

The Hartington City Council met on February 13, 2023 at the city hall for their regular meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M. Notice of time and place of the meeting was given in advance notice by posting. Notice of time and place of the meeting was communicated in the advanced notice to the mayor and council.

Present were Mayor Becker; Councilman Bartling and Kathol; City Clerk-Treasurer de Waal and Deputy Clerk Hines; Legal Advisor Pier. Councilman Sudbeck and Christensen were absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M., followed by all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the open meeting law poster was on the back wall of the council room and reminded all present to silence their cell phones.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting and the January 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

The Hartington 4-H Club Needles & Nails approached the council about installing a Little Pantry on city owned property; specifically the west side of the city office. Needles & Nails was awarded a grant from the Norfolk Area Youth Philanthropy Contest that provides funding for the construction and installation of a Little Pantry in Hartington. The Little Pantry is a community service project that will provide food and other necessities for families in need. The 4-H club will be responsible for maintaining the structure and keeping an eye any expired products. A motion to approve the construction of a Little Pantry was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a Special Designated Liquor License for the Cedar Catholic High School. A motion to approve the liquor license was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – Yes. Motion Carried.

The January 2023 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was distributed by Deputy Zimmer. There were 337 ¼ hours patrolled. School traffic was 4 ¼ hours. Calls of service were 1 assault, 1 accident, and 2 trespass. Traffic Stops were 1 verbal warning, 1 written warning, and 2 citations. There was 1 arrest made.

LB840 Loan No. 2023203 was introduced by Mayor Becker. Clerk de Waal commented that Miranda Becker from the Economic Development Office was informed that the current LLC name is being changed. They are waiting on their legal council to give them the go ahead with the new LLC name they have chosen. Councilman Kathol asked for more information regarding this loan. Mayor Becker provided Councilman Kathol with a brief overview on the background of the group who is interested in buying the Hartington Hotel. Mayor Becker informed the council that this recommendation is for a \$25,000 loan and a \$25,000 grant to Ben Conover DBA Hotel Hartington. Councilman Kathol asked if the loan is the only amount being paid on and Mayor Becker said yes, the grant is free money that is not paid back. Councilman Bartling asked if the current loan for the Hartington Hotel that Schroeder's have will be paid back and Legal Advisor Pier said yes. A motion to approve LB840 Loan No. 2023203 was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk de Waal discussed with the council switching to direct deposit for employee payroll. De Waal mention she talked to the bank and nothing in our agreement will need to change since we are already doing ACH payments for residential and commercial utility billing. Our limit would be the only thing that would have to increase due to the amount of funds being taken out of our account. There are two options for payroll; how we are currently set up with a Monday to Sunday pay period; money would get deposited on Tuesday morning. Or switching to a Friday to Thursday pay period; money would get deposited into accounts on Monday morning. Check stubs can still be printed for anyone that wants them for their records. Councilman Kathol commented and said that change is sometimes a hard thing to adjust to and eventually it becomes normal. Making this change will get us more up to speed with current times. A motion to switch to direct deposit was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was funding for the upcoming season for the baseball/softball association. Clerk de Waal received a call regarding photos for the softball team and where to send the bill. Since both associations made the decision to go their own way and close the bank account under the city Clerk de Waal was not sure how to answer the question. It was also mentioned by de Waal that in the minutes from last year's October meeting that the city agreed to keep up the maintenance of the fields and pay umpire fees; nothing more was discussed on what the city was going to help with. Mayor Becker said that with the possible construction of a new concession stand/bathroom that it's best to table this until

we've had a chance to talk to the coaches some more. Councilman Bartling made a motion to table the funding for the upcoming baseball/softball season and Councilman Kathol seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

The Gambling Awareness Month proclamation for March was read and signed by Mayor Becker. A copy of the proclamation will be sent to Choices Treatment Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

A motion to accept the resignation of fireman Michael Hoepfner was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

#### Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: A few things to report. New Velcro straps were ordered for the basketball hoops. A new tennis net was order and is here; Brandon Baller will install it. The wood siding at the little park is being replaced. This spring Andy Leise will install two 6' benches by the soccer and baseball field. The new Frisbee Golf sign is in progress as well.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: We are looking for some lifeguards and managers for the pool.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Absent

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: Absent

General – Mayor Becker: A few things to report. Mayor Becker had been approached about a group of people who are interested in organizing a bike ride over to Hartington. Since there is not much to do by our camper court the east park was taken into consideration for overnight camping. Dani looked into our ordinances and we would have to allow a special permit for them to camp over night. The other option would be to have them go to the fairgrounds. Councilman Bartling commented that the Bike Ride Across Nebraska is usually just tent camping. De Waal mentioned if they were going to stay overnight at our park a permit would have to be created due our hours of operations. Legal Advisor Pier agreed and said it would be a good idea to have some sort of permit established if this were to happen again. Mayor Becker mentioned maybe during Hartington Dayz we could have them come through since there will be some activates going on that day. Another issue that was address was parking on certain streets around the holidays and special events. There are times where two vehicles park across the street from each other making the street narrower for passing cars and there was concern about emergency vehicles having room to pass through. There is currently no ordinance against this, but we do try and make citizens aware of this issue. Along the same lines there were more comments made about the lack of parking up at the school. Councilman Kathol made the comment that with the new addition going south that there would be more room to the east for more parking. But this would be on the school to make this decision. Lastly, Mayor Becker wanted to congratulate the library on their 5 star award they recently received. Our library staff does a wonderful job with their involvement with the community.

Legal Advisor Pier: None

Clerk de Waal: We finally got video footage of an individual who is tampering with the door at the auditorium. He does not have a pass, but his brother does. In the agreement we are able to take away their pass, but the individual messing with the door does not have a pass. I have not reached out to the parents yet because I wanted to discuss this with the council. We have not had much for vandalism; however, people are now messing with the door. Is there some form of consequence that we can implement with people tampering with city property? Councilman Kathol suggested taking away their pass and nothing being allowed in the facility for six months to a year. Mayor Becker suggested calling the parents and giving them a warning, if it happens a second time they will lose their pass. Also reach out to Dave to see if we can do something more with the door.

Deputy Clerk Hines: None

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked about some clarification on the name of the LB840 Loan. Legal Advisor Pier said they are changing the LLC name and are waiting for approval.

Total payroll for January 2023 was \$47,149.63.

The following bills were presented for payment:

General: Eakes Office Solutions 114.43, FP Finance Program 115.98, Hartelco 330.61, Hartington Shopper 165.60, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP 500.00, NPPD 120.63, Nebraska News Company 301.19

Streets: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 773.99, Bank of Hartington 183.33, Bomgaars 131.46, Colonial Life 27.22, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 4,210.46, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 1,038.86, Grossenburg Implement 775.58, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 559.22, Hartington Shopper 165.60, NPPD 3,022.29, Pomp's Tire Service, Inc 230.80, U.S. Cellular 75.48, USABLE LIFE 14.50, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 3,530.87

Water: Cedar-Knox Public Power District 334.89, Hartington Shopper 165.60, A. Kaddatz 71.78, NE Public Health Environment Lab 48.00, NPPD 428.66, One Call Concepts, Inc 1.24, Peitz Service 26.47

Sewer: Bomgaars 24.99, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 89.84, Hartelco 66.60, Hartington Shopper 165.60, Midwest Laboratories, Inc 389.00, NPPD 2,788.98, One Call Concepts, Inc 1.24, Plumbing & Electric 1,572.18, USA Blue Book 16,759.13

Sanitation Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,217.74, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Colonial Life 129.66, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 1,016.40, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 537.23, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc 273.66, A. Kaddatz 70.00, L.P. Gill, Inc 5,908.86, Stop N Go 340.35, USABLE LIFE 29.00

Fire: D & J Variety 6.49, Dearborn National Life Ins. Co 120.24, FYR TEK 5,195.80, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 127.04, Garvin's CD Shop 125.00, Hartelco 46.04, Hartington Shopper 269.85, NPPD 127.68, R&R Services LLC 199.00, Stop N Go 27.68, Toyne, Inc. 5,370.20, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 28.75

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,532.54

Ambulance: D & J Variety 6.49, Emergency Medical Products 434.73, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 328.77, Hartelco 46.04, Matheson Tri-Gas 121.32, NPPD 127.68, U.S. Cellular 186.92

Cemetery: Cedar Know Rural Water 53.00

Recreation: NPPD 63.16

Pool: Glenn Kathol 320.00, Hartington Shopper 159.00, NPPD 47.37, NE Nebraska News Company 132.48

Parks: Grossenburg Implement 624.43, Hartington Tree 1,200.00, NPPD 287.54

Complex: Feilmeier Electric 968.85, Hartelco 44.38, NPPD 77.37

Library: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 5,853.72, Bank of Hartington 333.34, D & J Variety 19.99, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 337.92, Hartelco 155.12, NPPD 265.58, USABLE LIFE 29.00

City Hall: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 570.37, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Burnell's Foodtown 20.95, Colonial Life 146.24, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 89.78, Hartelco Computers 340.40, Hometown Leasing 62.05, NPPD 421.83, USABLE LIFE 28.00

Auditorium: Appera 63.56, Art Kathol Appliance, Inc. 14.26, DSN Security 660.00, NPPD 108.03, R&R Services LLC 158.82, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 685.00

Economic Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 200.40, Hartelco 49.20, Hometown Leasing 31.02, USABLE LIFE 14.50

Transfer Station: Bomgaars 52.15, Carhart Lumber Co 31.98, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 1,365.14, Grossenburg Implement 111.75, Gill Hauling, Inc. 1,042.74, Hartelco 46.96, Olson's Pest Technicians 245.00

A motion to pay the bills in addition a check to Dixie Fischer in the amount of \$100.00 for casual labor and Christensen Well in the amount of \$7,856.48 for well maintenance was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Becker – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for February 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniella de Waal,  
City Clerk-Treasurer