENTER

Presto X, pest control 39.59

Kim Danehey-Nibbe, contract labor 975.00

Chief Electric, reset roll flame switches 150.00

Eagle Communications, cable TV 88.61

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, deposit posted to utility bill 400.00

City of Red Cloud, deposit posted to utility bill 200.00

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SCEDD, share of 2018 membership dues 1,875.00

POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, February contract payment 3,854.29

SWIMMING POOL

DHHS, annual swimming pool permit 40.00

PARK

Salary 334.72

Total Expenses $217,128.13

Todd Brown, Mayor

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk