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CITY OF CRAWFORD

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 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 23rd day of March, 2021, at 6:30 o'clock p.m. The following individuals were present: Mayor Connie Shell, Attorney Adam Edmund, Council Member Ed Kuhnel, Council Member Ronnie Thompson and Council Member Susan Leeling and Council Member Riggs. Absent: None.

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.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 regular Council meeting and to excuse the absence of Council Member Riggs from the March 9 Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling, Thompson, Kuhnel and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Golf: will meet Thursday 3-25-21.

Park: met Monday 3-22-21; interviewed seasonal applicants; will meet 4-12-21; seasonal employees will start 4-5-21.

Hospital: will meet Monday 3-29-21.

NNDC: CDBG has \$20,157; USDA RBEG: \$97,099; USDA IRP: \$18,492.

Cultural Center: Council Member Thompson talked to John Erickson; will probably meet the end of March sometime.

Quiet/Safety Zone: Mayor Shell has talked with Kyle Anderson of FHU that did the Feasibility Study; need to update the study; should have an estimate by the end of the week; there might be some good options for the people that live north of town.

No other reports.

Tim Eisenhauer of Baker & Associates presented information on the bids for the upcoming Water Improvement Project which were received March 3rd, from Myers Construction, Paul Reed Construction and Eric Reichert. The Reichert bid was not publicly read as it did not acknowledge a couple of the addendums. Between Myers Construction and Paul Reed Construction, there was a difference of \$546. After looking at the different schedules, conducting a detailed analysis, detecting an irregularity in the Myers Construction

bid, looking at the highest priority of the water and sewer lines in Schedules A and B, and considering the available funding, it is recommended to re-bid Schedule C which is the water meters. For Schedules A and B, Paul Reed was quite a bit lower than Myers Construction, by \$250,000 to \$300,000. Schedule C was for the meters and had quite a difference in costs. After going back through to look at exactly what we need, pulling it out and rebidding it separately will allow for a lower cost since usually a general contractor would sub-contract that work out and mark the cost up. It is the recommendation of Baker & Associates to award Schedules A and B to Paul Reed Construction for \$1,182,963.05. This will be \$60,000 under the project's \$1,242,000. Rebidding the meters should offer better bid prices on meters now that we have a better idea of what we need. Paul Reed can start in September. The town has requested Paul Reed to mobilize earlier to do the sewer part of the project. For that, Paul Reed is projecting a mid-May time-frame, but will require a separate mobilization fee of \$6,300. Due to past problems with that area of sewer line and a previous insurance claim, Baker & Associates recommends awarding the bid to Paul Reed Construction for Schedules A & B and to approve the change order of \$6,300 for the extra mobilization fee. USDA concurred with that recommendation.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to award the bid for Schedules A and B to Paul Reed Construction and approve the change order of \$6,300 for the mobilization fee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Kuhnel, Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Regarding the transmission for the 2006 Chevy, it has 70,212 miles on it and was purchased last year for \$15,000. Creighton Grant can pick the transmission up at Levi's in Chadron and Marty Roos will install it. Creighton and Levi also suggested a deeper pan and larger transmission cooler. Costs should be \$1,200 for the transmission, \$900 for the labor, \$100 for miscellaneous fluids, etc. and \$300 for the pan and cooler. Council Member Leeling expressed concern over putting that much money into this vehicle.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the purchase of a remanufactured transmission for the 2006 Chevy, including the extra \$300 for the deeper pan and cooler. The motion was seconded by Council Member Riggs. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Riggs and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: Leeling. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on snow removal. Mayor Shell requested that city employees and Council not hash everything out on Facebook. A lot of people made comments that didn't know what they were talking about. Mayor Shell read from a list of vehicles and equipment that included the problems and repairs needed. Council Member Riggs asked if anyone has looked at Big Iron for parts for the older equipment. Other suggestions: looking at State auctions, and whether or not CDLs are required. There were numerous statements from the public of appreciation and support for the city employees involved in snow removal from the recent snow storm. It was suggested to call in part-time help and splitting hours to make it easier on the regular city employees. The Post Office appreciated the city crew digging out access to the mailboxes, as they always do. Other suggestions: possibly get a list of essential workers that need to get plowed out; all of the bad-mouthing around town hurts us in getting applications as no one wants to work under that; can we do a snow emergency for all of the streets, but that would require an Ordinance change; a lot is common sense to park off the street and wait until the crew is done plowing, then you only have to shovel yourself out one time. Jerry Lemmon stated that they first open up for emergency services, then they come back around. As soon as they were called, the guys got the firehall cleared, but the highway was closed anyway; Scottsbluff and Alliance don't plow their side streets; we should look at other towns, our guys do a great job.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the reappointment of Paul Bernath to the Park Board for the 2021-2024 term. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Leeling, Thompson and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The Proclamation of April 2021 as Fair Housing Month was read by Mayor Shell.

The Proclamation of April 6, 2021 as National Service Recognition Day was read by Mayor Shell.

Rachel Johnson provided a report to the Council which included information on the RSVP program. Rachel also stated that the RSVP is very active, though less last year with the pandemic, but volunteers were busy at the food pantry and blood drives. Haley Clark was the first one in this region to receive a scholarship for her help with one blood drive and putting on another. Farmers to Families has now become Community Cares. Rachel stated that the Crawford Food Panty is fabulous.

The Proclamation of April 11, 2021 to April 17, 2021 as Public Transit Week was read by Mayor Shell.

The Chadron Natural Gas Group is a collaboration where anyone can sign up to participate - like a buyer's group - works as a group to negotiate natural gas rates; may be a two-year agreement again; the large group can negotiate a better rate than people will likely get individually.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve including the City of Crawford in the Chadron Natural Gas Group for the 2021 Nebraska Choice Gas Selection Program. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Leeling, Thompson and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the Special Designated Liquor License for ML Horn Inc. dba The Tailgate Bar & Grill for beer, wine and spirits for a wedding reception on April 24, 2021 at the Crawford Community Building. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Thompson, Riggs and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the hire of seasonal employees Tommy Goddard and Scott DeBock for park and cemetery; and Buffy Hourt-Allred, Brylee Allred and Mahayla Allred for the pool; wage increase of \$0.25 more per hour than last year for returning employees; DeBock to start at \$9.50 per hour; and park employees to start April 5, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Leeling, Riggs and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the cemetery deed for Michele Clements. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Thompson, Leeling and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the cemetery deed for Richard Swanson. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Thompson, Riggs and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

NDOT will cover 100% of the cost of another vehicle for public transportation through some CARES Act funding. The intent is to provide a mid-size van that would seat 9 or 10 people, including the driver. Communication from NDOT stated, "Yes, you are eligible to apply for a vehicle at 100% federal share, so please do. It was our goal to offer something in-between the minivan and the bus. We don't even have a contract to order the Ford Transit yet, but you can apply so your application is in the que when we can order them. We intend to request 2 additional seats with each vehicle so, if you don't need the wheelchair space, you will have additional room for 2 more ambulatory passengers for a total of 10 including the driver."

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 to apply for a public transportation van to be funded by the CARES Act. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Leeling, Thompson and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

There are more seasonal positions to be filled. This, and other items, will be included in a special meeting of the City Council on March 30, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building.

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

*Denotes Payment Issued

P - Payroll/Payroll-Related; S - Statute/St. Req.

CLAIMS 3/23/21	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
AFLAC	HEALTH INS SUPPLEMENT 3/23/21	960.48	*P
BAKER & ASSOC	BIDDING DOCS - W/WW PROJECT	2,000.00	
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	HEAT	1,754.60	
BCBS	HEALTH INS	4,438.20	
CAPITAL GUARDIAN	PENSION - 3/23/21	542.08	*P
CARDMEMBER SERVICES	AMAZON LIB BKS*	242.19	
CITY OF CHADRON	SEWER JET	368.13	
CRAWFORD RURAL FIRE	FIRE/RESCUE	7,639.17	
DAWES CO TREAS	LAW ENF	16,964.91	
EFTPS	PAYROLL TAX -3/23/21	2,914.24	*P
FIRE AND ICE	STR SHOP HEATER	539.04	
FLORIDA SDU	CHILD SUPP - 3/23/21	56.77	*P
JODY HORKEY	REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	758.03	
MANNA	GEN MTHLY MAINT	60.00	
MPC	FURNACE FOR S.O./ BNSF	225.00	
NE DEPT OF REV	SALES/USE TAX	3,235.10	*S
NE DEPT OF REV	STATE PAYROLL TAX - FOR MARCH	782.44	
NE DOT	SNOW REMOVAL AGREEMENT	2,487.10	
NE PUB HEALTH LAB	LAB FEES	36.00	
NEBRASKA UC FUND	UNEMPLOYMENT - PARK	546.00	
NET PAYROLL	3/23/2021	9,937.07	*P
TOTAL		56,486.55	

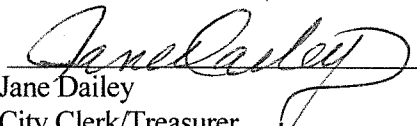
*INDIVIDUAL CARD CHARGES APPROVED PREVIOUSLY

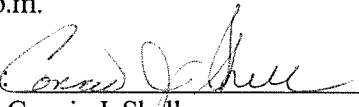
PRE-APPROVAL FOR CHARGES ON CREDIT CARD

WALMART	OFFICE SUPPLIES: External drives, ink, staples, erasers	1,554.69	APPROX.
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Council Member Leeling made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling, Thompson, Kuhnel and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The March 23, 2021 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Minutes by: 
Jane Dailey
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by: 
Connie J. Shell
Mayor