

CITY CLERK  
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**CITY OF CRAWFORD**  
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CRAWFORD, NEBRASKA 69339

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**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

Members of the City Council of the City of Crawford, Nebraska, met in regular session in the Crawford Community Building, 1005 First Street, Crawford, Nebraska on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, at 6:30 o'clock p.m. The following individuals were present: Mayor Connie Shell, Attorney Adam Edmund, Council Member Ronnie Thompson, Council Member Susan Leeling and Council Member Zac Riggs. Absent: Council Member Ed Kuhnel.

Notice of the 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.

Mayor Shell called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 6:30 p.m. and announced to the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall at the Community Building. It is also available in pamphlet form.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those wishing to do so.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 special council meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

**Board Reports:**

PonderosaVilla: will meet 1-20-21.

Hospital: will meet 1-25-21.

SWANN: will meet 1-18-21

No other reports.

Discussion was held on addressing nuisance properties. Mayor Shell stated that after talking with the Sheriff and deputies, they are now aware that they can contact people directly. People can also contact City Hall and lodge complaints. Then it will go to the Council. Council members can also turn complaints in. The deputies can contact or cite people. Attorney Edmund stated that it's a never-ending problem. We have been complaint-driven; sometimes tax sales are involved; the current owner still owns it until it has gone through the foreclosure process. Sometimes an investment company pays for it hoping to get the interest, but then if it doesn't come to fruition and no one redeems it, they just walk away from it. The nuisance process involves a certain number of days to comply. Clean-up is the end game. We'll always hear the owner mention other properties. We need to treat them consistently. It has to be in the definition of a nuisance, ugly doesn't count. In reference to vehicles with expired plates or in non-working order, there was some discussion if covering it with a car tarp that is in good condition may be acceptable in lieu of storing the vehicle in a building. Attorney Edmund suggested that if we get too tough, remember the goal is to get it cleaned up – be practical – allow for options, such as if there's no room for another storage building.

Discussion was held on the Ready-to-Serve fee on rental properties under development. Comments included: everyone pays it; if you are working on the property, you probably need electricity and water anyway. The consensus of the Council was that the Ready-to-Serve fee still needs to be paid in these situations.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 to apply for Public Transportation grant funds for 2021 - 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling, Thompson and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Shell read the Proclamation proclaiming January 2021 as National Mentoring month. Brad Gaston was invited to have Team Mates come to City Hall for a picture at a later time. Mr. Gaston stated that they are meeting remotely through the computer right now, and thanked Mayor Shell. He invited everyone to consider becoming a mentor as it can mean a lot and make a big difference to youth.

Gene Anderson presented the semi-annual water report. Breaks and water loss have been mostly due to fixing service lines, instead of problems with the water mains. At the water plant, we still have to deal with the filters – the plant is twenty years old. There was less water usage at the pool. Zac Riggs will be doing the plumbing for the baseball field. Employees did not flood irrigate at the Park. There is no minimum on the pumping rights, just submit explanation, but can't exceed the maximum. The City still needs a new pump for the Park. The Annual Needs Survey was completed, which keeps us on the list for funding. Harrison has three back-flow preventors which Gene tests, in lieu of Harrison paying for the annual calibration of the backflow testing device, which they have done. The required document, the Vulnerability Assessment, was completed today. Before the end of January, Gene will complete the Groundwater and Well reports. The wastewater discharge permit renewal has been submitted. The cemetery well is not included in the State well reports. Continuing Education is on-going.

Discussion was held on the appointment of the Public Works Commissioner, as required by State Statute. Mayor Shell stated that Gene Anderson has been doing everything already for over a year and proposed appointing Gene Anderson with a wage increase of \$1.50 per hour. Other comments included the possibility and costs of hiring an outside contractor and wanting to look into it some more. Some cities, like Chadron, appoint internally. Council Member Riggs had an issue with the raise, wouldn't know where to start. There was no counter offer to the raise offered by the Council. Council Member Thompson wanted to take no action. Council Member Leeling made a motion to give Gene Anderson a raise with the duties he has already been performing. There was no second to the motion. The issue will be re-addressed on January 26, 2021.

Discussion was held on the painting of murals. Clarice Hynes stated that there is a public mural contest; artists submit designs to be used; they need to come up with some places, such as possibly the Library and Museum. Mayor Shell stated that she thought the mural on the Museum was still in really good shape. After discussion, Mayor Shell recommended that Clarice talk with the Library Board about possibly painting a mural on the Library building.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve the appointment of Ralene Suchor to the Planning Commission for the 2021-2024 term and Twila Vogl for the Ponderosa Villa for the 2021-2026 term. The motion was seconded by Council Member Riggs. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: Thompson. Motion carried.

Mayor Shell stated that there are two vacancies on the Golf Board for the 2021-2024 terms. There is a lot of discussion within the community about why the Golf Board members don't have to live within the City limits – that all of them live outside the City limits. Mayor Shell stated that two people that live within the

City limits have submitted letters of interest in being on the Golf Board and she would like those two to go on.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve Steinacher and Wohlers. There was no second to the motion. Public comments received were that since the City finances the golf course, at least half the Board should be from the City. Otherwise, it's like taxation without representation. Other comments: suggested doing each person individually. Council Member Thompson suggested putting one City resident on now, and another resident on in the future. The Mayor appoints with the approval of Council. Mayor Shell appointed Irene Hughes and Terry Steinacher. More discussion that appointing local residents is in the best interest of the City and that's how it should be. Mayor Shell felt it was important to have at least half of the Board from within the City limits; another suggestion to do one person at a time.

Mayor Shell proposed the appointment of Terry Steinacher to the Golf Board. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Shell proposed the appointment of Irene Hughes to the Golf Board. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: Thompson and Riggs. Motion not carried.

Mayor Shell proposed the appointment of Roz Mader to the Golf Board. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: Thompson. Motion carried.

Mayor Shell stated that the base cost of the Midwinter's Conference is \$395. It will be held intermittently from February 6 through February 13. On Saturdays, it will be geared for new council members, including topics of Conflict of Interest and Finances.

Council Member Riggs made a motion to approve registration for the virtual Midwinter's Conference. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Riggs, Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Comments on water license certification included: cross-training between personnel, not going into executive session, and whether or not Jerry Lemmon was interested also. Jerry Lemmon going to the training also will be on the next agenda on January 26, 2021.

Council Member Riggs made a motion to approve the attendance of Tim Schultz at the water license certification training in Scottsbluff on July 20-July 22, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Riggs, Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Regarding the increase of the deposit at the Community Building, comments were: is currently at \$100; custodian is paid \$10 per hour; people that take care of it will get the deposit back; if they don't, they can pay it; it is currently the custodian who decides if or how much of the deposit is refunded; maybe there should be a committee of two or three that would decide.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve \$300 as the cleaning deposit on the Community Building. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve bills and claims. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling, Thompson and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

*Payment Issued	P=Payroll/Payroll-Related		
<b>CLAIMS 1/12/21</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	
AMAZON	WEBCAM FOR PUB TR. FOR TRAININGS (REIMB. 100% BY FED)	121.00	
BRANDON SMITH	DEC TRASH COLLECTION	5,415.43	
CAPITAL GUARDIAN	PENSION 1/12/21 P.ROLL	519.20	*P
CENTURY BUSINESS	COPIER MAINT	86.20	
CHADRON RECORD	LIB SUB	67.94	
CITY OF CRAWFORD	XFER TO SVGS FOR RTS PD IN DEC	4,313.97	
CRAWFORD PUB. SCHOOLS	REMIT 2021 TOBACCO LIC. FEES TO SCHOOL	100.00	
DAWES COUNTY	COURT COSTS - NUISANCE PROPERTY CASES	17.00	
EFTPS	FED/FICA 1/12/21 P.ROLL	2,508.70	*P
FLORIDA SDU	CHILD SUPP 1/12/21 P.ROLL	56.77	*P
GARDNER, LOUTZENHISER	ANNUAL AUDIT (1ST HALF)	8,000.00	
I-PAYMENT	OFF-SEASON GOLF CRED. CRD ACCT	68.50	
JOHNSON WELDING	REPAIR GOLF FENCE	255.00	
LEAGUE OF NE MUNIC	W/WW TRAINING ANDERSON/KROTZ - APPROVED 12-22-20 AGENDA	670.00	
MOBIUS	LIB PHONE/FAX/INT	206.97	
MORFORD'S DÉCOR	CARPET	2,550.00	
NE DEPT OF REV	SALES TAX: W/WW/GOLF/PARK/POOL	3,942.91	
NE DEPT OF REV	ANNUAL LODGING TAX	182.71	
NE LIQUOR CONTROL	2ND SDL FOR WHIT. DOCK CLUB 1/23/21 (TO BE REIMBURSED)	42.75	
NORTHERN TRUCK	SNOW BLADE FOR 2006 CHEVY	7,550.00	
NPPD	ELECTRICITY	5,273.41	
NW RURAL PUB PWR	ELECT - WELLS	153.84	
ONE-CALL (DIGGERS)	QUARTERLY BILL	40.38	
PINE RIDGE SERVICE	TIRE RE/SU/PROPANE/OIL CHANGE	94.55	
ROSE EQUIPMENT	MOUNTING BRACKETS - STR SWEEPER	125.22	
SECURITY FIRST BANK	MTHLY S/C FOR ACH CUSTOMERS	6.10	
SWANN	LANDFILL - DEC	8,196.67	
US POST OFFICE	STAMPS (W2S & 1099S, ETC.)	55.00	
UTILITY SERVICES	WTR TANK MAINT	9,820.32	
WESTO	FUEL/PROPANE	2,063.37	

NET PAYROLL	1/12/2021	8,796.22	*P
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>71,300.13</b>	

**KENO FUNDS**

CITY OF CRAWFORD	REIMB FOR N. TRUCK -SNOW BLADE-APPROVED 12/22/20	7,550.00
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**UNIFORM ALLOWANCES 2021**

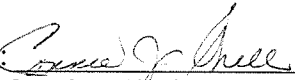
EUGENE ANDERSON	REIMB UNIFORM ALLOW: STEEL-TOE BOOTS (INCL. IN NET PAYROLL LISTED ABOVE)	69.78	*P
JERRY LEMMON	REIMB UNIFORM ALLOW: STEEL-TOE BOOTS (INCL. IN NET PAYROLL LISTED ABOVE)	150.00	*P

Mayor Shell informed the Council that there have been questions on the used tin from the roofs of the City buildings. The tin will be surplus property and will be advertised for bids when all of the roofing work is completed.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Riggs. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling, Riggs and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The January 12, 2021 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Minutes by:   
Jane Dailey  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by:   
Connie J. Shell  
Mayor