

CITY CLERK
Phone: (308) 665-1462

CITY OF CRAWFORD
135 Elm Street
CRAWFORD, NEBRASKA 69339

Water Dept: (308) 665-1300
Fax: (308) 665-2441

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JULY 27, 2021

Members of the City Council of the City of Crawford, Nebraska, met in regular session in the Crawford City Hall Council Chambers, 135 Elm Street, Crawford, Nebraska on the 27th day of July, 2021, at 6:30 o'clock p.m. The following individuals were present: Mayor Connie Shell, Attorney Adam Edmund, Council Member Ronnie Thompson and Council Member Susan Leeling. Absent: Council Member Ed Kuhnel and Council Member Zac Riggs.

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 in the Council Chambers. 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 July 13, 2021 regular council meeting and the July 23, 2021 budget workshop. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Golf: board discussed money; budget is pretty good; tractor blew up this morning.

Hospital: the ER is framed; the OR lights will be installed soon; the billing system is going to a new cloud system; approved Brandy Roberts and Chris Swanson for nursing scholarships; received a grant request from NNDC for workforce housing; financials good; special consultants are increasing appointment availability and getting more doctors on board; new CT scanner was installed.

Cultural Center: is a water leak again on the northwest corner, the window above where they did some work. Waldo Goff was going to do something, but he hasn't contacted anyone.

Report on budget discussion on 7/16/21: Clerk Dailey read notes from the budget workshop on 7/16/21 attended by Mayor Shell, Council Member Thompson and Clerk Dailey. Also in attendance was County Commissioner Stewart and Sheriff Dailey. County Commissioner Jake Stewart's comments included the County's Blue Cross Blue Shield rates have increased, being a member of L.A.R.M. has saved SWANN considerable expense, the C.O.L.A. is 1.6%. Other factors involved in the budget for law enforcement services are the increase in fuel prices and personnel receiving a 3% raise. The changes involved with the passage of LB51 will go into effect in September. At that time, training requirements for law enforcement officers will increase from 20 hours to 30 or 35 hours. Officers that are not certified will not be able to do much of anything until they are certified. Sheriff Dailey will get a copy of the changes to the City.

The County hopes to use some of their ARPA funds for upgrades to the communications system. The communications system will also be undergoing some changes in management, moving from Chadron Communications to regional communications. Currently, Dawes County and Chadron support the communications system, but with the change in management, the various entities served will have to contribute to the operations. The City of Crawford currently falls under Dawes County because of the contract for law enforcement, but if the City were to go back to having a city police department, the City would have to contribute a pro-rated amount to the communications center, probably tens of thousands of dollars per year. Currently, Dawes County contributes \$350,000 and the City of Chadron contributes \$450,000 – a large part of it being for personnel. For future planning, the north side of the Crawford “Sheriff’s Office Complex” (Sheriff’s Office, BNSF office and Rhonda’s New Waves) is still in need of repair. The front door to the Sheriff’s Office section could use a threshold with a rubber strip, some weather-stripping with a rubber strip on the bottom of the door and another coat of paint on the door. The HVAC system that feeds the Sheriff’s Office and the BNSF office is also old. The 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the General fund was also presented. Mayor Shell added that the front door on the Sheriff’s Office needs replaced.

No other reports.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to accept the Two & Ten Year Water and Wastewater Plan. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to accept the Semi-Annual Water Report. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

No discussion was held on the surplus items. Council Member Riggs has the paperwork.

Mayor Shell stated that John Skavdahl of the Golf Board had requested no action on the tractor for the golf course at this time.

Barb Moody Richards stated that her roots are in Crawford. She has historical interest, works at Fort Robinson and would like to see more collaboration between the Public Library and the Historical Museum.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the appointment of Barb Moody Richards to the Library Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Joni Jespersen of Mobius spoke on the Post Playhouse and the DED Tourism Development grant. The important thing is this chance to have enhanced economic development in downtown Crawford and that the project can get started. PADD has given their blessing and will do the reporting for the project. It is an exciting process. If we get the City’s blessing tonight, we can get started on it. Mayor Shell stated that the City has to be the one to apply for it, but the City will not have any money outlay. The matching funds are from the Post Playhouse. The City will need to build it in to the budget. Joni stated that according to PADD, they need two signers, usually the Mayor and the Clerk; hoping for a goal of 2023. Other grants will likely come in after this one. In response to a question as to how this will work along with the Fort Robinson plays, both places will be open; there have been over 11,000 people; maybe more matinees; maybe a dinner theatre someday. It is also seen as being a year-round opportunity as there is a community center piece to it also.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve moving forward with the grant application for DED Tourism Development and to grant Mayor Shell and Clerk Dailey the authority to sign documents. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

The cell phone policy was discussed. N/A will be placed in the stipend amount. We will order the phones now and grant a transition time until October 1, 2021.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the cell phone policy as discussed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve the following building permits: Carrie Jacob for a fence at 1017 Third Street, Frank Pedrick for a deck at 1109 Second Street and Phillip Pryor for a steel building at 4 Reed Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Several properties were mentioned as needing mowed and/or having noxious weeds.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve Mayor Shell to send nuisance letters to various properties with noxious weeds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to accept the resignation of Linda VerHage as a public transportation driver. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve the hire of Kay Jacob and Victoria Raben as public transportation drivers with a starting wage of \$10.00 per hour, contingent on passing the pre-employment drug testing. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve advertising for fuel bids for bulk unleaded gasoline, bulk non-highway diesel, pump highway diesel, pump premium unleaded gasoline, pump unleaded gasoline and propane. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

The Quarterly Delinquent Utility Account report was presented. Several resources are used to try to locate people that have left town. Five small claims have been filed this year, so five small claims remain that can be filed in the calendar year of 2021. No specific action was taken at this time.

No action was taken on the renewal of the fossil hunting lease between the City of Crawford and the World Fossil-Finder Museum.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the cemetery deed to Brian Perkins Jr. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. 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 and Thompson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

AOD = ACH on delivery; P = Payroll/Payroll-Related


ARROWHEAD	RESALE BEER	194.70	*AOD
BETTY CALDER	REFUND C.BLDG DEPOSIT	100.00	
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	HEAT UTILITY	1,488.23	
BLUE CROSS	HEALTH INS	4,438.20	
BLUFFS FACILITY SOLUTIONS	DISINFECTANT/GERMICIDAL	74.90	
BOMGAAR'S	HOSE/SPRAYER/OIL/FILTERS	87.97	
CAPITAL GUARDIAN	PENSION - 7/27/21	645.20	*P
CITY OF CRAWFORD	XFER WTR DEP TO DEP ACCT	250.00	
COCA-COLA	GOLF RESALE BEV	71.52	
CRAWFORD RURAL FIRE	FIRE/RESCUE	7,639.17	
D&S MARKET	GOLF RESALE MIXERS, ETC.	221.21	
DAWES CO CLERK	FILE CEM DEED	10.00	
DAWES CO TREAS	LAW ENF	16,964.91	
DENNIS KROTZ	TRAINING-MEAL REIMB X 2	24.40	
DIETRICH DISTRIB	GOLF RESALE	426.05	*AOD
EFTPS	PAYROLL TAX 7/27/21	4,856.23	*P
ENVIRO SERVICE	WTR LAB FEES	40.00	
FLORIDA SDU	CHILD SUPP - FOR 8/10/21	37.38	
GMC OF CHADRON/CHADRON MOTOR	TRACTOR W/ MOWER	24,500.00	
HERITAGE SEED	TRIMEC/GRAZON	1,021.50	
HIGH PLAINS BUDWEISER	RESALE BEER	302.65	*AOD
LEAGUE OF NE MUNICIPALITIES	ANNUAL DUES	1,453.00	
MURPHY TRACTOR	BACKHOE REPAIRS-HOSE FITTINGS/BULK HOSE	147.08	
NE CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPP FOR 8/10/21	138.47	*p
NE DEPT OF REV	PAYROLL TAX FOR JULY	1,318.09	
NE PUB HEALTH LAB	WTR LAB FEES	82.00	
NET PAYROLL	7/27/2021	17,545.04	*P
NW PIPE FITTING	WASHERS/COUPLINGS	244.89	
PADD	ANNUAL DUES	772.77	
PETTY CASH	STAMPS/POSTAGE/FILE FOLDERS/VAN WASH	77.79	

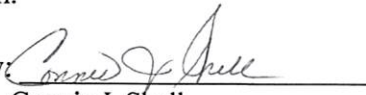
QUALIFIED MARKETING	BLANK CHECKS	299.17
TIM SCHULTZ	REIMB MEALS - TRAINING	33.21
WORK FORCE INC	SEWER CAMERA/CLEANING	7,519.50
TOTAL		93,025.23

GL ADJUSTMENT	DUPLICATE PROPERTY TAX DEPOSIT FROM COUNTY	6,957.58
	AND THEN REVERSED	-6,957.58
	BALANCE	0.00

Council Member Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Council Members ABSENT: Kuhnel and Riggs. Motion carried.

The July 27, 2021 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Minutes by: 
Jane Dailey
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by: 
Connie J. Shell
Mayor