
CITY OF CRAWFORD

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 26, 2024

Members of the City Council of the City of Crawford, Nebraska met in regular session at the Crawford Public Library Crawford, Nebraska on the 26th day of March, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Phillips. The following individuals were present:

Council President Shane Norman, Council Member April Grant, Council Member Christopher Dean, City Clerk Julia Butler and Attorney Adam Edmund.

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof by publishing in The Crawford Clipper/Harrison Sun as shown by the affidavit of publication filed in the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice of the Mayor and City Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Phillips announced to the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall and available in pamphlet form, if requested.

Minutes for March 12th, 2024 regular meeting – Norman made motion to approve minutes. Seconded by Grant. AYE: Norman, Grant, Dean. NAY: none Motion carried.

Ponderosa Villa – Council member Dean stated their meeting is 5:30pm Wednesday, March 27th.

Golf – Council Member Norman went over the golf board meeting minutes.

Park – Scott DeBock, Park Board Chairman, gave report regarding bids they have been receiving and other preparations for the pool.

SWANN - Council member Norman reported no report.

Library – Ashtyn Blacksheep, librarian, went over a few highlights from March, upcoming events, ongoing projects such as the accreditation process and percentage of what has been completed of the Library inventory.

Hospital – No report

NNDC – Council member Grant reported on her meeting with Deb regarding renewing/restructuring the program as whole to increase numbers and retain.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss/approve/disapprove back payment of monthly in-lieu-of-benefits sum to applicable employees for the period of time between the establishment and implementation of said monthly sum, namely the months of January and February 2024: Mayor Phillips asked when motion was initially passed which was January 9, 2024. Dean asked attorney Edmund if it needs to be paid in two checks, one for January and one for February. Edmund replied yes from a payroll standpoint. Grant said she thought when it was passed it was backdated to be effective January 1. Grant made the motion to approve the back payment as of January 1, 2024 for the period of the two months of January and February to catch up to the current payroll. Seconded by Dean. AYE: Grant, Dean, Norman NAY: none Motion carried.

Discuss/approve/disapprove Mayor's recommendation for filling vacant council seat, Robert Tovmassian: Dean made the motion to seat Robert Tovmassian in vacant council seat. Seconded by Grant. AYE: Dean, Grant, Norman NAY: none Motion carried

Discuss/approve/disapprove raise for Cindy Drinkwalter for receiving the Drug & Alcohol Program Management & Compliance Certification: Norman made motion the motion to approve the .47 raise. Seconded by Grant. AYE: Norman, Grant, Tovmassian, Dean NAY: none Motion carried.

Discuss/approve/disapprove golf board recommended hire and wage for seasonal part-time golf course maintenance employee, Fay Hughes: Norman made motion to hire Fay Hughes at \$12.00 per hour. Seconded by Dean. AYE: Norman, Dean, Tovmassian, Grant NAY: none Motion carried.

Discuss/approve/disapprove advertising for another seasonal part-time golf course maintenance employee: Norman stated per Golf Superintendent, Amanda Lager's, request and golf board also discussed it, Norman made motion to approve advertising for another seasonal golf course maintenance employee at same rate. Dean asked to be more specific as to where we're advertising and seconded. Motion was amended to add advertising only with KCSR and the Crawford Clipper. AYE: Norman, Dean, Tovmassian, Grant NAY: none Motion carried.

Discuss/approve/disapprove kitchen equipment purchase for \$900.00 for clubhouse: No Action taken.

Discuss/approve/disapprove estimate from Paul Reed Construction for pumping out the golf course pond: Mayor Phillips took a moment to explain why the pond needs to be pumped out. Norman made motion to approve the estimate at \$2,440 per day for Paul Reed Construction for pumping. Mayor Phillips asked if he would like to put a cap on it for two days and then re-evaluate. More discussion took place about the removal and disposal of the pond water. Mayor Phillips said a representative from Paul Reed will be coming up to do some cubic foot and acre feet of water measurements and if anything unusual comes up he will get a hold of council. Motion was seconded by Dean. AYE: Norman, Dean, Tovmassian, Grant. NAY: none Motion carried.

Discuss/approve/disapprove starting bid process for sandblasting/concrete repair and pool heater: Mayor Phillips stated this was more of an update than a motion. Said advertising will officially start on 3/27/24 because the first bid received was over \$30,000. So we have to do a formal bid process. Tovmassian suggested we need to require a historical performance of work with their bid. DeBock pointed out the Council will have to have an emergency meeting to approve bids so work can get started as quick as possible.

Discuss/approve/disapprove increasing 2024 swimming pool rates: Dean stated he felt they needed to discuss this further and they could discuss the pool rates and hiring at the same time. Norman stated said some of the families that use the pool don't have a lot of money. Grant asked when the last time pool rates had been raised and it was said in 2018. DeBock said Park Board met that morning and discussed rate increases and biggest concern Buffy and the board had was they didn't want to impact the kids. DeBock said they discussed possibly raising the family pass 10% from \$150 to \$165. They're still in discussion phase. He went on to give an idea of the other rate increases. DeBock said they do not want to raise the kids' fees and want to be competitive with Chadron. Discussion continued on regarding the rates, what our pool has to offer, tracking attendance numbers and ensuring all kids are able to swim. No action taken.


Discuss/approve/disapprove park board recommended hire and wages for seasonal pool and park help: Dean stated he doesn't have an issue with most of the wages for this year but a discussion needs to be held about doing away with the .25 a year raise for returning employees because next year minimum wage is \$13.50 per hour. Grant also pointed out minimum wage will go up the year after so for the time being the returning raise should be placed on a temporary hold and once minimum wage increases stop then Council can come back and reevaluate. Norman stated we should not hire for more than last year because we have not done that with anybody else so far this year because we don't know where our budget's set at. Discussion took place about certifications costs, reimbursement and wage. DeBock said the City is going to have to consider setting a cap on seasonal wages. Grant pointed out she felt the .25 raise was fair for the pool employees this year since they have to be certified. Grant made the motion to approve the following hires exactly how they are listed for the 2024 season. Seconded by Tovmassian. AYE: Grant, Tovmassian, Dean, Norman. NAY: none Motion carried.

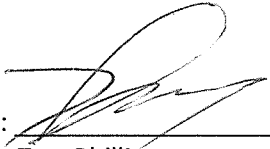
Buffy Allred – Manager at \$15.25 per hour
Kylah Vogel – Assistant Manager at \$13.50 per hour
Carly Lemmon – Lifeguard at \$13.25 per hour
Natalie Barry – Lifeguard at \$13.00 per hour
Keslyn Vogel – Lifeguard at \$12.25 per hour
Peyton Osmotherly – Lifeguard at \$12.00 per hour

Mahayla Allred – Swimming Lessons instructor \$13.00 per hour
Ian Anderson – Seasonal Park Maintenance at \$12.00 per hour

Approve bills and claims, requisition orders and transfers. Grant made the motion to approve. Seconded by Dean
AYE: Grant, Dean, Norman Tovmassian abstained from vote NAY: none Motion carried.

Mayor Phillips adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes by: 
Jody Bass
Deputy Clerk

Approved by: 
Tom Phillips
Mayor

WARRANTS SIGNED 3/26/24

Payroll	Payroll Checks on 3/11/24	\$16,436.93
EFTPS	FED/FICA Tax	\$3,933.72
NE Dept of Revenue	STATE W/H	\$972.77
Capital Guardian	Pension Plan	\$928.34
Aflac	Medical Ins.	\$529.32
Beef State Agency	New/Renew Bonds	\$429.20
Black Hills Energy	Heat Utility	\$1,445.04
Hawkins	Chemicals/Parts	\$40.00
Jody Bass	Training Travel Expense	\$499.77
McQueen Equipment	Street Sweeper Parts	\$133.24
MPC Heating Cooling	Maintenance	\$4,603.40
NE Dept Revenue	2023 Pool Sales Tax Fees	\$2.37
NE Dept Revenue	4th Qtr Park Sales Tax Fees	\$25.03
NE Public Health Lab	Lab Fees	\$237.00
NE Total Office	Supplies	\$65.54
Print Works	Supplies	\$92.00
Skeeters NAPA	Supplies	\$423.15
UMB Bank	Water Plant Refi Bond	\$2,775.00