CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 7th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the Red Cloud Community Center. Members present: Mayor Brown; Councilmen Horne, Beitler, Goebel, Mahin; Attorney McCracken; City 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.

The Police Report from April submitted by Sheriff Schmitz was presented to the council. Sheriff Schmitz was not in attendance. Superintendent Clark brought up that semi’s on Elm Street and 6th Avenue from Webster to Elm Street are a big problem. Councilman Goebel said he would check into it.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Mahin to approve the April Police Report. Motion carried.

Jeff Ray from JEO Consulting met with the council in regards to TIF (Tax Increment Financing). This is a tool available for economic development. He stated that in Second Class cities up to 50% of the town can be designated as Blight and Substandard. This designation opens up the availability of grants. There are publications and public hearings that will need to be conducted. He stated that expenses can be reimbursed in the first TIF project. After some discussion Horne made the motion and seconded by Goebel for the mayor to sign an agreement with JEO to develop a Blight Substandard Determination Study and General Redevelopment Plan of the study of the downtown business district. Motion carried.

Ashley Olson (Cather Director) met with the council in regards to the $562,000 grant recently received from the Nebraska Civic and Community Center Financing Act. She went over some background of the grant. The Cather Foundation is covering the required matching funds. Grants such as this have to be given to a government entity therefore, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to authorize the mayor to sign the State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Assistance Award Contract #19-03-146. Motion carried. Next Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to have the mayor sign a Bilateral Agreement between the City of Red Cloud and Willa Cather Foundation Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant. Motion carried. This agreement spells out the services required by the City and those of the Cather Foundation.

Next Suzi Schulz was scheduled to meet with the council in reference to a CLG (Certified Local Government) Grant Award in the amount of $7,780. She was unable to attend the meeting but Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to accept the CLG Grant Award. Motion carried.

Jarrod McCartney met with the council to give an update. He is hopeful some work will begin on the hotel project in the first part of June. The estimated date of completion would most likely in 2021. Still having an issue with pigeons. There may be another bike group coming to Red Cloud in 2020.

Gary Meyer met with the council for an update on the Public Board of Trust. The Board of Trust currently has the following properties: 905 N. Cedar Street, 1046 North Chestnut Street, 814 North Elm Street, 506 North Seward Street, 229 South Seward Street and 1005 North Webster Street. Three of the properties have been inspected for asbestos and remediated. All the properties are being mowed and weeds being sprayed. The empty lot located at 814 North Elm Street is for sale, 1046 North Chestnut will be burned when the Firemen get to it. They would like to rehab 506 North Cherry Street and 1005 North Webster Street but there is a lack of funding. There is discussion of possibly working with the high school shop class to renovate the property at 1005 North Webster Street. Except for burning the property at 1046 North Chestnut no definite plans have been made for the remainder properties.

Next Gary Meyer, Colleen Minnick, Dennis VanWay and Kenny VanWey met with the council in regards to the platted streets/alleys behind their properties. This turned into a lengthy discussion with only a decision being made on the platted street between the VanWeys. Mahin had made a motion to close all the streets platted and was seconded by Beitler with Goebel abstaining and Horne voting nay. But upon further discussion Mahin stated he had misunderstood the affect that would have on the possible future use proposed in the Comprehensive Plan therefore he revised his vote, seconded by Beitler to have Attorney McCracken draw up an ordinance to close only the street between VanWeys. Goebel abstained and Horne voted nay. Motion carried. No decision was made on the alleys at this time.

No one wished to address the council during the Public Comment.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Goebel to approve the April minutes. Motion carried.

Beitler made the motion and was seconded by Goebel to approve the Financial Reports and City Sales Tax. Motion carried. The City Sales Tax received in April for February was $13,198.43 compared to $12,728.78 for the same month last year.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Mahin to approve the claims for payment. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Mahin to approve payment to SCEDD in the amount of $807.50. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Mahin to approve Drawdown #11 CDBG #16-PP-009(Electric Efficiency Study). Motion carried.

Next the council needed to designate a representative to attend the SCEDD meetings. Councilman Horne volunteered. Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to appoint Councilman Horne as the Red Cloud representative. Motion carried with Horne abstaining. Clerk Meline will find out the dates of the meetings. The Blue Hill representative and our representative can take turns attending the meeting as only one vote will be allowed.

The council then needed to name a representative for the Historic Preservation Commission. Beitler stated he would be willing to serve. Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Horne to appoint Beitler to the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried with Beitler abstaining.

Recycling was next on the agenda. Councilman Mahin had this on last month’s agenda. However after doing more research even with a grant it would still cost the City. There was also discussion about the cardboard recycling. The baler takes up a lot of space and then we have to store the bales until we have a semi load which is usually 3 or 4 years... With the City in need of storage space and parking of equipment they are in favor of looking at possibly stopping the cardboard recycling also. The council was informed there was a businessman in town that has indicated he would be interested in purchasing the baler. Just need to make contact with him and see if he is interested.

Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to accept the resignation of Keith Meyer from the Red Cloud Housing Authority Board. Motion carried. No possible candidates to fill the vacancy has been submitted to Mayor Brown.

Superintendent Clark gave a general update: he is checking into cost of repairs or replacement of the roof at the power plant; the fire whistle has been taken down and the guys are checking it over, painting it and will move over to the fire hall; need to get the GIS mapping done; met with the State on the Dam Project and there are things that need to be done as soon as possible to satisfy the State; has been documenting the damage to streets to present to FEMA; hired Kimberly Brown as Pool Manager and also has hired a couple of kids to help with the string trimming; ran engines # 4 & #5 and all went well.

Clark then asked the council to consider raising the salary for the manager as it has been several years since there has been an increase. After a brief discussion Goebel made the motion and seconded by Beitler to raise the manager pay from $1,300 to $1,400 monthly. Motion carried. The lifeguards will continue to start at the Federal minimum wage of $7.25 and get a 25 cent an hour raise for each year they work. The Assistant Manager will receive $9 an hour when managing, but if lifeguarding it will be $7.25. Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve the raises. Motion carried. Then discussion was held as to the summer help. After some discussion, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to pay the summer help $7.75 an hour. Motion carried.

Superintendent Clark informed the council the stationary bike is considered obsolete and it is hard to obtain parts for it. He stated a resident had asked if the council would consider replacing it with a NuStep seated stepper at the cost of $3,795. Councilman Mahin had measured to see if the equipment would fit in the exercise room and it would take up a lot of room, more than the bike. The council has the same concerns that they have had all along is that the Exercise Room is too crowded as it is.

Building permits approved by Superintendent Clark since the last meeting are: fence for TVCDC, addition to house of Elizabeth VanWey, shed for Dusty Wulf, deck for Troy Schmitz around pool, deck extension for Mike Goebel and fence, shed for Cecil Brooks.

Attorney McCracken presented the council with copies of regulations pertaining to U-turns. One presented states “It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle to turn such vehicle so as to proceed from one side of the street to the other in order to enter a parking space.” There is a lot of this going on in the downtown business district and one accident from the result of this practice. Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Horne to have Attorney McCracken draw up an ordinance to prohibit this practice on Highway 136 and Highway 281 in the business district. Motion carried. He stated he is in negotiations with U S Cellular for the rent of their proposed cell tower. This rent will go to the Fire Dept. Fund like the current rent from the other two towers. He then informed the council he has found several errors in the new Zoning Book. Stated he needs to get in touch with SCEDD since they are the ones who updated the Zoning Regulations.

Under Old Business the council discussed which properties to turn over to the prosecuting attorney. After some discussion Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to give authorization to Attorney McCracken to use his discretion as to whether to send letters and/or turn over to the prosecuting attorney for the following properties: 502 North Elm, 942 North Cedar, 538 North Elm, 521 North Cedar, 510 North Elm, 302 North Seward. Motion carried. Then Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to put the property at 141 North Cedar on the keeping track list. Motion carried.

Under New Business Goebel stated he will miss the next four meetings. At this time Mayor Brown stated he had been approached by Midlands Area Agency of Nebraska as to whether the City had a building they could rent. He showed them the Scout Lodge and they wanted to see the Community Center. He just wanted the council to be aware of this.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Goebel to enter into executive session for two employee evaluations at 9:54 p.m. Motion carried.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to resume the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Beitler to give the raises to the City Superintendent and Power Plant Operator. Motion carried.

As there was no further business to be had and done by the Mayor and City Council, Goebel made the motion and was seconded by Horne to adjourn said meeting at 10:36 p.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The following is a list of claims approved for payment:

Principal, dental insurance 729.56

Presto X, pest control 77.04

Dana F. Cole & Company, 2017 - 2018 Audit 9,319.58

Red Cloud Chief, legal printing 421.35

Nationwide, 4/16 retirement contribution 1,329.83

State Income Tax, for month of April 825.85

Medicare, 4/16 payroll 447.32

Social Security, payroll 1,912.60

Withholding, 4/16 payroll 1,098.45

The Lincoln National Life, life insurance 209.35

Great Plains, telephone service 991.18

R & M Disposal, trash pickup 11,222.50

AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted 269.81

BCBS, group health insurance 9,981.65

Various, to business insurance fund 7,358.16

Various to officer’s salary 695.82

Various to 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

Withholding, 5/1 payroll 1,092.19

Social Security, 5/1 payroll 1,902.44

Medicare, 5/1 payroll 444.94

Nationwide, 5/1 retirement contributions 1,324.59

Landmark, oil, parts, janitorial 369.51

Aramark, uniforms, towel service, janitorial 370.26

Van Diest, lawn chemicals 2,714.08

Eakes, janitorial, office supplies 126.88

Black Hills Energy, natural gas service 1,476.62

Kenny Lumber, materials & supplies 701.39

CPI, fuel 1,117.73

Olson Enterprises, tire and service 2,909.61

Principal, dental insurance 561.20

J & A Auto Supply, parts & supplies 141.33

Petty Cash, extra postage, water sample postage 111.95

ELECTRIC

Dultmeier Sales, quick connect for pressure washer 34.60

Hydraulic repairs on F-550 187.97

BCBS, supplemental insurance 184.41

Postmaster, postage on utility bills 249.85

Electric to bond & interest 2,000.00

Nationwide, retirement loan payment-payroll deducted 59.81

Jason Franssen, towards cell phone bill 44.00

Joe Hersh, towards cell phone bill 44.00

Barco, safety signs 203.39

H K Scholz, install meters @ PP 26,957.95

Border States, parts for stock 1,815.64

Jason Franssen, overpayment on garnishment 161.43

WAPA, purchased power for April 5,230.14

MEAN, purchased power for March 74,616.10

NE DOL/Office of Safety, boiler inspection @ PP 30.00

JEO Consulting, electrical efficiency study 1,000.00

Hometown Market, Clorox disinfectant 6.40

Cardmember Service, monthly adobe fee 16.04

Bostock Welding, bracket for whistle 202.00

Salaries 8,638.33

WATER

One Call Concepts, line locates 5.37

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 265.60

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 254.75

Water to CM water reserve 625.00

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 265.50

NE Child Support Payment, garnishment 254.75

Hawkins, fluoride 261.31

Municipal Supply, water meters 2,478.02

NE Public Health Env. Lab, water analysis 81.00

Village Pharmacy, water testing supplies 4.00

One Call Concepts, line locates 23.04

Utility Service Co., quarterly water tower maintenance agreement pymt. 4,447.50

Salaries 7,109.59

SEWER

Sewer fund to CM sewer reserve 625.00

Iowa Pump Works, repairs to lift station pump 2,190.43

CEMETERY

CPI, propane 37.95

Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill 33.00

FIRE

Heritage Bank, loan pymt. On storage building 731.98

Mid Rivers 911, May 911 user fee 350.00

Cornhusker Cleaning, janitorial supplies 169.30

STREET

Bladen Sand & Gravel, millings & road gravel 1,555.03

Ben Hobbs, rock 171.60

Verizon, cell phone bill 41.39

Bladen Sand & Gravel, millings 2,090.10

Figgins, cold mix asphalt 1,326.20

Pavers, cold mix asphalt 4,846.40

Salaries 4,351.96

LIBRARY

Electronic Systems, fire alarm issues 240.00

Demco, summer reading program 102.68

Consumer Reports, subscription 32.10

Auld Public Library, DVD’s 241.68

HGTV, subscription 39.97

Barnes & Noble, books 61.59

Office Net, computer cable 29.94

Baker & Taylor, books 577.08

Salaries 1,346.01

GENERAL

Hometown Leasing, copier lease payment 110.00

John Hodge, attorney fees 75.00

General to police fund 1,916.51

Bear Graphics, CDBG checks 170.00

Cather Foundation, ad for spring conference 50.00

Earl May, tree for Arbor Day 254.99

Postmaster, 2 rolls of 1st class stamps 110.00

PARK

B – Green Lawn Care, sprinkler repairs 68.75

Presto X, pest control @ scout lodge 36.38

Salaries 398.35

COMPOST

R & M Disposal, city wide clean-up 2,712.00

Salaries 504.74

POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, April contract payment 3,854.29

COMMUNITY CENTER

Kim Danehey-Nibbe, contract payment 950.00

Weissert Hardwood Flooring, floor MP room @ CC 6,713.20

Body Basics, repairs to exercise bike 27.00

Eagles Communications, cable TV @ CC 88.61

BOARD OF TRUST

Frank Degener, mowing BOT properties 180.00

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Great Plains Asbestos, asbestos abatement @ 3 properties 2,900.00

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bill 341.71

J. P., refund balance of deposit 58.29

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bill 107.46

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bill 175.21

P. O. refund balance of deposit 24.79

CDBG

City of Red Cloud, reimbursement of pymt. #16-PP-009 1,839.37

TIF

CPI Elevator, ½ of taxes 131.96

Total Expenses $251,098.96