

**CITY OF CREIGHTON, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 14, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Creighton, Nebraska was held in the meeting room of the Creighton City Offices at 809 Main Street in said City on the 14th day of January, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Present were: Mayor Chris Patrick and Council members MaryAnne Block; Bob Jensen, Drew Nelson, Mike Nutting; Administrator/City Clerk/Treasurer (ACT) Lisa Parnell-Rowe; Deputy Clerk Ronda York; Water Commissioner Kevin Sonnichsen; Economic Development Director Abigail Frank; City Attorney Joe McNally; Sewer Commissioner Alan Novacek; Police Chief Mark Duncan and Police Officer Tiffany McLean.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in at least three public places, as shown by the certificate of posting notice attached to these minutes. Notice of the meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris Patrick at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Patrick presided, and the Deputy Clerk York recorded the proceedings.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Mayor Patrick publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated that a Nebraska Open Meetings Act poster was on display on the west wall of the meeting room.

Mayor Patrick explained to all in attendance information reference a lawsuit that has been filed against the City and one City Council Member by Rosemary Davis. It was explained that the city has insurance to cover the cost. The city will have to pay a \$1,500.00 deductible. Due to the pending litigation all questions will be handled by City Attorney McNally.

Mayor Patrick turned the meeting over to McNally. McNally explained that the article on <http://www.myknoxconews.com/>, under Knox County News and Events, explains the suit filed for those who want more details. McNally also advised that the city's insurance company has hired a law firm out of Lincoln, Nebraska that handles errors and omission cases.

Mayor Patrick asked if there were any questions.

A citizen asked Council Member Nutting if he would be stepping down. Council Member Nutting advised that he believed he can stay on as he has nothing to do with the lawsuit. There were a lot of questions asked and answered. Citizens were upset that the City has to spend any money on this matter and the embarrassment this situation brings with it.

The question was asked why Council Member Nutting gets to decide if he stays or goes. It was explained by City Attorney McNally that state statutes indicate that the options are that either Council Member Nutting gives his resignation or there is a recall process as an option to the public.

Mayor Patrick was asked why he recused himself for the interview. Patrick explained he had a current employee applying for the job which would have caused a conflict of interest. Patrick advised at this time that he did not want the lawsuit to be debated in this council meeting when there was other items that need to be discussed.

Mayor Patrick explained that there has been a public request for changing parking on the 900 Block of Main Street to parallel parking. The owner of the property at 903 Main Street, Keith Harvey, explained that this property only has street parking, there is no private parking. Harvey explained that when he purchased this property the street had parallel parking. It was also explained that Creighton Auto uses part of the existing diagonal parking as overflow parking for vehicles they have for sale. Questions were asked and answered. It was decided by City Council that for the time being the resident would be allowed to parallel-park in two of the existing diagonal parking spots in front of 903 Main Street. This was discussed by City Council and Police Chief Duncan as a temporary solution for safety of the residents until something more permanent could be addressed in the spring and negotiated with Nebraska Department of Roads. In the past there was no communication with NDOR and signs were placed in this area and then removed by NDOR. .ACT Parnell-Rowe also advised that as part of our downtown revitalization Phase 1 planning the planner hired through Miller & Associates would also look at parking on Main Street parking and that this would be a good opportunity to look into this matter further.

Mayor Patrick announced the Volunteer resignation and recognition of Mark Brogie for 15 years of service on the Planning Commission and Economic Development Board. Brogie was unable to attend the meeting so Abigail Frank will present Mr. Brogie with a certificate for his 15 years of service at the next Economic Development Board Meeting.

Mayor Patrick advised the City Council of his recommendation for the reappointment of President Council Drew Nelson to the Economic Development Board due to his term ending.

Jensen made a motion, seconded by Nutting, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Drew Nelson as read. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Mayor Patrick advised the City Council of his recommendation for the reappointment of Steve Schindler as the Economic Development Board Treasurer, due to his term ending. There was a short discussion.

Block made a motion, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Steve Schindler as read. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Mayor Patrick next announced the Volunteer Recognition of Carmen Frickenstein for 26-plus years of service on the Tree Board. It was voted on by the Tree Board to make Frickenstein a lifetime member of the tree board. Patrick presented Frickenstein was a certificate and thanked her for her service. Jan Jorgenson was also present and advised what a valuable member of the board Frickenstein has been and how glad the Tree Board is that she accepted the lifetime membership and will continue to bring her ideas to the board to help the community.

Mayor Patrick also recommended the reappointments of Dan Sanborn and Jean Hammer to the Tree Board. There was a short discussion.

Block made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Dan Sanborn and Jean Hammer to the Tree Board as read. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Mayor Patrick explained how important volunteers are to the City of Creighton in keeping the community running smoothly.

Next, ACT Parnell-Rowe explained the snow route and related ordinances that the City currently follows. Parnell-Rowe showed the snow route signs that have been put up to replace the ones that had faded. She advised that several citizens had been complaining about Main Street parking spots being icy after the snow fall. She advised that citizens need to remember that from The Whip to C-Mart on Main Street parking is prohibited if there is more than 4 inches of snow. This is so that our City snow removal crews can get the parking areas cleared. People also need to be respectful of snow removal equipment while they are working. The City requests that you do not pass the snow removal equipment but go around the block to give them room to work. Questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Brandon Gragert advised that as a business in the downtown area they have always cleared the snow from their parking lot and piled it toward the alley. Mr. Gragert advised that the City has always moved the snow when they are finished with the streets and that this season this has not yet been accomplished. Mr. Gragert asked if the City would rather the parking lot snow be moved to the center of the street. Sonnichsen responded No, they prefer the business to pile snow in the alley until city worker's have time to remove it. Mr. Gragert asked if he needed to come to every meeting when it snows or if the City would remove the snow as they have done in the past. Discussion regarding snow removal on private property parking lots ensued. It was explained that for the City to remove the snow off a business's private property this is done as a courtesy, but is not a requirement. Mr. Gragert thanked the City for their time.

Sandy Schroth of the Creighton News inquired into what the policy is for sidewalks being scooped and kept clear. City Attorney McNally advised that the owners of the property are responsible. Keeping sidewalks clear 5 hours after snow or by 8:30 a.m. for businesses and within 24 hours in residential areas is spelled out in the municipal code.

Mayor Patrick asked if any boards had reports.

Sonnichsen gave the Creighton Annual Fire Report. Sonnichsen advised that there are currently 33 members on the department. They have room for 36, so they are still looking for volunteers. There were 29 calls in 2015 which is up by 5 calls from 2014. The fire hall is looking good. The firemen were wondering if the council would help fund a building generator that would be 4500 KW triple service. Sonnichsen has received a couple bids. The Fire Department currently has a small portable gas generator. The Fire Department would like City to share is the cost of this generator and pay for half this expense as an operational expense from the City budget; the Rural Fire would be responsible for the other half of this expense. It was decided that Sonnichsen should gather more information (i.e., bids) and this would then be discussed at the next regular meeting.

Jane Wilmes gave the Creighton Ambulance Report. Wilmes reminded everyone of the fundraiser for Creighton Ambulance on January 24, 2016 at the Creighton High School from 10 a.m. to 2:30

p.m.

Frank gave the Economic Development Report. Frank informed everyone that there will be a Kick-off Meeting for Downtown Revitalization at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 prior to the Town Hall Meeting. The meetings will be held at the Walter T. Larsen Senior Center. Note: This date and time was later changed to February 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Jan Jorgensen gave the Creighton Tree Board Report.

Block made a motion seconded by Nutting to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2015 Regular Meeting. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Nutting to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2016 Special Meeting. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Questions were asked and answered reference additional bills paid since December 10, 2015. Block made a motion seconded by Jensen to approve additional bills paid since the December 10, 2015 Regular Meeting. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Block to approve the list of bills for January 2016. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Nelson to approve expenditures for December 2015. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Nutting made a motion seconded by Jensen to approve all receipts for December 2015. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

A discussion was held on the Policies and Procedures Manual Draft that had been presented to council at the November 12, 2015 meeting. It was decided to table this to a special meeting on a later date. A date for this special meeting would be settled at the end of this regular meeting. .

There were no ordinances.

There was a short discussion on Resolution 2016-1. It was decided to table the approval and signature of Resolution 2016-1.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Nutting to table approval and signature of Resolution 2016-1, Leadership Application with Nebraska Department of Economic Development. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Chief Duncan gave the Creighton Police Department Report.

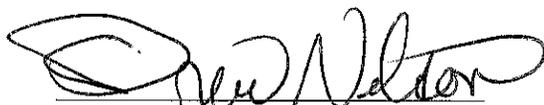
ACT Lisa R. Parnell-Rowe gave the Administrator Report. Parnell-Rowe advised that our current part-time meter reader gave her resignation as she took a full-time job in Elgin. The newly hired part-time employee, Mr. Mark Moser will take over reading water meters. Parnell-Rowe reminded everyone of the upcoming Town Hall meeting on January 27, 2016 and how important everyone's input will be during this meeting.

Councilmember Block advised that Kearney and Osmond are getting the new meter system we have been looking into and it was discussed that it would be nice to follow-up with these communities to get an idea of their perceptions of it before we implement it here in Creighton.

Mayor Patrick discussed what a great job Sonnichsen and Novacek have been doing on snow removal. Patrick feels we have a great group of employees here at the City. Patrick stressed that he envisions the purpose of the Town Hall Meeting to be about providing the public with the things that have been done and what we are getting ready to implement for the city and how to make it even better; he does not want it to be a complaint session.

An executive session was called at 7:55 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. All citizens were excused and Councilmember Nutting were asked to leave during the session. Council came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m.

All business complete, Jensen made a motion to adjourn. Nelson seconded the motion. All in favor. Council adjourned at 8:39 p.m. Meeting of this date held pursuant to published notice in The Creighton News, Creighton, Nebraska. The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 in the meeting room of the Creighton City Offices at 809 Main Street, Creighton, Nebraska at 6:30 p.m.


MAYOR
President of Council

ATTEST:

DEPUTY CITY CLERK
(SEAL)

