

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on October 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, and Sudbeck; City Clerk-Treasurer Bencoter, Deputy Clerk de Waal; and Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt. Councilman Kathol arrived at 5:02 P. M.

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 from the September 25th, 2023 was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20231010 – Block off Highway for Lighted Parade was discussed. Motion was made to approve Resolution 20231010 by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The September 2023 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was distributed by Deputy Zimmer. There were 388 ¼ hours patrolled. School traffic was 7 ¾ hours. Calls of service were 1 EMS Assist, 2 Welfare Check, 1 Disturbance, 4 Traffic Control. Traffic stops were 0 verbal warning, 0 written warning, and 2 citations. 10 Arrests were made. (Michelle Loecker with the Cedar County Sheriff's office verified the following day there was only 1 arrest for the month of September, 2023 and the 10 was an inadvertent error).

Councilman Sudbeck read aloud Order of the Mayor and City Council of Hartington, Nebraska to Demolish the Residential Structure Located at 401 S. Aberly, Hartington, Nebraska. Councilman Christensen asked Legal Counsel what the next steps would be. Legal Counsel Brandt stated that Council would need to set a demolition date. Mayor Becker asked when is the earliest this could happen. Clerk Bencoter explained that Legal Counsel Pier informed the Clerk earlier that we would need to serve Sherry Bear and give at least a two (2) week notice to her in order to give her an opportunity to remove any items or pets from the home before demolition. Councilman Kathol asked about giving Sherry Bear another opportunity to come before Council. Mayor Becker explained she has had many opportunities and has failed to come, but they will not set up a demolition date until after next Council meeting on October 23, 2023. Councilman Bartling asked about making sure electric and gas would be shut off. This was noted by Clerk Bencoter to add to the list of departments to contact. Motion to approve Order of the Mayor and City Council of Hartington, Nebraska to Demolish the Residential Structure Located at 401 S. Aberly, Hartington, Nebraska 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 Bencoter introduced and reviewed with Council and Mayor the revised Employee Handbook. She explained the revised handbook was in need of updating to add changes previously discussed by Council and to add necessary and legal items as well. Council discussed the vacation carryover for employees and agreed to change it to allow employees to carryover up to 160 hours of vacation each year. Clerk Bencoter discussed with Council the Sick Leave, Family Leave and Funeral Leave with Council proposing to lump all the hours into Sick leave to better benefit employees. Council agreed to revisions and Clerk Bencoter will make changes and have resolution to sign at next Council meeting.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: They are working on pouring cement at the ball fields.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: still waiting on quote from HMR for roof.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: The new bathhouse roof will be installed next week. Nothing on the Auditorium.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: none.

General – Mayor Becker: He has been approached by someone about being able to purchase the Community Garden lot which the City currently owns. There would be displacement of the Community Garden to an unknown location at this time. Councilman Bartling stated we would have to do sealed bids to sell the lot to open the bidding to the community. Councilman Sudbeck stated they should start the

reserve for the bidding at \$15,000 as the lot next to it recently sold for \$17,500. Council agreed that amount seemed fair price.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: Council would need to sign a resolution to mandate parade coordinators to have intersections blocked during parades. They looked into it and the Library is unable to legally set their own salaries.

Clerk Benscoter: Needed to set date for Christmas Party as the venue is requesting to know to reserve. Council agreed Friday, December 15th would work.

Deputy Clerk de Wall: none.

Public Comments: Rob Dump with Cedar County News asked when the concrete work in the alley began. Mayor Becker stated it started this week and would hopefully be done this week depending on weather. Rob Dump asked the Council if there were any other alleys in the works to be paved and they stated there were none at this time.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General:	AMGL 6,560.00, EMC Insurance Companies 8,683.71, FP Finance Program 115.98, Hartelco 281.11, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP 650.00, NE Nebraska Economic Development District 21.25, Northeast Nebraska News Company 437.33, Power Manager 6,528.69.
Streets:	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 825.89, Bank of Hartington 183.33, Colonial Life 27.22, EMC Insurance Companies 1,324.38, FDC Publishing 87.20, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 520.74, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 601.49, Grossenburg Implement 989.87, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 14.29, Team Lab 4,558.50, U.S. Cellular 73.25.
Water:	Burnell's Foodtown 5.96, EMC Insurance Companies 993.28, T. Lokhorst 36.86, One Call Concepts, Inc. 11.26, Plumbing & Electric 13,791.69, Yankton Winnelson Co. 563.52.
Sewer:	EMC Insurance Companies 1,429.73, Feilmeier Electric 968.81, Hartelco 66.54, One Call Concepts 11.26, Pearson Motor Co. 51,825.00.
Sanitation:	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,217.74, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Colonial Life 129.66, EMC Insurance Companies 1,219.03, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 433.34, JEO 1,118.75, U.S. Cellular 75.60.
Fire:	Burnell's Foodtown 17.67, Dearborn National Life Ins. Co. 116.80, EMC Insurance Companies 526.74, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 150.91, Dixie Fischer 150.00, Hartelco 46.07, Leise Lawn Care 240.00.
Police:	Cedar County Sheriff 13,667.86.
Ambulance:	Burnell's Foodtown 55.56, D & J Variety 18.98, EMC Insurance Companies 346.15, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 77.97, Hartelco 46.08, U.S. Cellular 153.66.
Cemetery:	Cedar Knox Rural Water 53.00
Recreation:	K. Backer 583.20.
Pool:	FDC Publishing 87.20.
Parks:	Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 240.93, Pearson Motor Co. 7.95, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 1,300.00.
Complex:	Carhart Lumber Co. 107.88, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 502.08, Hartelco 44.56, Kruse True Value 134.57, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 1,700.00, Yankton Janitorial Supply, Inc. 455.60.
Library:	Blue Cross/Blue Sheild of Nebraska 5,853.72, Bank of Hartington 333.34, Burnell's Foodtown 19.30, FDC Publishing 87.20, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, Inc. 358.20, Hartelco 155.12, Kruse True Value 26.99.

City Hall: Blue Cross/Blue Shield 2,493.65, Bank of Hartington 250.00, B. Bencoter 69.43, Burnells' Foodtown 7.69, D & J Variety 135.04, Dixie Fischer 50.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services Inc. 469.20, Hometown Leasing 62.05.

Auditorium: Feilmeier Electric 5,899.83, Kruse True Value 25.99.

Economic

Development: Cedar County Register of Deeds 58.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 246.82, Hartelco 56.81, Hometown Leasing 31.02.

Transfer

Station: Deere Credit Inc. 461.28, EMC Insurance Companies 526.74, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 385.90, Gill Hauling, Inc. 1,161.63, Hartelco 47.19, Jerry's Service 332.51.

Payroll for September 2023 was \$56,718.05.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman Kathol 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 Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM. The next scheduled meeting is October 23rd, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittni Bencoter
City Clerk-Treasurer