

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 8th, 2018, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the Red Cloud Community Center. Members present: Mayor Ratzlaff; Council members 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.

The April Police Report was presented to the council. Sheriff Schmitz was not in attendance. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

Ron and Mary Lambrecht, owners of R & M Disposal met with the council. They were requesting the council sign a new agreement with them which includes an increase in the Commercial rates on dumpsters and to increase the fee for additional toters from the current \$1.50 to \$5.00. They stated that in the nine (9) years they have been in business they have had no increases. It was also stated that it will be mandatory for new customers to rent a toter. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to sign the agreement. Motion carried.

Next was the time for public comments. Nancy Stafford wanted to update the council on the Farmers Market. Originally her plan was to start the Farmers Market in June but now it appears it will be July.

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

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve the Financial Reports and City Sales Tax Report. Motion carried. The City Sales Tax for February received in April was \$12,728.78 compared to \$15,174.11 for the same month last year. Currently the City Sales Tax is running \$2,702.53 behind the total tax for the same months last year.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to approve the payment to JEO in the amount of \$2,387.50 for Project #16-PP-009 Electric Efficiency Study. Motion carried.

Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve Drawdown #5 for 16-PP-009 in the amount of \$1,790.63 with the City share at \$596.87. Motion carried.

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

Reynolds had asked the excessive speed in the Business District be put on the agenda. She has concerns of how fast especially trucks but other vehicles drive downtown. The council agreed this is a problem. Since the streets in the business district are state highways we need to contact the Nebraska Department of Transportation, but can contact the local foreman and go from there.

Reynolds then stated that there seems to be no formal agreement between the City and Cherry Corner Estates as to what the City is responsible for. Clerk Meline found an informal agreement in the December 7, 2010 minutes. In the minutes the council stated the city would do the lawn care and removal of snow, which has been done since the facility opened. The crew does assist with some maintenance. As far as ownership after the bonds are paid off it stays with the City.

The facility is being paid for with funds from the City Sales Tax and property taxes. The Cherry Corner Estate Board has in the past put \$30,000 to \$40,000 towards the bond payments if funds are available. It was stated that perhaps a Memorandum of Agreement would be appropriate. Attorney McCracken will check into this, therefore this issue is tabled till the June meeting.

The council was presented with a letter of resignation from Sara Bockstadter, our prosecuting attorney, effective May 13th. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to accept the letter of resignation. Motion carried. Also at this point Attorney McCracken stated he has been in contact with an attorney from Nuckolls County. It appears he may be interested in the position but is checking some issues out before he makes his decision. Attorney McCracken will keep in touch with him and hopefully have a decision by the June meeting.

Mayor Ratzlaff had asked that the Cemetery Fees be put on the agenda. In his position with the Veteran's Administration he deals with cemetery fees from other towns, etc. and our fees are considerably lower. A discussion arose as to the repairing of headstones in the cemetery. It seemed to be the consensus of the council they are not in favor of the city taking on the repairs. This issue was also tabled to the June meeting.

Recently there has been a dog issue at 705 North Franklin Street with the same dog attacking another dog and then biting a human. Citations and fines were issued in both cases. Both incidents were non severe injuries therefore according to State and City Code the council could only declare the dog as a Potentially Dangerous Dog. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to declare the dog as a Potentially Dangerous Dog. Motion carried. The council did state to strongly encourage the owner to remove the dog from within the jurisdiction of the City Council which includes a mile outside the City Limits.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to name City Superintendent Mahin as the contact person for information regarding the Agreement for Wind-Generated Energy Purchase. Motion carried.

Next Mayor Ratzlaff stated that he would like to see the downtown brick streets issue be put to the vote of the people. A lengthy discussion was then held between the council and Suzi Schulz as to what she had learned from State Officials and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The council would like a copy of Section 106 she is referring too. Suzi will send the information to Clerk Meline.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to issue a New Business Rebate to the South Central State Bank for the maximum amount of \$1,200. Motion carried.

Ordinance #644 was presented to the council which amends Section 6-112 of the Municipal Code of Nebraska. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to pass Ordinance #644: An ordinance of the City of Red Cloud, Nebraska, relating to dogs; to require a deposit for the release of an impounded dog that is not licensed; and repeal conflicting ordinances and sections. Horne then made the motion to suspend the three readings and pass Ordinance #644. Motion carried. Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to publish said ordinance in pamphlet form. Motion carried.

Superintendent Mahin gave the council his monthly update as follows: the siren has been repaired and adjusted; the transformer pad at CPI has been replaced with a new basement, the old basement had cracked and the transformer was falling through; the power lines behind the Post Office were removed off the H-Structure and relocated to a new pole, the H-structure will be demolished; line crew has started replacing poles and updating new electric services; been busy aerating, mowing and spraying the city properties and ditches; two were hired for summer help, but only one remains so still looking for help; Farabee Mechanical was here to diagnose

problems with engine #5; Conley from H. K. Scholz has installed the new digital electric meters at the power plant. These meters will extend the life of the generators and simplify operation. There have been some intentional power outages in town to troubleshoot which circuit has had a ground on the A phase. The first outage was at 3 a.m. last Friday. Last Sunday they were able to diagnose the problem and make the repairs to return the electric system back to normal. There was also a problem at the sewer plant where a lightning arrestor shorted out to ground and blew the fuses down the line causing the generator to start. However, when the generator started the electric coil shorted out causing the generator not to start which caused the plant to back up until the guys were able to bypass the coil and start the generator manually to pump the level down until the electric line repairs can be made. Replaced the valve for the pool bathhouse and installed a meter pit. Superintendent Mahin hired the manager, Haley Fisher, and the manager hired the lifeguards. Sargent Drilling was here to do the annual efficiency testing at the wells. He also mentioned to the council we need to look at the salaries for next year for the summer help and lifeguards.

Two building permits were issued since the last meeting: fence permit for Brad & Teresa Small and shed for James Durfey.

Under Old Business Reynolds gave an update on the Broadband Grant. She will keep checking into not only the grant but options available.

Since we currently do not have a prosecuting attorney there was no reason to discuss the nuisance properties. Hopefully another attorney will be found soon to take over the cases already going through the court system.

The council was provided a copy of an agreement for the Red Cloud Housing Authority to look over for the June meeting. Sharon Beitler will be in attendance at the June meeting to answer any questions the council may have.

As there was no further business to be had and done by the Mayor and City Council, Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Horne to adjourn said meeting at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the City Council will be held on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Johnson Services, clean lift station and storm sewer	1,250.00
Principal, dental insurance	622.61
Red Cloud Chief, legal printing	740.40
Watson Auto Sales, tommy-lift for cemetery pickup	500.00
Withholding, 4/16 payroll	893.53
Social Security, 4/16 payroll	1,744.18
Medicare, 4/16 payroll	407.92
Nationwide, 4/16 retirement contribution	1,348.53
Presto X, pest control	111.28
The Hastings Tribune, legal notices	920.21
The Lincoln National Life, life insurance	186.20
Great Plains, telephone & internet	898.68
State Income Tax, for the month of April	709.60
R & M Disposal, trash pickup	10,924.00
AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted	264.27
Sensus, repaired handheld	507.79
Various, to business insurance fund	6,871.70

Various, officer's salary fund	914.19
Various, economic development	2,195.25
Various, general	875.01
Nationwide, 5/1 payroll retirement contribution	1,423.05
Withholding, 5/1 payroll taxes	1,010.78
Social Security, 5/1 payroll taxes	1,897.24
Medicare, 5/1 payroll taxes	443.72
Barco, signs	200.95
Aramark, towels, janitorial services, uniforms	315.28
J & A Auto Supply, materials & supplies	330.80
CPI, fuel & tires	1,222.95
Olson Enterprises, fuel	6,331.91
Principal, dental insurance	622.61
Black Hills Energy, natural gas service	2,466.77
Kenny Lumber Center, materials & supplies	685.52
JEO Consultants, electric efficiency & dam risk reduction	1,103.87
C & D Service Center, parts	104.84
Petty Cash, postage, ad, water sample postage	175.03

ELECTRIC

Glenn Plumbing, replace pipe at power plant	96.99
Postmaster, postage on utility bills	230.71
JEO, Electric efficiency grant	1,552.50
Electric, 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
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	265.50
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	254.75
NMPP, annual dues	867.80
Echo, lugs	41.00
NMPP, air emissions report	1,000.00
Corporate Image Design, business cards for Superintendent Mahin	82.00
H. K. Scholz, recorder charts for power plant	1,139.55
MEAN, purchased power	69,643.48
Border States, supplies	380.31
Cardmember Service, meeting expenses	287.86
Hatten Electric, fan motor for power plant	382.30
WAPA, April purchased power	5,230.14
Salaries	8,741.17

WATER

Hawkins, fluoride	256.00
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One Call Concepts, line locates	12.12
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	254.75
NE Child Support Payment Center, garnishment	265.50
United HealthCare, group health insurance	6,712.67
One Call Concepts, line locates for March	11.70
Water, cash management reserve	625.00
NE Public Health Env. Lab, water analysis	247.00
One Call Concepts, line locates for April	14.70
Salaries	6,476.47

GENERAL

Kidder Benefits, disability claims procedures filing	150.00
Display Sales, Christmas decorations	389.00
Kidder Benefits, quarterly administrative fees	221.00
Hometown Leasing, copier lease	110.00
Eakes, office supplies	237.23
Sara Bockstadter, retainer	75.00
American Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska HR Manual	260.00
General to Police fund	1,916.51

LIBRARY

Kenny Lumber, lumber	73.99
Terri Eberly, mileage to meetings	299.75
Consumers Reports, subscription renewal	29.00
Country Living, subscription renewal	29.97
Baker & Taylor, books	465.07
Auld Public Library, materials, supplies, DVD's	133.12
J M Web Designs, quick books	60.00
Salaries	1,305.89

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bills	400.00
City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bills	400.00
City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bills	200.00

FIRE

Heritage Bank, loan pymt. – storage bldg.	731.98
Mid Rivers 911, 911 user fee	350.00
T – Shirt Engineers, uniforms	60.38
R C Municipal Airport, fuel	289.32

SWIMMING POOL

Iowa Pump Works, repairs to spare pool pump	1,225.14
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STREET

ODB, sweeper brooms	950.00
CPI, tire repairs	60.00
Verizon, cell phone	37.22
Nationwide, retirement loan payment	262.87
NMVCA, mosquito workshop & machine calibration	95.00
Dultmeier, PVC cap	38.47
Salaries	3,819.03

PARK

Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill	33.00
B –Green, underground sprinkler repairs at ballfield	21.00
B-Green, repairs to underground sprinklers at Scout Lodge	48.50
Salaries	330.38

COMMUNITY CENTER

Kim Danehey-Nibbe, April contract payment	950.00
RC Hardware, janitorial products	9.99
Body Basics, cable for weight set	99.37
Eagle Communications, cable TV	86.59

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R C Area Chamber of Commerce, membership dues	100.00
RCCF, donation-Good Living Tour	500.00
TVCDC, donation for mowing	3,400.00

COMPOST

R & M Disposal, City wide clean-up	2,200.00
Salaries	760.94

SEWER

Sewer, CM sewer reserve	625.00
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POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, April contact payment	3,854.29
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BOARD OF TRUST

Frank Degener, mowing BOT properties & clean up	400.00
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Total	\$186,519.38
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Gary L. Ratzlaff, Mayor

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk