

CITY OF CREIGHTON, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, September 10, 2015

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 10th day of September, 2015, at 6:15 p.m. Present were: Mayor Chris Patrick and Council members MaryAnne Block, Bob Jensen, Drew Nelson, Mike Nutting; ACT Lisa Parnell-Rowe; Deputy Clerk Ronda York; Water Commissioner Kevin Sonnichsen; Economic Development Director Abigail Frank; City Attorney Joe McNally; Librarian Lindsay Nelson 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 6:15 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 opened the 2015-2016 Budget and Tax Request hearing at 6:18 p.m. Parnell-Rowe advised the public that budget summaries and statements were available for any interested parties to review during the course of the regular meeting. She stated that if there were no questions now the meeting could proceed with regular agenda and then towards the end of the meeting the item would be revisited and public could ask questions before the Mayor closed the Budget and Tax Request hearing. As there were no questions at this time the regular agenda continued.

Mayor Patrick asked if any boards had reports.

Frank updated everyone that we have not heard back on the Downtown Revitalization Grant. Frank also advised that the Parks Board would be meeting on September 29, 2015. Frank informed everyone that there will be a chamber coffee on October 9, 2015 at the city offices.

Nelson, City Librarian, advised that she had received her Nebraska Public Library Certificate. Nelson updated everyone on library activities. Nelson reminded everyone about the Wiegand Story that will be presented at the VFW Hall on September 21 at 7 p.m.

Jane Wilmes gave the Creighton Ambulance report.

Mayor Patrick explained a report that Police Chief Duncan had given the council reference a

citizen complaint. Duncan was unable to attend the meeting. The citizen who made the complaint was in the audience so Patrick asked the citizen if he had a comment. The citizen explained he had received a certified letter referencing unlicensed vehicles on his property. The citizen feels he is being personally attacked and presented pictures of other unlicensed vehicles in town. There was a discussion where questions were asked and answered. Patrick advised a full assessment could not be given by the board until they had a chance to speak with Duncan. Patrick told the citizen that he would speak with Duncan and get back to the citizen.

Mayor Patrick announced a complaint that had been received reference trucks using Jake Brakes in city limits. Parnell-Rowe advised Patrick that this complaint was on the agenda later in the meeting. Patrick advised that complaint will be handled later in the meeting.

Mayor Patrick introduced the request to sign the Creighton Housing Authority for Bruce Park Environmental Review Statutory Checklist. Patrick asked Jody Fuchtman, Housing Authority Director, to explain why it is needed. Fuchtman explained the environmental review. Question were asked and answered.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Block, to approve Mayor Patrick to sign the Creighton Housing Authority for Bruce Park Environmental Review Statutory Checklist. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Mayor Patrick asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from the August 13, 2015 meeting. Block advised there was a typo. After a short discussion it was decided the minutes would be approved with typo correction.

Block made a motion seconded by Jensen, to approve the minutes with this correction from the August 13, 2015 meeting. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Nutting made a motion seconded by Jensen, to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2015 special meeting. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

A short discussion was held reference a typo also found in the August 28, 2015 special meeting minutes.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2015 special meeting with the correction. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

A short discussion was held reference the additional bills paid since the August 2015 meeting. Jensen made a motion seconded by Nelson, to approve additional bills paid since the August 2015 meeting. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Nelson made a motion seconded by Nutting, to approve the list of bills for September 2015. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

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

Nelson made a motion seconded by Nutting, to approve all receipts for August 2015. RCV; Ayes:

Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

A large discussion was held on the hiring of Gina Shefl for September 2015 bank reconciliation. Many questions were asked and answered. At this time questions were also asked and answered reference the purchase of new bookkeeping software. Mayor Patrick explained how the city is trying to make decisions for Creighton's future and that the momentum of projects being worked on by current administration is greater than it has been for many years

Block made a motion seconded by Nutting, to approve hiring of Gina Shefl for September 2015 bank reconciliation. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Jensen made a motion seconded by Nutting, to approve the hiring and paying of Whitney Zimmerer as Girl's Softball Coach for the 2015 season. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

Only one sealed bid was received for the purchase of the 1993 Ford F250 4 X 4 as set out in Resolution 2015-5. The bid was from Robert Coutts for \$311.69.

Nutting made a motion seconded by Jensen, to accept Robert Coutts bid of \$311.69 for the 1993 Ford F250 4 X 4. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

A discussion was held to consider quotes for the purchase of a new city vehicle to be purchased in whole from the street equipment line. Quotes from several dealerships were read and reviewed by City Council. All bids were for ¾-ton 4 x 4 pickups with regular boxes. A verbal poll was taken from the board to see if they felt a *new* vehicle should be purchased. All board members verbally advised yes.

During the discussion Mike Dartman, owner of McDart Construction, advised he had a 2013 Chevy 2500 HD with a utility box and around 18,000 miles on it. When asked by the board what he would want for a price Dartman advised \$28,500. City Council inquired into the need for a utility box on the vehicle and Water Commissioner Sonnichsen responded that having one would be important, though a fiberglass one would be better to eliminate rusting. A short break was taken from 7:19 p.m. to 7:25 p.m. to check the value of this pickup. After the meeting rejoined the board was advised that the value was \$28,150 without the utility box. To purchase a utility box for the pickup would cost approximately \$7000 or more and would also need to be installed. After more discussion it was decided to have Water Commissioner Sonnichsen go and look at the pickup and then further discussion would be held at the end of the meeting.

There were no ordinances.

A discussion was held on a Special Designated License for Big Red Bottle Shop LLC. Questions were asked and answered. Nutting made a motion seconded by Jensen, to approve the SDL for Big Red Bottle Shop LLC at a fundraiser on December 13, 2015 from, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, and Nutting. Nays: None. Abstained: Nelson.

Mayor Patrick asked the public if there were any questions or concerns after review of the budget materials. Question were asked and answered. Mayor Patrick asked if someone would make a motion to close the Budget & Tax Request Hearing.

At 7:28 Jensen made a motion seconded by Nutting, to close the Budget & Tax Request Hearing. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None.

A motion was made by Nutting and seconded by Jensen to approve the 2015-2016 Budget as proposed. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

After a short discussion of the intent for authorizing an additional 1% increase to the total restricted funds authority, a motion was made by Block and seconded by Jensen to increase the total restricted funds authority by an additional 1%. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Jensen and seconded by Block to approve Resolution 2015-7 to set the tax request for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. RCV; Ayes: Block, Jensen, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None. Motion Passed.

Mayor Patrick advised that there had been a citizen complaint reference the use of Jake Brakes in the city limits. Jensen explained the complaint was on the northeast edge of town. A discussion was held. Many comments were made explaining the need for Jake Brakes. Questions were asked and answered. City Attorney McNally explained we can only take care of the city limits and most trucks hit the Jack Brakes before the city limits, but there is an excessive noise ordinance that could be used to help take care of the problem. It would be at the discretion of the city police to apply the ordinance. No action was taken at this time and future complaints will be handled as needed.

Mayor Patrick asked if anyone else had a comment about an item not on the agenda. A citizen asked questions about his sewer bill which he felt was excessively high. Parnell-Rowe explained in depth how the sewer rate is currently set and reminded the Council of their previous decision to consistently figure these rates to code and not make exceptions. Parnell-Rowe further explained that Randy Hellbusch of the Nebraska Rural Water Association had recently accomplished a sewer rate analysis and would be coming to also accomplish a water rate analysis for the city next month. Hellbusch had explained to Parnell-Rowe while visiting last time that some municipalities have an ordinance that allows the complaining party to provide proof of a problem that caused the high reading in January and February and that this is then brought before city council or city administrator and, if approved, would allow the set billed amount to be refigured. Parnell-Rowe stated she would bring these ordinance examples to the next meeting for a potential code amendment, but stressed the burden of proof would then be on the citizen. Parnell-Rowe recommended the city stick to the code process we currently have to set our sewer rates, explaining the sewer study Mr. Hellbusch accomplished already shows the City's rates to be deficient with costs. She further explained this deficiency to also be a reason noted by USDA Loan providers as a disqualifier (i.e., City sewer rates are not high enough) and we are behind this curve when compared to similar communities.

McNally explained that a motion could not be made tonight to change the city's ordinance on sewer rates as it was not on the agenda. Sewer rates will be readdressed at the next council meeting. That will give everyone time to get more information. Nothing will be done at this time. Any changes will have to be changed by a new ordinance.

Officer Tiffany McLean gave the Creighton PD Report.

Parnell-Rowe-Rowe gave an Administrator Report.

Nutting and Block both gave Council Reports.

A discussion was held about the part-time Utility Worker I/ Meter Reader position currently open with the city. There have been a couple people submit applications as full-time work. It was discussed that the job should be split up as two positions and re-advertised, then in at the next meetings potentially discussed to be made a full-time position.

Mayor Patrick gave a report.

Mayor Patrick brought back up the consideration of purchasing a new city vehicle. Sonnichsen had return from inspection McDart Construction's pickup he had advised he was willing to sell. Sonnichsen advised it is a very clean pickup. It is a 2013 Chevy 2500HD 4 x 4 with 19,079 miles, good tires, a metal utility box with a fiberglass bottom, and running boards. A discussion was held where questions were asked and answered. There is a warranty remaining on this vehicle.

A motion was made by Block and seconded by Nelson to approve the purchase of the 2013 Chevy 2500 HD 4 x 4 from Mike Dartman, dba McDart Construction. RCV; Ayes: Block, Nelson, Nutting. Nays: None. Abstained: Jensen. Motion Passed.

Parnell-Rowe was advised to contact Dartman Friday morning as he had already left the meeting.

Mayor Patrick asked if any board members needed to go into executive session reference personnel. Members of the board advised not at this time.

All business complete, Nutting made a motion to adjourn. Jensen seconded the motion. All in favor. Council adjourned at 8:18 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, October 8, 2015 in the meeting room of the Creighton City Offices at 809 Main Street, Creighton, Nebraska at 6:30 p.m.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK
(SEAL)

