

**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**

### **AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 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, Council Member Susan Leeling and Council Member Zac 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 in the Council Chambers. It is also available in pamphlet form.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 regular Council meeting and the August 13, 2021 budget workshop and to excuse the absences of Council Member Leeling from the August 10 Council meeting and Council Members Leeling and Riggs from the August 13 budget workshop. 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.

#### **Board Reports:**

Golf: financials are \$25,000 to the good; will be four more tournaments; possibly a wedding reception in November and Christmas party in December; continuing discussion on a tractor; next meeting is Sept. 20.  
Park: since the park board meetings are held at 4:00 pm, instead of Zac Riggs, Ronnie Thompson will now be the liaison to the park board.

Ponderosa Villa: employee turnover has been due to Covid and feeling the regulations have gone overboard; looking at a new bus; their sewer system needs work with an estimate of \$15,000 – the sweeps are backwards and it needs 8" pipe but only have 4"; could check with Work Force Inc; Stephanie Huffman is on full-time now; the Villa has a 3 out of 5-star rating; next meeting is 27<sup>th</sup>.

Hospital: meets next Monday.

SWANN: will meet Sept. 16.

Cultural Center: Waldo Goff has done some repairs on the leak and on the brickwork on the back-side.

Committee on surplus property: will not look to sell the properties north of Crawford; will meet Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

No other reports.

Discussion on surplus properties included: Zac Riggs read off some of the items from the list compiled so far. It was also asked why the versatile and grader are not stored inside. The Mayor will address the matter.

Discussion was held on a possible Community Facilities grant from USDA Rural Development to assist with 35% of the purchase of a dump truck. Morrill used this grant to help purchase a dump truck from Aulick in Scottsbluff. The USDA grant can assist if we get a price and send them the information before the end of the fiscal year while they still have money. If we buy a dump truck out-right at an auction and seek reimbursement, USDA may not be able to assist.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 to apply to USDA Rural Development for a Community Facilities grant to assist with the purchase of a dump truck. The motion was seconded by Council Member Leeling. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Leeling, Kuhnel and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Melody Baily with NPPD presented information which included: the LED change-outs for the street lights will occur this fall; NPPD is using new technology of AMI meters (Advanced Metering Infrastructure); people can download the NPPD app for information on power outages and to apply for notifications for various items. The City owns the system and NPPD leases it back and operates and maintains it, does the billing and collections. NPPD pays gross revenue tax in lieu of property tax that comes to Crawford. For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, they anticipate no increase in rates. The City receives a 12% lease payment which can be increased by ½% until it reaches 14%, if the City is interested in doing so. NPPD values the three R's: rates, reliability and relationships with their communities. NPPD will also assist the City in updating the information for the Community Facts book. A survey will be available until September. NPPD is developing a 3-5-year roadmap for the future of the business. It was asked as to what it would take to address a few dead spots in town. Melody suggested getting her the areas and she'll get us an estimate. Jay Thies is very knowledgeable.

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

Steve and Robert Basse addressed the Council with the idea of establishing an amphitheater approximately six miles south of Crawford, on an area of about seven acres. They have visited with PADD and they could assist if the City decides to move forward. The City could purchase the property or do a 50/50 acquisition. Ticket sales would go accordingly to the City. The concept would need to be fully evaluated if the City wishes to explore it further.

Discussion on the purchase of a dump truck included: we would be looking for a 1.5- or 2-ton truck; avoid the need for a CDL; an automatic that would be easier for seasonal employees to drive; double actuators to help avoid twisting; check with the State yard, Big Iron, Creighton Grant. The USDA grant can assist if we get a price and send them the information. If we buy a dump truck out-right at an auction and seek reimbursement, USDA may not be able to assist.

Council Member Leeling made a motion to approve to authorize up to \$25,000 for Susan Leeling and Doug Leeling and Tim Schultz to purchase a dump truck. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Leeling, Kuhnel, Thompson and Riggs. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Only one bid, which was from Westco, was received for the fuel and propane contract. Clerk Dailey opened and read the bid which offered \$0.05 off the pump prices on fuel (bulk non-highway diesel fuel, bulk unleaded gasoline, highway diesel fuel at the pump, unleaded and premium gasoline at the pump), less the federal gasoline and diesel tax; and \$1.799 per gallon for propane with the purchase of at least 2,500 gallons.

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

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the attendance of Gene Anderson and Dennis Krotz at the fall conference in Gering, Sept 28-30, 2021 for water and waste water continuing education. 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.

Wages for some city employees for fiscal year 2021-2022 were discussed. The raises would be based on comparable wages in other cities of the same general size and location, not as performance or merit raises. Cost-of-living raises were also discussed. Employment being "at-will" is only partially true for municipalities. Even if a cost-of-living raise was approved now, further raises could still be addressed as the raises would not go into effect until October.

Council Member Riggs made a motion to approve a 3% cost-of-living raise across the board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Riggs and Kuhnel. Council Members voted NAY: Thompson and Leeling. Mayor Shell: AYE. Motion carried. Clerk Dailey declined to accept any raises, including the cost-of-living raise.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the Work Change Directive No. 2 for Paul Reed Construction to proceed with the water/waste water project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Riggs. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Riggs, Thompson and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the draw down up to \$84,648.01 on the interim loan for water/waste water project expenses as needed. 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 bills and claims. 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.

ACH = automatic bank withdrawal; AOD = ACH on delivery; P = Payroll/Payroll-Related; S - Statute/St. Req.

AFLAC	HEALTH INS SUPPLEMENT	960.48	
ALEXA TOLLMAN	REIMB LIFEGUARD TRAINING	150.00	
ARROWHEAD	RESALE BEER	157.15	*AOD
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	HEAT UTILITY	1,500.25	
BCBS	HEALTH INS	4,438.20	
BOMGAAR'S	HOSE	32.99	
CAPITAL GUARDIAN	PENSION - 8/24/21	646.98	*P
CARDMEMBER SERVICES	OFFICE/MISC SU	159.21	
COCA-COLA	GOLF RESALE BEV	771.54	
CORE & MAIN	REPAIRS/SU - WTR	1,945.76	
CRAWFORD RURAL FIRE	FIRE/RESCUE - FOR SEPT	7,639.13	
DAWES CO TREAS	LAW ENF - FOR SEPT	16,964.99	
DEARBORN INS	EMPLOYEE LIFE INS BENEFIT	495.00	

DIETRICH DISTRIB	GOLF RESALE	1,026.85	*AOD
DIRECT TV	GOLF	273.99	
EAGLE COMMUNICATIONS	ADS-GOLF	125.00	
EFTPS	PAYROLL TAX 8/24/21	4,605.40	*P
ENVIRO SERVICE	WTR LAB FEES	40.00	
FLORIDA SDU	CHILD SUPP - 9/7/21	56.77	*P
HACH	WTR/SWR SU	467.70	
HAWKINS	POOL HYD.ACID	22.00	
HIGH PLAINS BUDWEISER	RESALE BEER	945.55	*AOD
JOHNSON WELDING	CEMETERY TANK WORK	340.00	
MARCELLA THOMPSON	REIMB LAMINATOR/POUCHES	65.54	
MURPHY TRACTOR	BACKHOE MAINT.	435.07	
NE CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPP 9/7/21	138.47	
NE DEPT OF REV	SALES/USE TAX	4,496.34	*S
NE DEPT OF REV	SALES/USE TAX - GOLF	2,209.26	*S
NE DEPT OF REV	STATE PAYROLL TAX - FOR AUG (PAY IN SEPT)	1,294.88	
NE LIBRARY COMMISSION	OVERDRIVE	500.00	
NE LIQUOR CONTROL	GOLF LICENSE RENEWAL FEE	47.87	
NE PUB HEALTH LAB	WTR LAB FEES	20.00	
NEBRASKA UC FUND	UNEMPLOYMENT - PARK	1,238.27	
NET PAYROLL	8/24/2021	16,198.78	*P
PETTY CASH	WTR POSTAGE/OFFICE-CLEANING SU	135.91	
QUILL	INK/OFF SU	179.01	
R&R PROD	GOLF SU	725.13	
ROBERT'S ELECTRIC	PARK BLDG/SWR PLANT/CITY HALL	4,152.01	
SECURITY FIRST BANK	CUSTOMER CHECK RETURNED FEE	3.00	
SECURITY FIRST BANK	CUSTOMER CHECK RETURNED PYMT	153.44	
VERIZON	CELL PHONE SCREEN PROTECTORS/CASES	215.95	
WALDO GOFF	MUSEUM REPAIRS	470.00	
WESTERN NE NEWSPAPERS	STAR-HERALD ADV-WTR METER PROJECT	199.16	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>76,643.03</b>	
<b>INTERNAL TRANSFER</b>	TO SVGS FOR OCT INS	7,290.00	
<b>REQUISITION ORDERS</b>			
AMAZON	LIB BKS	239.96	APPROX
VERIZON	INSURANCE FOR NEW CELL PHONES	50.00	

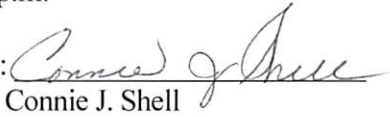
Jennifer Dean asked to address the Council, stating that giving the employees occasional kudos can mean as much or more to them as raises. Some employees do a lot of extra work with no expectation of recognition

and no thank-yous – such as the Clerk spending Saturday painting the back fence. The point was well-received by the public and the Council.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Thompson, Kuhnel, Riggs and Leeling. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The August 24, 2021 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes by:   
Jane Dailey  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by:   
Connie J. Shell  
Mayor