

The Hartington City Council met on March 23, 2020 at the city hall for their regular meeting beginning at 7:00 P.M. Notice of time and place of the meeting was given in the advance notice by posting. Notice of time and place of the meeting was communicated in the advance notice to the mayor and council.

Present were Mayor Becker; Councilmen Sudbeck, Peitz, and Bartling; City Clerk – Treasurer Schaecher, and Deputy Clerk Becker. Councilman Christensen and Legal Advisor Pier were absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 March 09, 2020 meeting and February 2020 Treasurer's Report was made by Peitz and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

No one from the Cedar County Sheriff's Department was present to discuss their February 2020 report.

A Declaration of State of Emergency was presented to the Council by Mayor Becker. Councilman Bartling made a motion to approve the declaration and this was seconded by Peitz. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Schaecher presented the request to reinstate Tammy Leise as an EMT. A motion to approve the reinstatement was made by Peitz and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Claude Mathiason approached the Council with a request to allow fowl within the city limits. Claude explained to the Council that he has had fowl on his property throughout the years, and they are easy to train and cheap to feed. Mathiason stated that a barking dog is of the same sound decibel as a rooster's crow. Councilman Peitz voiced his concerns over rats due to people not taking care of the fowl and manure. Councilman Bartling stated he has seen other towns that allow fowl, and some are good and some are bad. Bartling added that he is not quite ready to agree to allow fowl. Councilman Sudbeck stated he was worried that if the City allows fowl, then it may lead to residents requesting the allowance of other wild animals. Councilman Bartling made the motion to deny the request of fowl within the city limits. This was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Don Whitmire was absent from the meeting to discuss the 2020 baseball season.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Peitz: None

Pool/Interim Gun Range – Councilman Bartling: None

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Everything is closed right now.

Fire/Ambulance-Councilman Christensen: Absent

General – Mayor Becker: Governor Ricketts held a conference call with Mayors throughout the state to discuss the COVID-19 virus. The Governor is trying to make sure that firemen and EMT's have enough of the right protection and he is also checking to see if workman's compensation is allowed if a fireman or EMT contracts the virus during a call. Kevin Garvin, our Cedar County Emergency Manager, held a meeting with two nursing home staff, Clerk Schaecher, Councilman Peitz, and Mayor Becker to discuss the COVID-19 virus. Kevin had concerns about social distancing with City employees and suggested plans be put in place for coverage. Kevin also voiced concerns about the firemen and EMT's needing more protective equipment from the virus. Clerk Schaecher stated Clay Kleinschmit was working on getting more supplies ordered.

Steve Pier: Absent

Clerk Schaecher: None

Deputy Clerk Becker: None

Public Comments: None

The following bills were presented for payment:

General: EMC Insurance 6,798.00, First National Bank of Omaha 14,391.25, and Martin's Flag Company 361.00

Streets: Black Hills Energy 1,994.19, Bomgaars 235.70, Echo Electric Supply 219.36, Fischer Feed & Supply 2,050.16, and Franklin Templeton Investor Services 445.99, and NPPD 2,933.18

Water: Bomgaars 3.69, Cedar-Knox PPD 1,368.29, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 317.07, and NPPD 412.86

Sewer: Black Hills Energy 77.54, Bomgaars 29.89, HTM Sales 214.54, Hartelco Computers 40.00, Midwest Laboratories 640.00, and NPPD 2,620.58

Sanitation: Bomgaars 67.17, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 513.06, L.P. Gill 2,199.34, and Pomp's Tire Service 1,170.00

Fire: Black Hills Energy 214.73 and NPPD 143.17

Ambulance: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital 190.71, Black Hills Energy 214.73, Emergency Medical Products 374.08, Garvin's CB Shop 250.00, NPPD 108.95, Pomp's Tire Service 47.50, and Tri-State Communications 90.00

Recreation: NPPD 68.42

Pool: Black Hills Energy 30.95 and NPPD 51.05

Parks: Bomgaars 618.31, Midwest Tree 1,230.00, and NPPD 356.94

Complex: NPPD 125.14

Library: Black Hills Energy 363.76, Cheerful Books 23.96, D. Wiese 800.00, K. Emanuel 48.30, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 296.34, Hometown Leasing 48.40, Ingram 672.79, Midamerica Books 339.15, Midwest Tape 23.24, NPPD 190.01, and Premier Lawn & Landscaping 105.00

City Hall: Black Hills Energy 59.27, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 303.92, and NPPD 354.68

Auditorium: NPPD 141.18 and X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 140.00

Economic Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services 172.44

Transfer Station: Cedar-Knox PPD 274.43 and Gill Hauling 761.31

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Peitz and seconded by Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for April 13, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher  
City Clerk - Treasurer