

City of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees
Minutes September 12, 2022
Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearings & Regular Meeting

The Bennet Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a special meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at 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 an agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the offices 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 6:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Michele Lincoln, Village Clerk conducted roll call and recorded the minutes. Trustees responding as present were Ryan Cheney, Don Murray, Brad Ruzicka, Justin Dorn. Pete Simmons was absent. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public.

Cheney opened the public hearing for the presentation of the proposed 2022/2023 budget document at 6:00 p.m. Copies were available for the public. The Village Clerk presented the key points of the purposed budget. Bennet's valuation increased by \$1,974,237. The tax request remained the same as the prior year lowering the levy from .384 to .376 per \$100 of assessed value which is a 2% decrease. The total expenditures is \$1,545,327.00 which is a \$904,540 decrease from actual expenditures the prior year. Cheney closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Cheney opened the public hearing to set the final tax request at 6:05 p.m. There being no public comment, the hearing was closed at 6:09 p.m.

Cheney moved and Murray seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

The Bennet Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a regular business meeting on Monday September 12, 2022 immediately following the Budget Public Hearings, 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 to 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 6:09 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. Village Clerk Michele Lincoln conducted roll call. Trustees in attendance were Ryan Cheney, Don Murray, Brad Ruzicka, Justin Dorn. Absent: Pete Simmons. 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.

City of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees
Minutes September 12, 2022
Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearings & Regular Meeting

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. MINUTES of August 8, 2022 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop & Regular Meeting Approval
- b. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT
- c. TREASURER'S REPORT
- d. **RESOLUTION 2022-9.1**, appointing Planning Commission Members.
- e. Approval of letter agreement with AMGL, P.C. for 2021-2022 audit services.
- f. **RESOLUTION 2022-9.2**, authorize the signing of the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards.
- g. Approval of License Agreement (Amendment #1) with the City of Lincoln on behalf of Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department for hosting a household hazardous waste event.
- h. **RESOLUTION 2022-9.3**, a resolution adopting seasonal water regulations.

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

In December the Board of Trustees approved an interlocal agreement for GIS addressing with the City of Lincoln. The City of Lincoln requested an amended version be adopted. Adam Miller, the GIS Project Manager for the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County and Doug Guess the GIS Manager with the Lancaster County Assessor attended the meeting to discuss the interlocal agreement for GIS Addressing Authority. The purpose of this interlocal is to have all village and city addresses listed on a database to improve law enforcement and fire protection for the citizens when NextGen911 services become available. NextGen911 is new technology that enhances the capabilities of the 911 call centers. This interlocal would allow the City of Lincoln to create, maintain and remove any addresses within the City of Bennet. The amendment was due to reorganization within the GIS department. Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for GIS Addressing Authority with the City of Lincoln. Roll call vote: Murray, Ruzicka, Cheney, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cheney tabled agenda item 6.c until Tracy Reflor's arrival.

Rev. Darin Corder with the Bennet Community Church requested approval of a Block Party Application to have a Trunk or Treat event October 22, 2022 on Dogwood Street between Monroe and Jackson Streets. Rev. Corder stated that Palmyra's Trunk or Treat has been successful, and he thought that Bennet should have their own. An invitation to participate will be sent to all the Bennet businesses and organizations. They wanted to use a fire truck to block off one end of the street and vehicles to block off the other end. Skymart Food will be the food vendor. Freewill donations will be collected for missions and outreach programs. Cheney moved and Dorn seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2022-9.4, a resolution approving the application of Rev. Darin Corder with Bennet Community Church, 350 Monroe Street for permission to hold a block party (Trunk or Treat Event) on Dogwood Street between Monroe Street and Jackson Street, Bennet noting that proper barricades are required for the street closure. Roll call vote: Murray, Ruzicka, Cheney, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

City of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees
Minutes September 12, 2022
Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearings & Regular Meeting

Tracy Reflor introduced himself to the Board of Trustees as a candidate running for Lancaster County Treasurer. Reflor stated that he had history as a financial advisor and spoke of some changes that he would like to see in the Treasurer's Office and DMV.

Lillie Chambers and Kirsten & Eric McMann represented the Bennet 4th of July Committee in the discussion about the future of the Bennet 4th of July events. Lillie stated that they basically are a four-person committee that has been organizing the event for the last ten years and they are ready turn the 4th of July festivities over to someone else. They are willing to assist the new group with information and they have enough funds to support the 2023 4th of July. They estimate the festival brings in 600 – 800 attendees per year. It takes 15 -20 volunteers to run the activities. They normally start the planning process in January meeting once in January and February and then two to three times a month after that. The Board agreed they want to help to ensure that the 4th of July festivities continue. This subject will be placed on the agenda for the October 10th meeting.

The Board of Trustees discussed implementing a design contest for a new paint scheme on the water tower. They decided to open the contest to residents of Bennet with a special invitation sent to the school. Dorn and Marlene Sturdy volunteered to be on a subcommittee to choose the finalist. Participants will be able to submit their entries through November for the Boards final vote in December. Selection considerations will include how intricate the design and the number of colors used. Intricate designs and multiple colors can significantly increase the cost.

A Public Hearing was held on the Amended Budget for 2021/2022. Chairperson Cheney opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. Due to unforeseen circumstances, actual expenditures for the current fiscal year will exceed budgeted expenditures unless the current fiscal year's budget of expenditures is revised. The budget is being amended for capital improvements and capital outlay which include the carry over expense of the street project, the Wastewater Lagoon Cleaning project being \$85,000 more than budgeted and unforeseen repairs to the wastewater system. The adopted budget had \$2,004,867.00 for disbursements and transfers; the revised budget has \$2,449,867.00 for disbursements and transfers. There being no public comment, Cheney closed the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Cheney moved and Murray seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2022-9.5, a resolution to approve the Amended Budget for 2021/2022. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve an additional 1% increase in restricted funds authority. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried. Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2022-9.6, a resolution to approve the property tax request. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried. Cheney moved and Dorn seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2022-9.7, a resolution to approve the 2022/2023 Budget for the City of Bennet. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cheney opened the public hearing for the Bennet One-and Six-Year Street Plan for 2023 at 7:08 p.m. City Engineer Brian Schuele presented the plan. Schuele stated the proposed improvements to Cottonwood Street and Tyler Street are on the plan and noted the streets coming with the new developments will be factored into the lane miles. Cheney closed the public hearing at 7:12

City of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees
Minutes September 12, 2022
Special Meeting/Budget Public Hearings & Regular Meeting

p.m. Cheney moved and Dorn seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2022-9.8, a resolution adopting the Bennet One- and Six-Year Street Plan for 2023. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

During a Planning Commission discussion regarding a change of zoning request in the (A-1) Agricultural District it was suggested that the moratorium for acreage development in the A-1 should also include change of zoning requests. Josh Buck, Chairperson of the Planning Commission elaborated on that discussion. Attorney David Solheim stated that since we were in the process of updating the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations and Future Land Use that this would not be necessary.

Utility Superintendent Russ Jones questioned whether a meter and backflow preventer should be purchased for bulk water sales. Contractors occasionally approach the City to purchase bulk water. A meter would allow for more accuracy in calculating the gallons used and the backflow preventer will ensure that the system will not be contaminated. The cost would be approximately \$3,000.00. Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to purchase a meter and backflow preventer for bulk water sales. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Utility Superintendent Russ Jones initiated the discussion of purchasing and installing a permanent pressure relief valve for bypassing the water tower when needed. This will eliminate a significant amount of water being wasted while the water tower is being rehabbed next spring. He had one quote of \$11,600.00. The Board requested that he get additional quotes to be reviewed at the October meeting.

Submitted reports included Treasurer's Report, Engineer Report, Sheriff's Report and Maintenance Report. The Clerk reported that we received notice from Diode Communications that they will be discontinuing service by November 1st and will remove their equipment from the water tower within 30 days weather permitting; a statement for back water tower rent was sent to Verizon in the amount of \$12,198.69; and the draft Bennet Code of Ordinances was received from American Eagle Publishing.

Cheney moved and Murray seconded motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Roll call vote: Murray, Ruzicka, Cheney, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

Michele Lincoln, CMC
Village Clerk