

Minutes  
City Council  
June 3, 2019

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 June, 2019, 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: Travis Goracke, Jesse Grof, Garrett Harris, Tim Kluck, Jim Reed, and Lorie Topp. Absent: None. Others present: 3 Staff, City Attorney, and 12 members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Clerk Beethe read a statement of availability of current copy of Open Meeting Act.

Additions or Corrections to Agenda – None.

Public Comment – None.

**Regular Agenda**

Accept Resignation of Mayor Bill Montz, Sr. – A copy of the resignation was included in the agenda packet. Motion by Reed, second by Kluck to accept the resignation as of May 31, 2019. Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Oath of Office for new Mayor – Jesse Grof is the current President of the Council and therefore will assume the position of Mayor. Mr. Grof was then sworn in as Mayor.

Election of New President of Council – Motion by Reed, second by Harris to nominate Lorie Topp. No other nominations. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed. Voting Nay: None. Abstaining: Topp. Motion Carried.

Vacate Council Position in Ward 2 (term till Nov. 2022) & Advertise Vacancy – Motion by Reed, second by Topp to declare a vacancy in Ward 2 and to authorize advertising the vacancy. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

City Clerk Report:

a. A summary of committee meeting actions was provided in the council packets.

Street Department Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. – Staff will be getting asphalt from the plant near Filley for patchwork. They are looking into renting or purchasing a grinder – will bring estimates to the next meeting.

Economic Development Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. Received 2 proposals, received bids to replace roof on the old Vet’s Club, working on funding/grants for some downtown work, and looking at Rural Workforce Housing programs (would require match).

Utility Department Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. Draining town water towers now – will be inspected on Thursday. No bids were received on the old bucket truck or pickup that had been advertised for sale. The Board approved the gWorks Contract for Electrical GIS data collection. The Board did not approve the change to the Personnel Policy regarding employment of relatives. They approved Lisa & Dina attending the Accounting & Finance Conference in Lincoln.

a. gWorks Contract for Services – GPS Data Collection & Layer Creation - \$46,812. Motion by Reed, second by Kluck to approve the contract for \$46,812. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Parks Department Report – Travis Goracke indicated that the committee met last week.

a. Relocation of picnic shelter and swing set – will move out of the way for pool construction activities and try to re-install closer to the new restroom after construction.

b. Removal of trees next to pool along Clay Street – put out a public notice on the City website & Facebook page that anyone interested in removing and relocating the crab apple trees should contact City Hall to make arrangements, otherwise they will just be removed.

c. Update on pool construction – staff indicated that demolition is supposed to start this week.

Olsson Agreement for construction engineering on the new swimming pool – Shayne Huxoll reviewed the agreement. The estimated cost for this phase is \$295,000 – we will be invoiced for actual time and materials, so costs could be lower. Motion by Reed, second by Topp to approve the agreement. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Interlocal Agreement with Johnson County Sheriff – no agreement has been received yet. Mr. Grof has a meeting scheduled with the County Commissioners on June 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the agreement. No action.

Housing Rehab Agreement with Southeast Nebraska Development District – Ms. Beethe indicated that we have an applicant for housing rehab that needs to be evaluated for eligibility. We have \$35K+ in grant program income that we must utilize for continued housing rehab. SENDD would evaluate applicants for \$250/each and \$3,500 for Housing Management & Lead Based Paint Services if an applicant is approved. Motion by Reed, second by Goracke to approve the agreement. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

City of Tecumseh Personnel Policy Manual Update

a. Miscellaneous Policy regarding Employment of Relatives – Staff reviewed proposed changes to the policy to allow an employee to supervise an immediate family member for temporary seasonal positions (i.e. lifeguards, ball coaches, or other seasonal staff). The Board of Public Works voted not to change the policy for Utility employees, but the City would like to make the change for City staff. Motion by Reed, second by Topp to approve the policy change for City staff. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Downtown Historic Street Project Update

a. Architectural Review Board & Downtown Historic Square Project Committee Recommendation – Shayne Huxoll of Olsson reviewed the meeting discussion. The State approached the City about trying to accelerate the project timeline by avoiding the need for easements to fill the coal chute openings – which could take 12-18 months to complete. Committee discussed some options and are suggesting an alternate approach of covering the openings with plywood (or some other material) and pouring low strength cement around the edges to keep it in place. This would be done only from the outside of the building on the public side of the building (no entry into the structures). We would like to propose this

option to the State and see if it will be acceptable. Public comment from Lavern Bartels regarding underground tunnels in the area was received – Shayne responded that nothing like this has been noted during the environmental review. Motion by Reed, second by Harris to propose the alternate method of covering the openings to avoid the easement process. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Johnson County Sheriff Report – Report distributed.

Tabled – Request for Street Closure from 9-Line Ambulance Service on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Sheriff Walton indicated that they need street closures on 5<sup>th</sup> Street (from railroad tracks to Clay Street) and Clay Street (from 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>). Will have ambulances, sheriff's vehicles, firetrucks, and a helicopter on scene with lots of activities. Motion by Reed, second by Kluck to approve the street closures. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Allow City July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display (July 5<sup>th</sup> rain date) at the Fairgrounds and authorizing the payment for insurance rider or equivalent amount for fireworks – Mr. Dalluge reviewed the activities planned. Motion by Goracke, second by Kluck to allow the fireworks display. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Tree Dump Personnel – Staff presented a draft job description for a Tree Dump Monitor position. Staff checked with our insurance provider about an age restriction – they indicated that Age 16 is fine as long as they do not drive any city vehicle or equipment – should be 18 if driving a city vehicle. Members indicated that a minimum of age 16 should be included in the description. Had some discussion about the hours, but decided to leave the same for now and work with applicant if needed. Motion by Kluck, second by Harris to approve the job description with the Age 16 age minimum and to advertise the position. Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Johnson County Central – Band 5K Walk/Run – October 12, 2019. Presented the preliminary map for the event. We will not close the streets on the route, but they can mark the route (not with any paint on the street). Will review additional information as the event draws closer.

Public Comment from Terry Kage – had a question regarding whether the Mayor and/or Council members are covered under the City's insurance policy for driving city vehicles or equipment. Mr. Dalluge indicated he thought they would be as long as it was for a city purpose. Otherwise their personal insurance would kick in to cover an accident. Also commented on the need to be planning replacements for Utility employees retiring in the near future and asking if employees are going to school or training. Members indicated that the Board of Public Works handles these issues for the Utilities and that they keep the Council informed when action is needed. Doug Goracke indicated that some staff are taking training currently for water certifications and that the Board continues discussion regarding staffing needs.

Annual Mayoral Appointments – The Mayor indicated that he would like more time to review the appointments and defer them to the next meeting. Discussion regarding legal issues with not making appointments at this meeting. Mr. Dalluge indicated that officer positions (Clerk & Attorney) carryover automatically until replaced, all others are expired until re-appointed (Committees & Other Positions). The mayor decided to appoint 5 positions now and defer the rest until the next meeting: Ben Walters as Building Inspector, Doug Goracke as Economic Developer, Dan Blessing for Board of Public Works, Steve Mercure for Architectural Review Board, and John Murphy for Architectural Review Board. Motion by Reed, second by Topp to approve the 5 appointments as listed. Voting Aye: Goracke, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: Harris. Motion Carried.

## Consent Agenda

Mr. Reed noted a correction needed to be made on his vote regarding having the librarians supervise the Summer Recreation Coordinators – he voted Nay on this motion. Staff will make the correction.

Motion by Reed, second by Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting, with correction as noted above
2. Pay bills for City Funds
3. Request for Lisa Beethe & Dina Harris to attend the League of Municipalities Accounting & Finance Conference – June 13-14, 2019 in Lincoln
4. Mayoral Appointment – Appoint Bruce Williamson to Pride Committee

Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

---

Lisa Beethe, City Clerk

---

Jesse R. Grof, Mayor