

The Hartington City Council met for a public hearing and their regular meeting on July 24th, 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 Brittini Benscoter, and Deputy Clerk Hines, and Legal Counsel-Steve Pier.

Mayor Becker opened the public hearing for Big Hair Brewhaus Class C Liquor License Application at 5:00 P.M. The council reviewed the license and no objections. There were no questions from the public, so Mayor Becker closed the hearing at 5:01 P.M.

Mayor Becker called the regular meeting to order at 5:01 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 from July 10th, 2023 meeting was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Troy Bottolfsen with the City of Hartington Ambulance requested approval for their current ambulance member, Katelyn Fischer, to be able to take Advanced Life Support and Paramedic Courses. They currently only have 1 paramedic on the squad and would like to have another. He has estimated the total course costs to be around \$11,000 over the next 2 years and mileage reimbursement of 65.5 cents per mile reimbursement as she will have to drive to Norfolk, NE for the classes which would start in August, 2023. Motion to approve for her take the courses and pay mileage was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The Liquor License Application from Big Hair Brewhaus was discussed next. Big Hair Brewhaus is requesting a liquor license to do events at the Hartington Hotel. This will replace them having to attain a Special Designated License for each event they provide services for the Hartington Hotel. Casey Rossiter with Big Hair Brewhaus was present. He stated there was a large sign on the outside rear wall of the Hotel Hartington that said no liquor was allowed past that point. Motion to approve the Big Hair Brewhaus Class C Liquor License was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Joan Brodersen with the Library Board spoke to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Library Board. She stated she was there in support of her staff and on wage disparity as no action was taken yet. She stated her staff has excellent work ethic and service to the community and the City of Hartington library has maintained a continual 5 star rating since 2015. She stated the library is an attraction to the city and brings in many people not only to the library, but to the community as well. Councilman Kathol stated it was difficult to compare dollar to dollar to other libraries with benefits and our library has 2 full-time employees as many others do not. Councilman Kathol stated the city needs to determine what it values and prioritizes. Mayor Becker stated they have been discussing the issue and are trying work on a solution as it is hard to compare to other communities for various reasons and employee reviews will be in August. Joan Brodersen stated they currently receive \$6,500 each year from Cedar County, and they could try asking the county for more money since they are larger than the other libraries.

Building permit for Kent and Therese Hoffart for a handicap entrance was presented. A motion to approve the permit was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

A special designated liquor license request from Marcy's Mainstreets for Hartington Dayz on August 12, 2023 was presented. A motion to approve the Special Designated License 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.

A special designated liquor license request from Emme Lu B's for Hartington Dayz on August 12, 2023 was presented. A motion to approve the Special Designated License 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.

Resolution 20230724 – Hartington-Newcastle Public School Homecoming parade was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Councilman Christensen and

seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20230724A – Cedar Catholic High School Homecoming Parade was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The Hartington Economic Development Group requested an LB840 drawdown of \$840.00 for Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds LLP contract work for New Industrial Park. A motion to approve the drawdown request was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The Hartington Creative District Memorandum of Understanding was discussed. Mayor Becker explained that by establishing a creative district, the City of Hartington would be able to apply and receive loans and grants for the city. A motion to approve the Hartington Creative District Memorandum of Understanding was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker discussed with the council about contacting the State of Nebraska to see about being able to reduce the speed limit on Hwy 84 to begin earlier due to the turns that will be established for the new Industrial Park. Mayor Becker would like to see if the speed limit could be reduced further out by Pearson's Motor and Councilman Bartling suggested as far out as to Pomp's.

The agenda item brought by Dean Wortmann regarding having a fundraiser to raise funds to move the Skylon was tabled by Mayor Becker. Dean Wortmann was not present.

Clerk Benscoter discussed with the council on raising the camper court fees to cover the raise in taxes and costs to the camper court. In comparison to other camper courts from towns similar to our size and with similar amenities, the City of Hartington was very low in their cost. Having an even cost after the required taxes of Hotel Occupation Tax, Lodging Tax, and Sales Tax is easier for those wishing to pay cash. Clerk Benscoter gave a range of \$20-\$30 to the council which was in line with other comparisons to the City of Hartington's camper court. The council discussed and agreed to raise the rate to \$25 per night with all necessary taxes included and would start the new rate as of September 1, 2023. A motion to approve the rate to \$25 per night, including taxes, with a start date of September 1, 2023 was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Benscoter informed the council of a new online reservation system that will be implemented for online reservations. The system does not charge anything to the city and the small fee will be added to those that wish to reserve and pay online. There is no start date determined yet for the system.

Department Reports:

Park – Council Kathol: There was a representative here to analyze the park for possible State tournament next year.

Pool – Council Bartling: Need to look at roof for the pool on the next budget and figure out which kind can last and sustain the elements.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Met with Nemaha Construction to get opinion on the track and it was in line with the other contractors. Waiting on the local masonry to find time to complete the Complex bathroom on a weekend. Work on the ceiling of the Auditorium will begin August 9th.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: none.

General – Mayor Becker: The city has spoken to legal counsel regarding the issue of the flow of water from the new construction of the Security National Bank, and legal counsel has advised that it is a private land owner issue and not a city issue. Legal Counsel Steve Pier stated that since it is private property, it is the responsibility of the land owners. Councilman Kathol asked what the responsibility of the homeowner's is and Steve Pier stated generally you cannot alter the natural flow of the water. Councilman Christensen said he spoke with Otte Construction who is working on the site of the future Security National Bank about capturing the water and sending it East and they stated they would speak with the engineers.

Steve Pier: none

Clerk Benscoter: There have been multiple meetings with multiple vendors on digitalizing records at City Hall and upgrading to be able to accept credit cards and online payments.

Deputy Clerk Hines: none

Public Comments: none

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: EMC Insurance Companies 8,002.44, Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds LLP 1,474.20.

Streets: Bank of Hartington 2,353.56, Black Hills Energy 128.76, Bomgaars 511.57, EMC Insurance Companies 1,220.48, Fischer Feed & Supply 50.50, Grossenburg Implement 600.00, C. Kramer 372.78, Leise Concrete 47,771.50, Nebraska Public Power District 2,990.33, Peitz Service 2,058.87, Tri-State Cleaning Services 900.00, Usable Life 14.50.

Water: Bomgaars 50.56, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 1,711.28, EMC Insurance Companies 915.36, Municipal Supply Inc 1,111.44, Nebraska Public Power District 696.36, Nebraska Health Laboratory 545.80, Nebraska Rural Water Association 400.00, Peitz Service 74.74, L. & M.A. Wortmann 83.77.

Sewer: Black Hills Energy 62.29, Bomgaars 533.73, EMC Insurance Companies 1,317.57, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 97.98, Midwest Laboratories, Inc. 453.57, Nebraska Public Power District 3,132.64.

Sanitation: EMC Insurance Companies 1,123.40, L.P. Gill, Inc. 7,926.93, Stop N Go 623.09, Usable Life 29.00, L & M. A. Wortmann 70.00.

Fire: Black Hills Energy 19.49, EMC Insurance Companies 485.41, Hartington Volunteer Fire Department 853.00, Leise Lawn Care 370.00, Nebraska Public Power District 117.86, R & R Services LLC 60.29, Stop N Go 186.25.

Ambulance: Black Hills Energy 19.50, EMC Insurance Companies 318.98, Nebraska Public Power District 86.27, Peitz Service 56.22, Stop N Go 127.35.

Cemetery: Maverick Heine 1,900, Toby Heine 1,900.

Recreation: Nebraska Public Power District 51.44, Pioneer Manufacturing Company 351.33.

Pool: Black Hills Energy 701.58, Hawkins, Inc. 445.12, Nebraska Public Power District 614.84, Recreation Supply Company 497.16.

Parks: Bomgaars 258.13, Nebraska Public Power District 725.57, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 3,166.50.

Complex: Bomgaars 79.35, Leise Concrete 13,717.30, Nebraska Public Power District 149.67, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 3,063.00.

Library: Black Hills Energy 38.60, Feilmeier Electric 181.87, Hometown Leasing 48.40, Ingram 521.18, Nebraska Public Power District 270.79, Nebraska Library Commission 500.00, Usable Life 29.00, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 1,280.00.

City Hall: Black Hills Energy 49.75, Eakes Office Solutions 81.10, Dixie Fischer 50.00, Nebraska Public Power District 168.64, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 209.23.

Auditorium: Appera 65.73, Black Hills Energy 97.43, Nebraska Public Power District 51.24.

Economic Development: IEDA Foundation 190.00, Nathan Potts d/b/a Potts Taxidermy 30,000.00, Usable Life 14.50.

Transfer Station: Cedar-Knox Public Power District 125.31, EMC Insurance Companies 485.42, Olson's Pest Technicians 75.00.

Veterans
Memorial: Nebraska Public Power District 45.66.

Councilman Sudbeck read off two additional bills added by Clerk Bencoter: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska 9,716.83 and Dearborn National Life Insurance Company 127.12.

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 Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM. The next scheduled meeting is August 14, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter
City Clerk-Treasurer