

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY, HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M. AT CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY BUILDING, 601 G STREET, ALL IN PAWNEE CITY, PAWNEE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by advertising in the Pawnee Republican, a designated method for giving notice as shown by the Affidavit of Publishing on file in the office of the City Clerk. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice and the agenda are on file in the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to public attendance.

Present: Council President (CP) Donnie Fisher; Council Members: Vickie Zelenka, Pat Hatfield, and Susan Eisenhower (by phone); Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk/Treasurer; Deputy City Clerk Kellie Wiers and City Foreman Spencer Cumley.
Absent: Mayor Charlie Hatfield.

CP Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. informing all those present of the posters stating the Open Meeting Law Changes on the West meeting room wall accessible to the public. At this time, all those present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve February 10th, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

The Treasurer submitted the following claims for **2/25/25 Payroll:** 12,597.62; **Union Bank & Trust**, FWH 3,707.50; **NE Dept. of Rev**, SWH 531.29; **John Hancock**, retirement 1535.33; **Madison Nat'l**, life ins 53.71; **UHC**, health ins. 7099.70; **AllState**, Cancer/Accid Ins 184.04; **Ameritas**, vision ins 81.20; **PCDC**, Dec sales tax 7369.89; **Access Systems**, total IT serv/hardware contr 1163.74; **NPPD**, elec 3330.16; **Friedly Oil**, equip fuel 1194.70; **Spectrum**, shop Internet/ph 184.97; **Windstream**, Libr/Swr plnt ph 204.60; **Amazon**, chest waders/winch rope kit 170.98; **Capital Bus. Systems**, elevate phone syst 201.92; **Black Hills Energy**, gas serv 1062.07; **NDEE**, pool permit 40.00; **Petty Cash**, tag trailer/wash windows 25.00; **Pawnee True Value**, sup/rep parts 194.89; **Kellie Wiers**, reimb-postage mailing wtr samp 97.30; **Quill**, sup 82.60; **Rooster's Rentals** Asst with Wtr Main Break 450.00; **Coral's Cleaning Service**, office cleaning 120.00; **Binder Bros**, concrete-rep manhole 323.00; **NMC**, front loader rep 1305.93; **Seneca SA**, Jan garbage serv 6,872.48/pond dumpster 120.00; **Turnbull Ag Tires**, front loader service call/new tire 2153.50; **Nebr. Public Health Envir Lab**, wtr sample test 15.00; **Eakes Office Sol.**, lib photocopier agrmnt 56.42; **Lincoln Winwater**, wtr stock parts 669.38; **Verizon Wireless**, home conn & jetpack 64.79; **U.S. Cellular**, emergency cell phone 48.74. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the claims as submitted. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/take action on Semi-Annual Audit from PCDC performed by Citizen Advisory Board: Council reviewed the semi-annual audit from PCDC performed by the Citizen Advisory Board. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve the semi-annual audit from PCDC performed by the Citizen Advisory Board. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Discuss Best Option to Updating Comprehensive Plan & Housing: Clerk Curtis stated this item was tabled from the February 10th City Council meeting to give her time to speak with Tim Keelan on if he found any donations to assist with updating the comp plan and housing study. Clerk Curtis talked to Mr. Keelan this afternoon and he stated that if the City wanted to apply for a CDBG Planning Grant, that was fine, but the City needed to take into account that it would be this fall before we find out if we were awarded the grant and then with how things are in such an uproar in Washington DC right now, it was questionable on how long it would take to receive the release of funds so the planning contractor could get started on the project. Clerk Curtis added that the City received their notice of award on the RCRP and CDBG Public Works Grants in September and October respectively and to date have not received the release of funds on either project. More discussion followed with Clerk Curtis stating that both plans do not actually expire until August 2026, so it should not be long after that period that both plans should be able to be updated and approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. Curtis continued that the City really needs to hold off on applying for any more grants for the next couple of years that require a City Match as the City is trying to build back up their reserve funds again. ***Review emailed correspondence between the Clerk, Aaron, & Brittany/SENDD:*** Clerk Curtis stated that as you can tell with the emailed correspondence the Chamber Economic Development Group plans to request PCDC to pay for the 20% match (\$4400) on the CDBG Planning Grant in updating the comp plan and housing study. Brittany McCullough had also clarified that if the City wanted to apply for both the CDBG and CCCFF Planning Grants and the City were to be awarded them both, the City Match could be down to \$2,200, if the lowest bid received was the \$22,000, as had been previously quoted by Mr. Keelan. No matter what, the City would need to budget for the total amount as all these grant funds would still be run through the City accounts. **Review/Discuss Resolution #9 requesting SENDD to apply for CDBG Planning Grant to assist in funding the updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan & Housing Study:** More discussion followed. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve Resolution #9 requesting SENDD to apply for CDBG Planning Grant to assist in funding updates to the City's Comp. Plan & Housing Study. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Aaron Sawyer: Mural Community Engagement Date: Council reviewed the emails between Aaron Sawyer and Council Member Eisenhower regarding reserving the Cornerstone Building for a Community Engagement date to discuss ideas for the two murals he plans to include in his AARP grant application and the various locations he is considering. Clerk Curtis stated that Mayor Hatfield had spoken with Heidi Kohake at the HealthFirst Pharmacy, and she was very interested in having a mural painted on the side of her building, towards the Tranquility Park area but wanted to see what the plan is. Aaron Sawyer stated he had included two murals in the AARP grant application, but if the Pharmacy is also interested then he will submit the grant for three murals. Sawyer continued that his artist friend, John Ross Wilson plans to fly in on July 23rd, meet with the community at the Cornerstone Building on July 24th to gather ideas for the other mural site(s) and then begin at Mural Site Location #1, the municipal swimming pool, 440 14th Street for the first 5-6 days. Mr. Sawyer stated that the artist will be setting up his scaffolding on the North side of the building, so he will be able to be in the shade as the mural will be painted on the front of the pool house building that faces towards 14th Street. Discussion was had that since the artist would be painting the pool mural in July, the city would need to "fence" in the area where the artist has his scaffolding set up so pool patrons can completely avoid that area. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Pool Mural design will already

have to have been approved by the time the artist comes to Pawnee City so he can start painting that mural right away. Mural Site Location #2 is at 602 6th Street, which building is owned by Council Member Donnie (& Trish) Fisher. Discussion was had that the shaded bench area would have to be some place other than in front of the FSA office, as Council Member Eisenhower stated the parking area out front is designated for their customers & she did not feel the Federal Government would allow those spots to be taken away. More discussion followed about talking with Corey Hatfield on if he would be interested in selling or possibly donating part of the lot he owns just North of the FSA Office to the City so a shaded bench area could be erected there. Sawyer stated he will now include Mural Site Location #3 as the HealthFirst Pharmacy building at 540 G Street. Mr. Sawyer stated he plans to finish the AARP Mural Grant Application and get it submitted tomorrow.

Review Bid Proposals for Cleaning Services at the Cornerstone Building with liability insurance included: Clerk Curtis stated she had handed out Coral's Cleaning Service's updated bid of \$400 per occurrence for cleaning twice a year, which included liability insurance on her updated bid. Council Member Hatfield stated that if the Council were to approve Coral's updated bid, then she would also have liability insurance coverage while cleaning the City Office. More discussion followed with Council Member Eisenhower inquiring where LP Cleaning was located as there was not an address on their business card or bid memo. Deputy Clerk Wiers stated she was quite sure they were out of Falls City. Council Member Eisenhower stated she felt that our citizens complain to the City about not keeping things local, so she moved to approve the updated bid proposal for bi-annual cleaning services at the Cornerstone Building, including liability insurance, to Coral's Cleaning Services. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Approve NPPD's Contract for Sale of Real Estate on the Lots beside the sub-station: Council reviewed the contract for Sale of Real Estate that NPPD had prepared on the City owned lots next to their sub-station and across the street from the City Shop. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve NPPD's Contract for Sale of Real Estate on the City owned lots. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Zelenka, Aye; Fisher, Aye; Hatfield, Abstain, whereupon motion carried.

Review/Approve Ordinance #1069, amending 3-117, Service Line Maintenance: Foreman Cumley stated he felt that City Attorney Stehlik-Ladman had covered everything that they had requested to add to City Code 3-117. Council Member Zelenka moved to approve Ordinance #1069, amending 3-117, Service Line Maintenance on first reading. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Suspend three readings:*** Clerk Curtis stated Foreman Cumley stated it was entirely up to the Council if they wanted to suspend the three readings of the Ordinance for it to take effect right away. Council Member Eisenhower moved to suspend the three readings of Ordinance #1069, amending 3-117, Service Line Maintenance. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried.

A Report and update from Foreman Cumley: *Discuss purchasing the Sewer Main eBomb Enz Nozzle Camera for \$12,000:* Council reviewed the quote Foreman Cumley had gotten from Armor Equipment on the eBomb Camera Nozzle to use in areas of the City's Sewer Main that may be having issues. Cumley stated that Armor Equipment is who brought down their eBomb camera for a "demo test run" and we were able to find out that the problem with Teresa Spier's Sewer line was that it had a huge ball of roots at the end of

her sewer line right where it was tapped onto the City's sewer main. Foreman Cumley stated that he had Council Member Hatfield come over when they were doing the demo test run so they could both see if it worked well enough for what the city needs a sewer camera for. Council Member Hatfield stated that they were able to see everything that they felt would work well for the city with the \$12,000 eBomb camera system without spending \$36,000 on the crawler camera system. Hatfield continued that the video was clean to look at. Foreman Cumley pulled up the picture of the root ball from Teresa Spier's sewer line to show everyone how clean the camera took photos. Foreman Cumley explained that these videos can be sent to up to three email addresses and then can be uploaded onto the City's GIS system, so everything is on record. Cumley continued that there is a manufacturer's warranty on the nozzle for the life of the camera, other than the battery. So, if the lens cracks or it won't upload anymore and they can't fix it, they will send the city a new camera. Foreman Cumley stated that when it comes to having Johnson Service Company come do sliplining, they have always gone with problem areas or places like the sewer main running under the grade school that would be difficult to get to. If the City were to purchase this camera system, then the City Crew can work on filming sewer mains ahead of time and plan to slip line those areas that need it most rather than just guessing where to have sliplining done. Council Member Hatfield stated the question is can the city afford to purchase this camera system now or do they need to wait until the new fiscal year? Clerk Curtis inquired about how long this quote was good for. Foreman Cumley stated he was not sure, as there was nothing noted on the actual quote itself. Clerk Curtis stated that in her calculations, the Sewer Fund should have approximately \$7400 left in its budget plus around \$4000 left from Capital Expenditures. The Sewer Fund could have more funds left if they don't end up using all of the Sewer Short Lived Assets Capital Expenditure funds budgeted for UV light replacement (\$5,000), two pumps from Iowa Pumps (\$15,200) and the Lift Station Pump (\$15,000), which totals around \$35,200. Foreman Cumley stated that they will need to spend all those budgeted funds on the items listed so there probably will not be any extra funds left over there. Clerk Curtis stated that it makes her nervous with spending the sewer budget down completely because the sewer plant is so unpredictable with different items needing to be repaired all the time. More discussion followed with Clerk Curtis stating that Foreman Cumley could make arrangements with Armor Equipment to already have the eBomb Nozzle Camera System ordered so that it would be delivered close to October 1st, 2025 so that the funds could be paid for out of the new Fiscal Year (FY). Council Member Hatfield moved to budget the \$12,000 to purchase the Enz eBomb Nozzle Camera System in the 2025-26 FY Sewer Budget. Council Member Eisenhower seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. ***Discuss the City Pawnderosa's Restroom Plans:*** Foreman Cumley stated he and Mayor Hatfield met with Dave Mezger/Mezger Constr. last week to go over plans for replacing the restroom facility at the Pawnderosa City Pond. Mr. Mezger stated he is willing to work with the city in making sure that we don't go over the \$30,000 threshold. His approximate costs will be \$26,000 for concrete and labor with him finding the doors with the city directly paying for them. For the three doors the costs should be approximately \$4,000. They changed the dimensions of the building making it measure out to 17'4" on the inside so they still had a 4' mechanical room. Mezger plans to put a single floor drain on each side with the floors slopping to the drain to leave the option open to possibly add showers in the future. Council Member Hatfield inquired if the restrooms would be left unlocked year-round? Foreman Cumley stated that a heater system could be added to each side, otherwise the restrooms would have to be winterized each year with the Mechanical room always staying locked. Foreman Cumley stated he has spoken with 3-D Plumbing and Doug is estimating his costs will run between \$3-5,000.

Council Member Eisenhower inquired if there would be enough space where the previous restroom was located for the larger sized building? Foreman Cumley stated that the way he has it figured it should be fine, especially since the building will be built at ground level to walk into, so there will be no need for the 5' ramp that is currently leading up to the old restroom building. Council Member Eisenhower moved to approve Metzger Construction building a new 17'4" restroom facility at the Pawnderosa Pond containing a 4' mechanical/storage room in the middle. Council Member Fisher seconded the motion. Roll Call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried. Foreman Cumley stated that Metzger Construction was putting the City's restroom project on their upcoming job list so he will let him know that it was approved by the City Council so hopefully he can get started on it soon. Foreman Cumley stated that he has a call into Clint Mahoney to hold off on doing any of the concrete camper pads at the pond until the restroom project is finished so we know where we are at with the Park budget as the City will still need to purchase sinks, toilets, etc. for the restroom project. **General Discussion on city items:** Foreman Cumley stated the last snow removal went very well. Clerk Curtis stated that the city office did not receive any complaints and just a couple requests to come back through an alley and such. Foreman Cumley stated that with the extreme cold temperatures last week they had a few water meters freeze and break along with the sewer plant freezing up again, which ruined a couple belts. The plant had run on those belts for the past couple years, so it was probably time they were changed out anyway. The next two weeks are going to be terribly busy with the Crew needing to take a couple special water samples and a sewer sample. They need to do the new water tap at the old Goodenkauf property along the highway and replace two manhole covers that were already cracked and then were caught by the corner of the snowplow blade during this last snowstorm. They hope to locate the shut-off to the former Premier Estates building and finish repairing the street from the watermain break at 3rd and I streets by Clerk Curtis' house while the weather is so nice plus they will be reading water meters on Wednesday of this week.

A Report and update from Council Member Eisenhower: Review Pool Manager/Asst Mgr & Lifeguard Ads to start running in newspaper with Pool Manager/Asst. Mgr interviews the week of March 15th & Lifeguard Interviews the week of April 1st: Council Member Eisenhower stated that she would be present by phone for the Pool Manager Interviews but would be back in time to be present in person for the Lifeguard Interviews. Clerk Curtis stated she had typed up around four-five pages of instructions on what all needs to be done through our office in order to get ready for pool season as she has handed all of the pool materials over to Utility Billing Clerk Kimberly Johnson to take over with all of the advertising, making posters, ordering supplies, preparing for interviews, etc.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the spreadsheet on December 2024 Sales Tax of \$24,210.52 with ½% Street Repairs Sales Tax totaling \$4,913.26 and \$4,557.49 being Motor Vehicle Sales Tax; the email with the OPPD Rates for 2025 and the request for some volunteer assistance with the Pawnee City Community Blood Drives. Council Member Zelenka moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Hatfield seconded the motion. Roll call vote indicated all present voting in favor of the motion, whereupon motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST: Tamela S. Curtis, City Clerk

Charlie Hatfield, Mayor