

The Hartington City Council met for a public hearing and their regular meeting on July 10th, 2023 at city hall 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, Christensen, Kathol, and Sudbeck ; City Clerk-Treasurer Brittnei Bencoter, and Deputy Clerk Hines.

Mayor Becker opened the public hearing for Final Plat Bencoter Addition at 5:00 P.M. The council reviewed the plat and no objections. Mayor Becker signed the plat. There were no questions from the public, so Mayor Becker closed the hearing at 5:01 P.M.

Mayor Becker explained that the transfers in the Treasurer's report for June, 2023 was money taken from the ARPA account to the general fund for the purpose of paying the law enforcement contract with the Cedar County Sheriff's office as previously decided by council. Mayor Becker explained the transfer of funds to the general fund for the work done at Felber Park as well. A motion to approve the minutes and Treasurer's report from June, 2023 was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The June 2023 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was distributed by Deputy Zimmer. There were 358 ³/₄ hours patrolled. School traffic was n/a. Calls of service were 1 Coroner Call, 3 accidents, and 1 EMS call. Traffic stops were 0 verbal warning, 6 written warnings, and 0 citations. There were no arrests made.

Clerk Bencoter stated The Chief applied for a Special Designated Liquor License for Hartington Dayz on August 12, 2023. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Bartling and Seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol - Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20230710- Resolution of the City of Hartington Council for the Adoption of the Age Limit for Retirement Benefits Through Franklin Templeton. Councilman Sudbeck read the resolution for the council. Mayor Becker explained that under current city ordinance, no employee under the age of 21 is eligible for retirement; however, we have verified with our current retirement agent that anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for the current plan we have. A motion was to adopt Resolution 20230710 was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The next item on the list was the discussion of garbage rates for 220 Acres and Becker Addition. Mayor Becker explained that currently those residents are paying a rate of around \$50/mth for garbage collection from a third party as they are not in city limits. Mayor Becker would like to know if the council would be interested in collecting garbage in those areas and at what rate. Councilman Sudbeck stated he talked with the sanitation department and they said it would only be a limited amount of extra time to collect in those areas. His only concerns were with the weather and roads being impassible. Councilman Christensen stated there needed to be a benefit to living in town and stated the rate for those additions should be 2 or 3 times the current city rate. Councilman Sudbeck stated he would be in favor as the garbage is all being dumped at the same place eventually. Councilman Kathol stated if we were to do it, we needed to make sure it was at lease a certain number of people signed up to make it worth the time and cost of going to the additions. Mayor Becker asked if they would like to survey the residents first to see what interest there is. Council agreed with this and the issue was tabled by Councilman Sudbeck.

The following item discussed was the drainage issue between Cedar and Robinson streets. Utility Superintendent Corey Kramer explained to council that the area between those streets where the water is running is not a city alley and has never been a city alley according to the Cedar County Courthouse records. He stated there was damage to homes east and a retaining wall was washed out. He stated this was all private property. Councilman Bartling stated there was no alley easement on the block. Corey Kramer explained it was the amount of rain that was received the week prior which caused the washout. Residents Craig and Missy Bowers explained it was their home that had the retaining wall washed out and that the water was coming from the construction of the bank which added to the existing issue. Craig Bowers stated he physically saw the breach and water flowing from the construction site of the bank to his home. There was discussion by council members on what needed to be done or what the city was able to do. There was discussion that it was private property and the city was not able to force landowners to make alterations to their property. Keith Moje with Otte Construction, who are the contractors for the construction of the new bank, were also present and explained that they have brought the issue to the architects attention and are waiting to hear back. He stated there was a converter pipe on the North East side that was there before construction started. Keith Moje stated currently all the rain on the property is going into the retention pond which did overflow with the excess amount of rain. Resident Heather

Showen was also present and spoke of her concerns due to her fence being in danger of damage due to the fallen retaining wall and flow of water.

The discussion of the Nordby Preliminary Plat was tabled by Mayor Becker.

Mayor Becker stated that currently the city provides about 25 dumpsters to local businesses for cardboard. The market on cardboard has collapsed and it is costing the city a significant amount of money now to pick up these dumpsters for the local businesses. There was discussion on charging for dumpsters and at what cost. It was agreed upon that the city would no longer offer the free service and begin charging businesses at the standard rate for a dumpster. Motion to approve to end the free service and begin charging for the dumping of cardboard was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Colin Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Park – Council Kathol: none

Pool – Council Bartling informed council there was a swim meet at the pool on Wednesday.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck informed the council they would get a load of block for the complex the following day and was told the work could probably be completed in a weekend. Nemaha Construction was going to be giving a second bid on the track and Councilman Sudbeck was looking for a third opinion. Work on the Auditorium ceiling was expected to begin with the next week and a half.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: none.

General – Mayor Becker: There was progress on getting the new garbage truck and was told we may have it by the beginning of next year.

Steve Pier: Absent

Clerk Benschoter: none

Deputy Clerk Hines: none

Public Comments: none

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: FP Finance Program 231.96, Hartelco 330.61, NE Nebraska News Company 94.28.

Streets: Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,294.74, Bank of Hartington 2,650.77, Bomgaars 321.16, Carhart Lumber Co. 99.20, Colonial Life 27.22, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 1589.99, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 505.38, Grossenburg Implement 754.80, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 181.11, Kruse True Value 44.99, Leise Concrete 4,048.50, Plumbing & Electric 3,697.50, Rose Equipment, Inc. 1,945.50, Tramp Heating and Cooling, LLC 114.28, US Cellular 75.40, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 120.00.

Water: Hartington Shopper 43.27, Municipal Supply, Inc. 1,111.44, One Call Concepts, Inc. 19.18, Plumbing & Electric 21.57.

Sewer: Bomgaars 19.98, Burnell's Foodtown 15.98, Hartelco 66.60, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 74.96, Hartington Shopper 43.27, Johnson Service Co. 29,902.70, Kruse True Value 11.99, One Call Concepts Inc. 19.18.

Sanitation: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,217.74, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Bomgaars 9.99, Colonial Life 129.66, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 463.80, Grossenburg Implement 250.14, Global Equipment Company Inc. 8,800.00, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 96.72, Hartington Shopper 43.26, JEO 726.25, Kruse True Value 18.99.

Fire: Bomgaars 10.77, Burnell's Foodtown 8.18, Farmers Union coop Gas & Oil 245.67, GVC Industries, LLC 1,228.77, Hartelco 45.76, Hartington Shopper 243.00, Keith's Package Liquor 31.02.

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,532.54.

Ambulance: Burnell's Foodtown 152.28, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 177.64, Hartelco 45.75, US Cellular 186.70.

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 53.00.

Recreation: Bryan Rock 2,228.33, Kruse True Value 12.28, Kathol Turf 3,525.00, Tri-State Turf & Irrigation, LLC 436.00.

Pool: Burnell's Foodtown 2.25, Carhart Lumber Co. 19.99, Hawkins, Inc. 2,928.85, Hartelco 101.62, Kruse True Value 128.84, M. Clarkson 8.55, Northeast Community College 203.97, Plumbing & Electric 226.20, Recreation Supply Company 497.16, Wayne Swim Meet 100.00.

Parks: Bomgaars 152.42, Carhart Lumber Co. 154.62, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 330.38, Plumbing & Electric 195.46, Triple 7 Contracting, LLC 1,100.00.

Complex: Bomgaars 16.80, Carhart Lumber Co. 116.70, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 577.80, Concrete Product Co. 1,546.56, Farmers Union coop Gas & Oil 222.13, Hartelco 44.06, Kruse True Value 145.00, Plumbing & Electric 9,564.20.

Library: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 5,853.72, Bank of Hartington 333.34, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 342.66, Hartelco 155.12, Tramp Heating and Cooling, LLC 114.29.

City Hall: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 570.37, B. Benscoter 250.06, Colonial Life 146.24, D & J Variety 199.82, Eakes Office Solutions 223.98, Dixie Fischer 100.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 102.40, Hometown Leasing 62.05, Kruse True Value 7.49.

Auditorium: Bomgaars 199.99

Economic
Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 207.24, Hartelco 51.60, Hometown Leasing 31.02.

Transfer
Station: Gill Hauling, Inc. 1,398.87, Hartelco 46.55, Jerry's Service 616.85.

Total payroll for the month of June 2023 was \$84,955.28.

Councilman Sudbeck read off two additional bills added by Clerk Benscoter: X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 3,000.00, J. Climer 7.76.

A motion by Councilman Bartling was made to pay the bills and was seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling –yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM. The next scheduled meeting is July 24th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittni Benscoter
City Clerk-Treasurer