

Minutes  
City Council  
April 3, 2017

The City Council of the City of Tecumseh, Nebraska, met in regular session in the Utilities Conference Room at the Utility Shop on the 3rd day of April, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advance publicized notice, a copy of the same being annexed to the minutes of the meeting as Attachment #1, said attachment showing how the availability of an agenda of then known subjects was communicated and the time and specific place of the holding of this notice, the same having been transmitted to each Council Member simultaneously. The Mayor presided and the City Clerk recorded the proceedings.

**Routine Business**

The following Council Members were present: Renee Carter, Travis Goracke, Jesse Grof, Kim Jansen, Jim Philippi, and Jim Reed. Absent: None. Others present: 4 Staff, City Attorney, 1 media outlet, and 3 members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Montz read a statement of availability of current copy of Open Meeting Act.

Additions or Corrections to Agenda – None.

Public Comment – No public comment received.

**Regular Agenda**

Johnson County Sheriff Report – Received report.

City Clerk Report

a. Committee Meeting Report - A summary of committee meeting actions was provided in the council packets.

Street Department Report - No report given.

Parks Department Report

a. Tabled – Bids for Playground Basketball Backboards – Travis Goracke has submitted a funding request to BNSF Railroad for funds to contribute to this project. He hopes to hear something back within 1-2 weeks. He is recommending the purchase of 2 polycarbonate backboards for the courts nearest the restrooms. If funds allow then we could also replace or repair the other 2 backboards. Travis indicated he is looking at other vendors for better pricing as well. The item was tabled to the next meeting to see if we get any funding from BNSF before proceeding.

b. Advertise for Swimming Pool Staff – Motion by Goracke, second by Carter to advertise for all swimming pool positions. Voting Aye: Carter, Goracke, Grof, Jansen, Philippi, Reed. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Economic Development Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. The Economic Development Committee has accepted the donation of the Presbyterian Church. They will have to make repairs to the building before making it available for business use.

Utility Department Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. Casey Bohling was approved to take the exam for the Grade 3 Water Operator License. The Board approved the pasture lease on the well field. GIS mapping of utilities has started – a new contract was tabled until the current contract is fulfilled. The board is recommending the purchase of a 2004 Street Sweeper to the Council. The Electric System Study was approved. The Board approved moving forward with project design and cost estimates for Priority #1 and #2 projects as shown in the study. Also approved a bid of \$3,200 for assistance in preparing the Water/Wastewater Industrial Stormwater Permit for NDEQ with Olsson Associates.

Pool Committee Report – Council member Jesse Grof indicated he has had many people stop to express their concern about the pool cost. He suggests having our auditors look at the project to see if it is feasible for the City at this time. Committee Chairman, Jim Philippi thanked the council for attending the Town Hall meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. He asked council members to go around the table and indicate their thoughts on the design. Kim Jansen indicated a need to figure out the expenses. Travis Goracke liked the idea of having someone from the outside look at the numbers. Renee Carter is excited about a newer pool. She has not received any public comments. She thinks it will be great for the community. Mayor Montz is concerned about financing – he is concerned about possible infrastructure problems with water and sewer – we need to have money for these items too. A pool is a luxury, not a necessity. Jim Reed likes the idea of an accountant looking at the finances. Not sure what else we can do – we need a pool sooner than later, but need to be smart about it too. Don't want to strap the community with too much debt. Jesse Grof says he is for a pool and that we need it. He wants to slow down and not use every resource we have on one project. What if a well goes down. He wants another impartial party to look at the numbers. It would be irresponsible to shove it through too quickly. Jim Philippi stated he didn't think the current pool would last much longer. He does not want to strap the City for cash either. He is fine with having the auditor review the finances. Utility Supervisor Doug Goracke also cited budget concerns – that we are throwing out the capital improvement plan. He thinks it's a great idea to have the auditor's look at the numbers. When asked about the status of the current pool he stated that he did not think it would last 5 years – but hopefully a year or two. He thinks we should not throw out the splash pad idea – that it could buy time at an estimated cost of \$200,000. He does not think you would be wasting money with a splash pad. The pool price tag worries him. He indicated that street projects have been neglected over the years, and need to start happening. Mike Davison indicated that there are always unknown things that are going to happen. He supports a pool, but more research on financing should be done.

- a. Pool Design – Mr. Reed asked about the pool heater and would like to know the cost for just that component. Staff will get this information – it is not shown as a separate cost in the estimate we have currently. The town hall meeting survey results were distributed to the Council. Some discussion about the lap lanes and whether it is important to the design – referred to the survey results for additional discussion that showed interest in lap swimming, exercise classes, and swim team activities. We should build a pool for our projected uses. Maybe we could offer some of the activities this year (lap swimming, exercise classes) to see how they go.
- b. Pool Financing Options – Clerk Lisa Beethe presented 5 design options that outlined project costs based on which components were included in the design. The design with

all components is \$3.218 million, while the option with only a 5-lane pool with no components (pool only) is about \$2.5 million. That \$700K difference would get you everything proposed in the design. Ms. Beethe also presented some projected pool financing figures to review and consider. Using the full \$3.2 million project cost she shows that we could have approximately \$2.366 million saved for the project by the end of construction in 2019. The City has already begun saving for the project plus what could be put in reserve for the project over the next 2 fiscal years would bring us to that \$2.36 million saved. So \$3.218 million minus \$2.366 million saved would leave about \$852,000 left to finance. Options presented to finance this shortfall include donations and fundraising that would lower that amount. Additional small foundation grants that may be able to also reduce that amount. Then to finance the amount left we could take out a bank loan or bond the amount (proposed without any additional property tax levy). We also have cash on hand as match for our Downtown Improvement Project that could be used to payoff the pool as well – currently these funds are not projected for use until at least 2021. We would then have time to replenish those funds by 2021 as needed. An increase in the City sales tax could also be an option if we need funds to pay the loan or bond payment over a 5 or 10 year term. Ms. Beethe reviewed the City's Schedule of Investments to show how the Downtown Project funds and Pool project funds are internally allocated within our total revenue sources and accounts. She has no problem contacting the auditor's to set up a meeting to review our financial standing and to discuss the potential pool project.

Motion by Grof, second by Carter to have the auditor's review the pool costs. Voting Aye: Carter, Goracke, Grof, Jansen, Philippi, Reed. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

#### Bus Board Report

- a. Sick Leave Policy for Part-time employees – The Bus Board is recommending that part-time employees who work 30+ hours per week be offered 1 day of sick leave per month at 6.5 hours/day (based on pro-rated hours). It was noted that this would affect 2 current city employees – the transit bus driver and librarian. The transit bus driver's leave benefit would be 80% covered by the federal grant funds that help pay for the service. Motion by Reed, second by Carter to add sick leave for part-time employees who work 30+ hours per week as recommended. Voting Aye: Carter, Goracke, Grof, Jansen, Philippi, Reed. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

City-Wide Spring Clean-Up – the date proposed is April 22, 2017. We receive 2 free dumpsters under our current agreement with Seneca Sanitation – additional dumpsters can be requested as needed. The mayor will contact TO Haas about accepting tires that day as well. Staff will advertise the dates and materials that can be dropped off. Motion by Grof, second by Carter to have spring clean-up on April 22, 2017 and to request additional dumpsters if needed. Voting Aye: Carter, Goracke, Grof, Jansen, Philippi, Reed. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Street Sweeper – The Board of Public Works recommends the purchase of a used machine – a 2004 Elgin Pelican NP at a cost of \$47,242.75. Motion by Reed, second by Grof to approve the purchase of the used sweeper as presented (with the understanding we can return it if we don't like it). Voting Aye: Carter, Goracke, Grof, Jansen, Reed. Voting Nay: Philippi. Motion Carried.

## Consent Agenda

Motion by Philippi, second by Grof to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of the March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 14th, 2017 meetings
2. Pay bills for City Funds
3. #14-HO-3S057 - Housing Rehab Grant
  - a. Drawdown #21 - \$1,500.05 (SENDD Administration)
  - b. Drawdown #22 - \$34,097.45 (EZ Construction - \$9,000 on Project #16, Quality Remodeling - \$24,995 on Project #17, SENDD \$102.45 for Housing Mgt.)

Voting Aye: Carter, Goracke, Grof, Jansen, Philippi, Reed. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

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Lisa Beethe, City Clerk

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William J. Montz, Sr., Mayor