

**City of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees
Minutes October 10, 2022
Regular Meeting**

The Bennet Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a regular business meeting on Monday October 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Bennet City Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the City, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, and having set forth (a) the time, date and place of the meeting; (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of the public; and (c) that the agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk and posted at the City Office, Post Office and First Nebraska Bank.

Chairperson Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Village Clerk Michele Lincoln conducted roll call. Trustees in attendance were Ryan Cheney, Pete Simmons, Don Murray, Brad Ruzicka, Justin Dorn. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) MINUTES of September 12, 2022 Special Meeting/Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting Approval
- b) CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT
- c) TREASURER'S REPORT
- d) RESOLUTION 2022-10.1, reappointment of Planning Commission Members (Marilyn Maney & Kevin Hiatt)
- e) RESOLUTION 2022-10.2, approval of Special Designated License for KNK, LLC dba Big Ten Tavern for the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Bennet Fire & Rescue building, 480 Fir Street, Bennet.

Cheney moved and Dorn seconded a motion that all items under the consent agenda be approved and accepted as presented. Roll call vote: Simmons, Murray, Ruzicka, Cheney, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

The 4th of July Committee informed the Board at the September meeting that they were ready to turn the 4th of July festivities over to someone else. The Board agreed they wanted to help ensure that the 4th of July festivities would continue, and they would discuss it further. Some of the thoughts discussed included whether there needed to be all the activities or whether it could just be a parade and fireworks; the possibility of easing the fundraising burden by having the City contribute more; compensating the volunteers; asking the Fire Department to take over; and recruiting area organizations to take over specific activities. They agreed that there needed to be additional public awareness that without volunteers the 4th of July Celebration may cease to exist. Lincoln stated she would confer with Lillie Chambers and compose a public notice emphasizing the imperativeness of finding volunteers for its continuation.

A design contest has been implemented for a new paint scheme on the water tower. It has been posted with a submittal deadline of November 30th. District OR-1 Superintendent Mike Hart was given a special invitation for school participation. The City Council will make a final decision at the December 12th meeting. Trustee Dorn and Code Enforcement Officer Marlene Sturdy previously volunteered to be on the selection committee. Trustee Simmons and Village Clerk Michele Lincoln also volunteered to be

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on the selection committee. They will bring the top 3-4 designs to the City Council for their final decision.

There have been recent discussions of installing a permanent pressure relief valve for bypassing the water tower when needed. Engineer Brian Schule confirmed that there will need to be engineered plans approved by Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment (NDEE). Ruzicka moved and Simmons seconded a motion to approve a work order for Olsson to design and permitting with NDEE of the Pressure Reducing Valve Installation. Roll call vote: Simmons, Murray, Ruzicka, Cheney, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Engineer Brian Schuele initiated a discussion of a Master Trail Plan and iterated the importance of getting it included in our Code and incorporated in our Future Land Use Plan. Bennet has no existing trail infrastructure. The ditches will be the main challenge requiring them to be closed with curb and gutter. We need to ensure the requirements are in place for any future developments. Schuele presented a map of what he thought would be a good route that would connect the different portions of the community.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) plans to work on Hwy 43 going through Bennet in the next three years. They reached out to Engineer Schuele to start the discussion of creating a safer school crossing at Dogwood. They have an idea that would narrow the crossing distance and be able to accommodate a 10' trail.

The Board discussed the plans for the annual Halloween Hotdog Feed. Donations left over from last year will be used towards needed supplies. Melanie Cheney offered to purchase the hotdogs and Simmons volunteered to grill the hotdogs. The Board decided to keep the Halloween Hotdog Feed on Halloween instead of moving it to the weekend.

Verizon Wireless LLC was sent a statement for back water tower lease payments of \$12,198.69. No payments were received. The Board considered whether legal action should be pursued for a breach of the Water Tower Lease Agreement dated July 27, 2017. They decided to have Attorney Solheim send a letter to the local registered agent requesting payment and if payment is not received pursue legal action with Lancaster County Court.

Submitted reports included Treasurer's Report, Engineer Report, Sheriff's Report, Utility Superintendent Report and Farmers' Market.

Murray reported that he attended the open house meeting about the Lancaster County Broadband Infrastructure project. Lancaster County will be paying for the installation of conduit throughout the county which will be available for internet contractors. Other than coordinating right of way easements the City will not need to do anything. It will likely be installed in Bennet by the end of June and completed county wide by the end of next year.

The Clerk reported that the Hazardous Waste Collection on September 23rd was very successful. There were 46 vehicles and approximately 2,500 lbs of hazardous materials collected. She also reported that the draft Code of Ordinances were received the end of August. Once we receive the legal and

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editorial report, we will have 60 days to review the draft and return it to American Legal Publishing Corporation.

Trustee Dorn and Josh Buck have been coordinating the rehab project for the crow's nest at the South Ballfield. Buck reported that the materials have been ordered and are ready for pickup, but the City doesn't have a big enough trailer. Menards can deliver the supplies for \$105. The Board agreed to have the supplies delivered.

Utility Superintendent Russ Jones reported that there was a water line leak by the South Ballfield close to where there was a leak last year indicating that the line may need replaced. He will get prices to replace the line. Jones also reported that All Road Barricades, Inc sells the Type 3 Barricades with lights for \$373.77. He thought it would be beneficial to have some on hand for utility emergencies and they could also be rented out for community events. The Board asked him to purchase six of them.

Cheney moved and Dorn seconded motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Roll call vote: Simmons, Murray, Ruzicka, Cheney, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Michele Lincoln, CMC
Village Clerk