

CITY OF CRAWFORD

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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Members of the City Council of the City of Crawford, Nebraska met in regular session at the Legend Buttes Golf Course Club House, 3440 Highway 20, Crawford, Nebraska on the 28th day of February, 2023, at 5:30 o'clock p.m. The following individuals were present: Mayor Tom Phillips, Council Member Susan Leeling, Council Member Shane Norman, Council Member April Grant and Attorney Adam Edmund. Absent: Council Member Zach Riggs – EXCUSED

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.

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 5:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Phillips announced to the public that a copy of the Open Meetings act is posted on the Club House wall. It is also available in pamphlet form.

Council Member Norman made an amendment to the minutes of February 14, 2023 Council meeting regarding the Golf report about the City Fundraiser and Council Member Leeling asked about the wristbands it should be changed to we weren't sure but it appeared that none were used instead of a few were used. A motion to accept the Minutes of February 14, 2023 Regular Council meeting as amended was made by Grant and seconded by Council Member Norman. Mayor Phillips called for Roll Call Vote- AYE: Grant, Norman, Leeling. NAY: None. Riggs – Absent Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Ponderosa Villa: Stacie reported there are 20 in the nursing home and 10 in assisted living. The shower in assisted living is completed and in use the residents and staff love it. The remediation company is in the building finishing up the remediation in the bath house and the two resident rooms. Should be able to start. Grant asked for a projected end date and Stacie said they should be done this week. Mayor Phillips asked if they are moving forward on the other two rooms. Stacie said we are but we have to accept bids yet and go through a board meeting.

Golf: Council member Leeling said the meeting wasn't held last week and she hasn't been notified when it has been rescheduled to.

Park: Council member Grant reported first Park Board meeting will be first week in March. Said it was notated in the last Park Board minutes. Haven't met yet for the year yet. City Clerk Schoenemann said it would be March 6th at 3:00 p.m. at the City Hall. Paul Bernath commented he had submitted his resignation and was making sure his resignation was received by the council members. Grant acknowledged letter was received and will be addressed at the Park Board Meeting.

Rodeo: Mayor Phillips reported he had talked a little bit but there has been no progress so we're waiting on that.

Hospital: Council member Leeling reported they had a meeting last night. It was more of a cleanup meeting not much happening. Sandy Montague gave presentation on Community Essentials. Program is run in connection with WIC and the food pantries. It gives out essential items like deodorant, laundry soap, toilet paper, baby needs, paper towels, etc. Essentials that fall through the cracks with the WIC and food pantry programs. It is available to anybody low income. Program is through the Community Health resources. Mayor Phillips reported we had a water leak in the Medical Clinic and we are now in the process of taking bids for cleanup. Service Matters has been there a couple of days cleaning up the water and we've sent out an asbestos report and are waiting to hear on the results. Talked with insurance carrier this morning and everything is going to take some time. Mayor Phillips pointed out the food pantry representatives were present and asked Tim if wanted to say anything about the process. Tim Bosak said they had the food pantry last night as a drive through and made up boxes of produce, meat and essentials. They had 51 people come through. They are operating a little differently. The people don't come in and shop they fill boxes but as they can get back to that they will. Mayor Phillips said his is hoping to have them back in by next Monday. Council member Leeling and Mayor Phillips thanked them for what they do and if they need anything to contact the City.

SWANN: Council member Norman said nothing changed from last meeting and the next meeting is in March.

NNDC: Council member Grant reported they have not had their meeting yet. It was going to be the first part of March.

Chamber: Carrie Frahm reported their next meeting will be Thursday, March 2nd at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall. They don't have anything to report at this time.

Library: No report

Mayor Phillips announced they were tabling number six and seven on the agenda. Mayor Phillips asked for a Motion to table. Leeling motioned to table and Grant seconded. Before motion was approved Nina Anderson spoke up and said she was there to talk about CRA, which was number seven. She stated both she and David Nixon filled out separate agenda requests. Mayor Phillips apologized and asked for a motion to be made to rescind tabling number seven. Norman motioned to rescind tabling number seven and Grant seconded. Roll call vote – AYE: Norman, Grant, Leeling NAY: none Riggs – absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Phillips gave Nina Anderson the floor to talk about CRA(Community Redevelopment Authority). Nina introduced herself and informed those in attendance about the board and meeting times. She explained the board stalled out after COVID and nothing is going on. They don't have the ability to write grants and the board only has three members. Dave Nixon, herself and Irene Hughes. She is wanting to resign but if she does the board has no quorum or meetings. She is looking for direction from the City. Do we need a CRA? She explained the board is at a standstill. The board is meant to redevelop the area but in order to do so they need money. Nina said they've had people in the past want to give them property but they knew the City didn't want to take on property because they have to pay taxes and ready to serve. Some of the properties that could be developed they couldn't find grants. Said they came close to getting the old bowling alley and the telephone building tore down but it fell through because the Post Playhouse pulled out. Nina said she was there to report where they were at and then to ask for help in figuring out what their options may be. Council member Grant asked if they would like the City to put out a request for more volunteers/board members. Would this be a good starting place? Nina responded yes but they have also posted on Facebook and word of mouth asking for members. An audience member asked if the CRA has reached out to PADD in Scottsbluff for assistance applying for grants and then Council Member Norman also suggest contacting Joni at Mobius for grant assistance. Mayor Phillips said he hates to see anything like CRA go by the wayside. Asked if they have reached out to the County Boards? Nina said they were supposed to have a liaisons to report to them what others are doing so they didn't duplicate requests or projects. Grant proposed the City post on their website page so residents know the City would like to see more participation and we can help funnel interest their way.

Mayor Phillips asked to discuss/approve/disapprove developing a No Smoking policy for City employees and volunteers. Mayor Phillips shared the City had been turned in to the State for the 2009 Clean Air Act for the State of Nebraska. City Clerk, Paula Schoeneman, said she had looked through the employee manual and the anti-drug policy and couldn't find any no smoking policy. Council Member Leeling asked if we could umbrella under the Dawes County policy? Council

Member Grant said we could adopt similar verbiage, if we're comfortable with how they have it set up, but we need to make it our own ordinance so it can be applicable to what we have for employees and have it in our handbook. Mayor Phillips expressed concern we've started a volunteer program with matching and if a person has been smoking in a vehicle or equipment and another person gets in and they are allergic to smoke how will that affect us. Council member Leeling also pointed out resale value of vehicles and equipment. Mayor Phillips said he asked Grant to run a rough estimate of trying to clean and remove the smoke smell out and it starts at \$1,000. Mayor Phillips proposed to have a no smoking policy in, on or around City vehicles or City property. Vic Riveria asked if the City has looked at any other policies and Mayor Phillips responded with most everyone has a strict no smoking policy except for designated areas and that's deemed on a per person per department so you would designate an area outside to smoke and away from the doorway. Mayor Phillips went on to explain he talked to a few other towns and said that Gering is not allowed period. They don't even offer a designated area. Mayor Phillips asked Adam if he had anything. Adam said we would pull the Dawes County policy to take a look. Amanda Vogel asked how the Golf Course would be handled enforcing the policy on those employees. Mayor Phillips said we would have to look into that and it would have to be handled with some common sense. It was also suggested to use the verbiage as no tobacco to cover chewing. Grant suggested it would have to be a combination because of vaping also. Council member Norman made the motion to approve developing a policy and seconded by Leeling including after research of other no smoking policies. Roll Call Vote – AYE: Norman, Leeling, Grant NAY: none Riggs-absent Motion carried.

Mayor Phillips asked to discuss/approve/disapprove new contract/bid from Stumph Sanitation. Mayor Phillips asked if we had a new bid or contract. Council member Grant said we left this as a negotiation. Stumph's gave their presentation at the January 11th meeting. They want to change their base rate from \$10.10 to \$14.00. Grant said the council wasn't comfortable with the \$14.00 and would like to negotiate a different number. Grant explained to those in attendance about the open meeting that was held the week before to see what the public's thoughts were. Said input was in support of Stumph's and for the full amount. Grant said after looking at what was presented, she asked if the amount submitted for expenses were full or prorated to be what would be half of your expenses because they are prorated to what the city's cost? They said they are prorated. Considering their rural route. Stumph's handed out packets including pricing on sheet metal to repair 20 dumpster bottoms identified needing immediate repair. The dumpster repair estimated total is about \$2800 not including lids and just what needs to be rebuilt not what should be rebuilt. Grant asked about lid repair and was told to fix lids it was \$20 per lid and that was excluding tax and shipping. Grant said after taking a look at everything and researching and running report on inflation numbers since 2012 she didn't get to \$14. Grant felt it fair for an increase but would like to present as a potential \$12 to start and with a two-year contract to give it a trial along with the name or list of a second driver to fall back on in case of an accident to fill in if needed. City would give 30 days to come up with a name or names of a second driver plus would give time to look into things more to make sure everything is addressed. Brandon, Stumph owner, spoke up and said he had reached out to H & H Sanitation to visit about being a back up if he was injured or if his truck broke down. He said they would back him up, if needed. Grant said main concern was to make sure he had a backup. Brandon then went on to say he felt the increase was fair and would give him the ability to start making the dumpster repairs even maybe the lids as well. Brandon felt we were on the right track. Grant said she was pleased to hear that as it was never the City's goal to get rid of Stumph's or anything along those lines. Mayor Phillips said he had several people ask if Stumph's is raising prices in town then is he doing the same for the rural pick up as well. Brandon confirmed they did raise rural rates \$5.00 in May of 2022. Council member Grant made motion to continue using Stumph Sanitation at new bid amount of \$12.00 for two years and for residential only and then we would develop something different for commercial. Grant asked Stumph's if we prorate commercial rate off of residential rates. They responded figured monthly by the size of dumpsters, per dump and per month. Grant asked if they were still comfortable with that or did, we need to look at changing that as well. Stumph's said they were fine where commercial rates are set. Grant then reiterated motion of raising from \$10.10 to \$12.00 for 2 years and 60 days to come up second name for back up driver. Motion made by Grant and seconded by Leeling. Roll Call Vote – AYE: Grant, Leeling, Norman NAY – none Riggs-absent. Motion carried

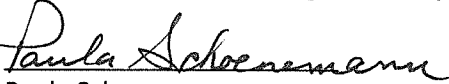
Elmer Willson was given the floor for a report regarding Legend Buttes Golf course issues and Elmer said he wasn't ready to do his presentation. Mayor Phillips said we could take no action and place him on the March 14th agenda.

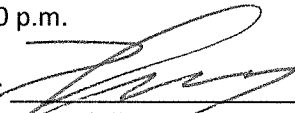
Mayor asked for approval of bills and claims. Council member Norman had a question on the library submission and Kathy and Council member Grant answered his question. Motion was made by Norman to approve bills and claims and seconded by Leeling. Roll Call Vote – AYE: Norman, Leeling, Grant NAY: none Riggs-absent Motion carried.

Mayor Phillips asked for anything else from the floor. Suggestion was made to keep meetings out at the Club House and Mayor Phillips said until golf season started. It was then pointed out the Community Building would available after March 16th.

Council Member Norman made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grant. The following Council Members voted AYE: Norman, Grant, Leeling. NAY: none Riggs -absent Motion carried.

The February 28, 2023 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes by: 
Paula Schoenemann
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by: 
Tom Phillips
Mayor