

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

As per notice in the Red Cloud Chief, the Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 5, 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; City Superintendent Mahin and Clerk Meline.

The Mayor 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.

First on the agenda was the 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Budget. The council had held a public work session on this earlier with no public attendance; therefore Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips for the 2.5% increase. Motion carried. Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to pass Resolution #699 which is the appropriation of funds for the fiscal year 2018 – 2019. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to pass Resolution #700 that sets the levy/tax request for 2018 – 2019. Motion carried. Both of these resolutions will be published in the Red Cloud Chief.

Next the new prosecuting attorney John Hodge met with the council to introduce himself and discuss how he handles nuisance properties. Attorney Hodge stated the Health Board should be the ones selecting the properties considered nuisance and present to the council. The Health Board consists of the Mayor, President of the Council, Physician or health care provider and Sheriff. The council and citizens can file written complaints about a property to the City Clerk. He would like to meet with Sheriff Schmitz and Attorney McCracken to make sure they are all on the same page on handling the nuisance properties. Sheriff Schmitz was in attendance and in favor of a meeting. Attorney Hodge stated he will attend the council meetings for the remainder of the year.

Next on the agenda was the Police Report submitted to the council with their agenda packet. As the council had no questions for Sheriff Schmitz, Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Horne to approve the Police Report as submitted. Motion carried.

Mike Goebel was the spokesperson for the group that would like to make a fitness center at the Scout Lodge. There are a couple of guys willing to move their equipment there for now but in time would like the city to purchase equipment. Things brought up were: cost of installation of equipment to use fob keys, what to charge, air conditioner, remove wall at entrance, etc. The council would like some figures of the start-up costs before making a decision.

Thomas Sutton met with the council in regards to the nuisance letter he had received for 526 North Franklin Street. He stated he is remodeling his house and has taken some loads out to the C & D Site. Attorney McCracken stated he will go and take another look to see if there is an improvement from his earlier visit. Mr. Sutton told the council about some of the problems with properties around his property. These properties will be checked out and proper procedures will be carried out if they are found to be in violation of City Codes.

Gary Shipman met with the council again asking for reimbursement of the \$2,766.38 presented at the last meeting. After some discussion, Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne not to reimburse his costs incurred at the property out by the C & D Site. Horne and Reynolds voted yea, while Knehans and Phillips voted nay. The Mayor broke the vote by voting yea. Therefore motion carried not to reimburse.

Jarrod McCartney was scheduled to meet with the council but had notified Clerk Meline late afternoon that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

Colleene Minnick met with the council in regards to Veteran's Recognition for all Veterans in Webster County on November 11th. They are making quilts for all the Veterans to be presented to them at the recognition. The program will be held at the Red Cloud Community Center. She also asked if the council would be willing to purchase an American Flag, POW Flag and Nebraska Flag to be permanently displayed in the Community Center multi-purpose room. She gave the council some prices. Colleene asked if the council would consider waiving the rental fee of the Community Center for the program. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to purchase the flags and display permanently. Motion carried. Then Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to waive the rental fee for the program. Horne, Reynolds, Knehans vote yea, while Phillips voted nay. Motion carried.

Under Public Comments Colleene Minnick had some questions about nuisance properties and maintenance of ditches including weeds. The weed problem needs to be reported to the County Weed Superintendent. Nuisance property complaints can be filed by anyone to the City Clerk. Also at this time she asked the council to consider deeding the Scout Lodge over to the VFW and Legion so they can have a place to store the records, meet, hold fund raisers, etc. Legalities need to be checked on this as there are rules and regulations on the city getting rid of properties. Attorney McCracken will have to check into the legalities.

Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynold to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to approve the Financial Reports and City Sales Tax. Motion carried. The City Sales tax received in August for June was \$23,089.15 compared to \$16,156.02 for the same month last year.

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

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to transfer the funds from the Community Center Reserve Account to the Community Center fund. Motion carried. The Community Center Reserve Fund was established as required when the bonds were issued for the Community Center. Since the Community Center final payment will be made this month, the reserve fund is no longer required.

Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Horne to accept the resignation of Brenda Knehans from the Economic Development Advisory Board. Horne, Reynolds, Phillips voted yea while Knehans abstained. Motion carried.

Phillips made the motion and was seconded by Horne to accept the resignation of Angela Duca from the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried.

Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to appoint Superintendent Mahin, Mayor Ratzlaff, President of the Council Horne and Jason Franssen to the Health Insurance Committee. Motion carried. Reynolds, Knehans, Phillips voted yea, while Horne abstained. Motion carried.

Next Councilwoman Reynolds informed the council that there is a grant available to assist with the annual clean-up costs with no financial match from the City. After a brief discussion, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to proceed with the grant application. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Reynolds stated she would like the council to do more in welcoming hunters to town. Suggestions were putting up a Welcome Banner as well as putting up the Welcome Flags. After a brief discussion, Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to table this to the October meeting. Motion carried.

Attorney McCracken stated some concerns had been expressed by council members pertaining to the length of time an unlicensed vehicle can be in a yard. The current ordinance states: It shall be unlawful to park or store any motor vehicle, which is required to be registered pursuant to Nebraska statute, on private property within the City limits and within public view for a period of over ninety(90) days. The new ordinance will repeal the ninety(90) days and will state thirty(30) days. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to pass Ordinance #645 upon reading by title by Clerk Meline. Motion carried. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Phillips that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended. Motion carried. Knehans then made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to pass said ordinance and publish in pamphlet form. Motion carried.

Superintendent Mahin stated he had recently attended a LRNRD Board meeting in regards to the City Dam. They do seem to have some interest but have some concerns to be addressed before they would form a partnership with the City of Red Cloud. A couple of concerns they have are the accountability of the landowner and engineering fees. The swimming pool has been drained and winterized. Municipal Automation & Control recently updated the water systems control at the Power Plant and the Sewer Plant. He feels this is a great addition to have the alarms and accessibility via computer. He and the utility crew have been helping with the mowing in the cemetery since we were unable to secure summer help. They have done some work at the courthouse for their new AVAC. Still have some work to do there. Next he and Councilman Horne informed the council of concerns with the AED unit at the Community Center. Repairs to the unit currently being used are very expensive. It is Horne's recommendation to purchase a new AED unit that is less expensive to repair. Also the signage for the AED unit is not very informative as to the location of the AED unit. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Phillips to get better signage for the AED unit. Motion carried. There was also discussion as to having training on the usage of the unit. Last month Mahin told the council about a chance to obtain some walking signs with a grant. The council is interested and came up with locations to be on the sign: Library, City Hall, Webster County Museum, Courthouse and Cemetery. Also at last month's meeting, Mahin asked the council whether they would consider a service agreement with Utility Service Co. Inc. for cleaning the exterior of the water tower every three(3) years in the amount of \$4,278 annually. This would be \$1,069.50 per quarter. We currently have a maintenance agreement with them for painting in the amount of \$3,378 quarterly. Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to enter into a service agreement with Utility Service Co. Inc. Motion carried.

There were no building permits.

Old Business was next on the agenda which are the nuisance properties. Two properties that had been turned over to the Prosecuting Attorney are in the works of being remedied. After some discussion, it was decided to have Attorney Hodge start with the properties at 137 North Walnut Street, 325 North Seward Street, 822 North Cedar Street and 705 North Walnut Street.

Horne made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to enter into executive session at 9:27 p.m. for employee evaluations. Motion carried. Reynolds made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to resume the open meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried. Knehans made the motion and was seconded by Reynolds to give raises to the Library Director, Assistant Librarian, Compost Site Operator and Custodian. Reynolds, Phillips, Knehans vote yea, while Horne abstained. Motion carried.

Horne then made the motion and was seconded by Knehans to accept with deep regrets the resignation of Todd Mahin as City Superintendent, the Economic Development Advisory Board and the Board of Trust effective October 2, 2018. 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 Horne to adjourn said meeting at 9:49 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Red Cloud Chief, legal printing	866.86
Withholding, 8/16 payroll	1,131.86
Social Security, 8/16 payroll	2,299.22
Medicare, 8/16 payroll	537.74
Nationwide, 8/16 retirement contribution	1,426.03
State Income Tax, for month of August	945.86
R & M Disposal, trash service & collected from utility bills	12,147.50
AFLAC, insurance-payroll deducted	303.71
United HealthCare, health insurance	6,712.67
The Lincoln National Life Insurance, life insurance	186.20
Great Plains, telephones	921.73
Various, business insurance	6,871.70
Nationwide, retirement loan pymts.-payroll deducted	322.68
Various, officer's salary	914.19
Various, economic development	2,195.25
Various, general fund	875.01
Municipal Automation & Controls, water & sewer controls	19,386.96
Aramark, towels & janitorial services	315.28
C & D Service Center, parts	325.41
J & A Auto, parts	256.49
Nationwide, 9/1 retirement contributions	1,484.95
Withholding, 9/1 payroll taxes	1,049.50
Social Security, 9/1 payroll taxes	1,932.86
Medicare, 9/1 payroll taxes	452.04
Black Hills Energy, natural gas bills	877.44
CPI, fuel	1,286.10
Landmark, parts	326.42
Petty Cash, postage, ads, etc.	85.16
Kenny's Lumber & Home Center, materials & supplies	135.98
Border States, materials & supplies	666.52

ELECTRIC

Petty Cash, extra postage, supplies, hose	176.89
NE Child Support Pymt. Center, garnishment	265.50
NE Child Support Pymt. Center, garnishment	254.75
Adams County Court, garnishment	71.03
NE Child Support Pymt., garnishment	265.50

NE Child Support Pymt., garnishment	254.75
PV Business Solutions, 2018 OSHA Compliance Journal	298.50
State of Nebraska, returned unused of DHHS payment	140.11
Postmaster, utility bill postage	231.21
Electric, to bond & interest	2,000.00
Todd Mahin, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Jason Franssen, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Joe Hersh, towards cell phone bill	44.00
Adams County Court, garnishment	71.03
NE Child Support Pymt., garnishment	265.50
NE Child Support Pymt., garnishment	254.75
T & R Electric, 3 phase pad mount	4,175.00
MEAN, purchased power for July	78,665.03
League of NE Municipalities-membership dues	702.00
Cardmember Services, battery backup/surge boxes	600.76
NE Dept. of Revenue, waste reduction & recycling fee	25.00
WAPA, purchased power – August	5,030.04
Salaries	11,615.56

WATER

Water, to CM water reserve	625.00
Hawkins, fluoride	361.00
Utility Service, quarterly maint. Pymt.	3,378.00
NE Public Health Env. Lab, water samples	48.00
One Call Concepts, line locates	14.79
Salaries	4,423.50

SEWER

Sewer, to CM sewer reserve	625.00
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PARK

Dalton Long, towards cell phone bill	33.00
R C Golf Club, return of annual rent	6,000.00
Olson Enterprises, wire	3.49
Salaries	358.88

BOARD OF TRUST

Eagle Distribution, fundraiser expense	490.35
Dueling Duo's, fundraiser expense	2,800.00
Quench Fine Wines, fundraiser expense	268.00
Terry Curfman, painted house at 1005 N. Webster	600.00

GENERAL

Hometown Leasing, lease pymt. on copier	110.00
General, to police fund	1,916.51
NE Dept. of Agriculture, dog pound license	175.00
Corporate Image Design, chair mat for office	379.00
Eakes, office supplies	313.73
Nationwide, surety bond for Treasurer	125.00
Moore Medical, AED maintenance	563.58
Kidder Benefits, quarterly administrative fees	220.00
Corporate Image Design, claims	265.50
Nebraska State Treasurer, state share of dog license fees	127.31
Postmaster, #10 window/regular envelopes	1,148.10

FIRE

Heritage Bank, loan payment on fire storage bldg..	731.98
Mid Rivers 911, 911 user fees	350.00
Danko Emergency, nozzle-forestry grant	1,035.41
Sandry Fire Supply, bunker gear	410.72

COMMUNITY CENTER

Kim Danehey Nibbe, August contract payment	950.00
Presto X, pest control	39.59
Eagle Communications, cable TV	86.59

STREET/HIWAY

Verizon, cell phone	52.92
Road Builders, cartridge	66.28
Bladen Sand & Gravel, road gravel	175.08
Salaries	2,606.80

LIBRARY

Reminisce Extra, subscription	14.98
Readers Digest Large Print, subscription	29.96
House Beautiful, subscription renewal	29.97
Auld Public Library, DVD's	95.76
People, subscription	118.26
O'Keefe Elevator, maint. of elevator	295.36
Salaries	1,339.77

CONSUMERS

City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bill	200.00
City of Red Cloud, applied deposit to utility bill	200.00
H. R., refunded deposit	200.00
Nebraska State Treasurer, unclaimed deposits	86.83

INSURANCE

Gary Thompson Agency, due after annual insurance audit	2,284.00
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C & D SITE

NDEQ, annual C & D Site Permit	750.00
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POLICE

Webster County Sheriff, August contract payment	3,854.29
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COMPOST

Salaries	831.84
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CEMETERY

Salaries	1,910.42
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SWIMMING POOL

Salaries	6,210.91
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Total Expenses	\$223,064.69
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Gary Ratzlaff, Mayor

ATTEST: Sue Meline, City Clerk