

The Hartington City Council met on July 26, 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 Mayor Becker; Councilmen Sudbeck, Peitz, Christensen, and Bartling; City Clerk – Treasurer Schaecher; and Deputy Clerk Carlson. Legal Advisor Pier was 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 July 12, 2021 meeting was made by Christensen and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The Amendment to the Interlocal Independent Contractor Agreement for Law Enforcement Services was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Becker stated he met with Sheriff Koranda regarding the agreement between the City and the Cedar county Sheriff's Department, and stated the contract remains the same, with the exception of a slight fee increase. Mayor Becker stated he had discussed the fee amount with our CPA and the fee amount was less than what other municipalities are paying. A motion was made to approve the contract by Councilman Christensen and this was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

An application to the Liquor Commission was presented to the Council, listing a new manager of the Casey's General Store. Councilman Christensen made a motion to approve the application and it was seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Schaecher explained the need for a savings account to be opened for the American Rescue Plan Act funds that were paid to the City. The City of Hartington received its first payment of two in the amount of \$129,555.03 from the State of Nebraska. The State initially received the funds and then distributed them to each municipality willing to accept them. The funds can be used for infrastructure such as broadband, water, or sewer. Clerk Schaecher stated the uses for the funds have to be reported to the Federal Government, so it would be easier to open up a separate savings account for them. A motion to approve the opening of a new savings account was made by Councilman Peitz and was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Peitz: None

Pool/Interim Gun Range – Councilman Bartling: There were some problems with the kiddie pool, but it is up and going now.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Gary Kruse has been contacted to look at the scoreboard in preparation for football. The Bat Experts were called for the auditorium, as a few bats have been found.

Fire/Ambulance-Councilman Christensen: None

General – Mayor Becker: None

Steve Pier: Absent

Clerk Schaecher: Tom Christopherson from Groundwater Solutions stated he is available by phone this evening to discuss the well rehab reports that were emailed. Councilman Christensen stated he wanted to wait to read through all of the reports before having a discussion.

Deputy Clerk Carlson: None

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked if more hours were requested from the Cedar County Sheriff's Department in the new contract. Mayor Becker stated there were no changes with staff hours.

Rob Dump asked for the name of the new Manager of Casey's and was given the name of Krystal Carter by Clerk Schaecher.

The following bills were presented for payment:

General: Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds 400.00 and League of Nebraska Municipalities 3,741.00

Streets: Black Hills Energy 106.28, Bomgaars 184.92, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 801.58, JEO 20,216.10, and Midwest Service and Sales 369.35

Water: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 2,585.08, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 471.95, Groundwater Solutions Group 13,000.00, Municipal Supply 3,795.37, and Nebraska Public Health 81.00

Sewer: Black Hills Energy 38.00, Northeast Ag Consulting 100.00, and USA Blue Book 155.23

Sanitation: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,745.40, Colonial Life 237.50, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 299.72, and Stop N Go 422.98

Ambulance: Bomgaars 109.99 and Hank's Front End Service 142.50

Cemetery: T. Albers 1,900.00

Recreation: Burnell's Foodtown 146.90 and Stop N Go 308.16

Pool: Black Hills Energy 32.43, Northeast Community College 71.79, Stop N Go 99.55, and West Point Swim Meet 80.00

Parks: Bomgaars 222.77, H&N Repair 1,172.73, Midwest Tree 48.00, and Meyer, Inc. 540.00

Complex: Bomgaars 102.00 and X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 1,700.00

Library: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 4,720.78, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 475.20, Ingram 479.87, Midwest Tape 27.73, and Penworthy 142.39

City Hall: Black Hills Energy 27.05, Burnell's Foodtown 13.06, Colonial Life 72.68, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 477.70, and Premier Lawn & Landscaping 145.00

Auditorium: Black Hills Energy 68.40 and Bomgaars 72.97

Economic Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services 272.16 and U.S. Post Office 22.00

Transfer Station: Deere Credit 461.28

A motion to pay the bills except for JEO was made by Councilman Peitz and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. A motion was made to pay the JEO bill by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. Peitz abstained and signed a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

A motion to adjourn was made by Christensen and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for July 27, 2021, for a special meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher
City Clerk - Treasurer