

The Hartington City Council met on January 11, 2021 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 Councilmen Sudbeck, Peitz, and Bartling; City Clerk – Treasurer Schaecher; and Deputy Clerk Carlson. Legal Advisor Pier was present via Zoom. Mayor Becker was absent.

Council President Peitz 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 December 14, 2020 meeting and December 2020 Treasurer’s Report was made by Christensen and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Christensen – yes, Bartling – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The December 2020 Cedar County Sheriff’s report was distributed by Deputy Thoene. There were 391 ¼ hours patrolled. School traffic was 4 ½ hours. Calls of service were 1 EMS assist, 2 welfare checks, 1 coroner call, 1 motorist assist, and 1 animal complaint. Traffic stops were 2 verbal warnings, 1 written warning, and 1 citation. There were 0 arrests.

Resolution 20210111 – Establishing Rates for Water, Sewer, and Garbage Services was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Bartling and seconded by Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Christensen – yes, Sudbeck –yes, and Bartling – yes. Motion carried.

The annual flood pool easement payment for 2021 to be issued to Bill Yates was the next item on the agenda. The taxes and assessed value totaled \$796.26. Councilman Christensen made a motion to approve the payment and this was seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Christensen – yes, Bartling – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The employee Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance renewal was presented by Clerk Schaecher. The insurance plan will remain the same, with the only change being an 8.30% premium increase. Clerk Schaecher stated an employee voiced concern over the premium increase and had requested the council take a look at possibly increasing the Health Savings Account contribution or increasing the percentage the City pays for family coverage. Clerk Schaecher requested the council think about the requests, as a decision did not have to be made in order to approve the insurance renewal. A motion was made to accept the insurance renewal by Councilman Christensen and this was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Sudbeck – yes, Bartling – yes, and Christensen – yes. Motion carried.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation Certificate of Compliance was next on the agenda. A motion was made to approve the certificate by Christensen and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Christensen –yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck – yes, and Bartling – yes. Motion carried.

Becky Ravenkamp, Bow Creek Watershed Coordinator, from Lewis & Clark NRD approached the council to discuss the Bow Creek Watershed Project. Several programs are being offered to increase awareness and provide assistance to producers in implementing practices that will improve water quality and address the E. coli contamination in Bow Creek. Contact information was provided in the event that the City will be approached with questions or concerns regarding the project.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Peitz: None

Pool/Interim Gun Range – Councilman Bartling: None

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: None for the complex. Another security camera was installed by the upstairs restroom in the auditorium, as there have been some incidents of vandalism.

Fire/Ambulance-Councilman Christensen: None

General – Mayor Becker: Absent

Steve Pier: None

Clerk Schaecher: Please look over the draft that Nathan Boone from JEO emailed regarding the street improvement project and contact him as soon as possible with any questions or change requests.

Deputy Clerk Carlson: None

Public Comments: Rob Dump questioned how the council decided on the rate amounts for the utility increase. Clerk Schaecher stated it was from a comparison of other communities our size, and this was equivalent to the average.

The following bills were presented for payment:

General: EMC insurance 12,975.87, Great America Financial Services 105.00, Hartelco 421.41, Hartington Shopper 220.50, NPPD 79.00, and Northeast Nebraska News Company 382.70

Streets: Appeara 22.65, Backus Sand & Gravel 343.50, Central States Lab 609.15, Colonial Life 180.68, D&J Variety 13.47, Farmers Union Coop 1,018.19, Grossenburg Implement 601.49, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts 684.67, JEO 7,915.15, Kruse True Value 21.77, NPPD 3,266.90, Peitz Service 251.08, Plumbing & Electric 19.00, US Cellular 63.31, and Wiechelman's Repair Shop 135.53

Water: Hartington Shopper 84.54, NPPD 355.32, One Call Concepts 2.80, Peitz Service 35.45, and US Cellular 31.67

Sewer: Carhart Lumber 3.49, D&J Variety 25.99, Hartington Shopper 84.54, Kruse True Value 49.98, Midwest Laboratories 389.00, NPPD 2,551.24, and One Call Concepts 2.80

Sanitation: Colonial Life 237.50, Hartington Shopper 84.52, LP Gill 3,917.34, and Stop N Go 364.92

Fire: D&J Variety 4.99, Hartelco 45.99, NPPD 109.93, Peitz Service 975.27, US Cellular 63.34, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 991.24, and Yankton Janitorial Supply 221.30

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,265.91

Ambulance: D&J Variety 4.99, Emergency Medical Products 48.05, Farmers Union Coop 139.08, Hartelco 45.99, NPPD 75.72, Peitz Service 503.79, and US Cellular 142.81

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 50.00

Recreation: NPPD 68.42

Pool: NPPD 51.05

Parks: Grossenburg Implement 1,501.61 and NPPD 356.27

Complex: Hartelco 44.46 and NPPD 83.55

Library: Burnell's Foodtown 8.55, D&J Variety 15.99, Hartelco 170.23, and NPPD 161.85

City Hall: Colonial Life 72.68, Eakes Office Solutions 528.85, Koch-Tramp Plumbing & Heating 228.06, and NPPD 300.86

Auditorium: Carhart Lumber 19.99, Kruse True Value 5.98, and NPPD 100.20

Economic Development: Eakes Office Solutions 264.43 and Hartelco 53.98

Transfer Station: Farmers Union Coop 351.91 and Hartelco 47.02

Total Payroll for the month of December 2020 was \$47,064.42.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Christensen and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for January 25, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher  
City Clerk - Treasurer