

The Hartington City Council met for a public hearing and their rescheduled April 27th, 2023 meeting due to a lack of quorum on May 1, 2023. 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 advance notice to the mayor and council.

Present were Mayor Becker; Councilman Bartling, Christensen, and Kathol; City Clerk-Treasurer de Waal; and Deputy Clerk Hines. Councilman Sudbeck and Legal Advisor Pier were absent.

Mayor Becker opened the public hearing for the Final Plat for Miller Addition, 3rd Platting at 5:00 PM. Clerk de Waal explain that Chris Miller wants to subdivide the land into four lots. There were no further comments or discussion. The public hearing was closed at 5:02 PM.

Mayor Becker called the regular meeting to order at 5:03 PM, 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 April 10, 2023 meeting was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Councilman Bartling – yes, Councilman Christensen – yes, Mayor Becker – yes. Motion carried. Councilman Kathol arrived at 5:04 PM.

A neighborhood petition from the southeast part of Hartington was presented to the council by Richard Perk. Residents from Aberley, East Court, East Bow and Dooley Drive were also present to discuss the petition and voice some concerns about the property at 401 South Aberley. Neighbors complained about the amount of garbage that has consumed not only the house and property but the vehicle of the property owner as well. With the current state of the vehicle, neighbors are concern for their children's safety due to the lack of visibility from the amount of garbage piled up in the vehicle. Several neighbors have noticed an increase in vermin such as mice and rats surround the property and migrating into some neighboring properties as well. Neil Kramer a direct neighbor of 401 South Aberley told the council that he will no longer be maintaining the yard. Neighbors are asking for some sort of relief about the public nuisance that 401 South Aberley is presenting. A copy of the full petition is available for review at the City Office.

Building permits for Otte Construction – Security Bank Facility, Matt Sudbeck – Garage, Josh Climber – Garage, Rob Howell – Steel Building Addition, City of Hartington – Complex Bathroom/Concessions/ Storage Building, Turner Becker – Deck, and Nathan Koch – New Construction Home were presented. A motion to approve the building permits was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

The Provider Appreciation Day Proclamation was read by Mayor Becker. The City of Hartington recognizes family child care providers as an essential workforce for our economy that allow families access to the care needed so they can work. Miranda Becker, our Economic Development Coordinator, also gave a presentation of what the Cedar County Community for Kids program has been doing. Becker was informed today as well that Cedar County Community for Kids was awarded a total of \$78,500 CRRSA funds to benefit children in Cedar County.

Peg Anderson from Anderson & Anderson was not present to share the news, but wanted to share with the Council that we receive a dividend check from EMC Insurance in the amount of \$5,405.63. The check was the amount of the City's share of the EMC Nebraska Municipality Safety Group Dividend Program. This is the sixth consecutive year we have received a dividend check with the six years totaling \$130,890.67 in payments.

Brandon Baller submitted a yearly TIF report to the Council. Clerk de Waal stated that Brandon Baller wanted the Council to be aware that Westfield Acres has been paid off. The report will be mailed to the governing body of the county, school district, community college, educational service unit, and natural resources district whose property taxes are affected by such division of taxes. The mailing is to be in compliance with State Statute 18-2117.02.

Brittany Koenig with Nebraska Public Power introduced herself to the council and gave them a retail update. NPPD has collected and remitted \$289,393.60 in lease payment and \$25,538.31 in city sales tax to Hartington in 2022. In 2022, \$3,160.30 in incentives were received by customers in Hartington. Koenig also informed the council on new developments that NPPD is working on.

A motion to approve Scott Schrempp for water outside city limit was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Three Special Designated Liquor Licenses were presented to the council for Big Hair Brewhaus. One license is for May 13, 2023 for a class reunion, one license is for May 26, 2023 for a pre-nuptial dinner, and the final license is for June 23, 2023 for a pre-nuptial dinner. Casey Rossiter also informed the Council that he will be applying for a liquor license for the Hartington Hotel to be able to serve alcohol for future events. A motion to approve the Special Designated Liquor Licenses for Big Hair Brewhaus was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Dan Kathol approached the Council to discuss transferring ownership of the Vets Memorial to the City for \$1.00 after memorial weekend. A new deed will be drawn up and signed by VFW Post Commander Dean McGregor, notarized, and recorded with the Cedar County Clerk and Register of Deeds. A motion to approve the transfer of ownership of the Vets Memorial to the City was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk de Waal discussed with the Council an email request received by Ryan Eickhoff about sharing the cost of the fence that he had installed on the lot line between his property and Felber Park. Eickhoff mentioned talking with Councilman Sudbeck about this when the project initially took place and was told that this would be doable. The City's share for the fence would amount to \$723.15. Clerk de Waal also mentioned that Eickhoff plans to add additional fencing to the north end of his property and asked if the cost for that could be shared as well. It would just be a continuation of what is already there. A motion to split the cost of the fence installation was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk de Waal informed the Council that we have five new EMTs who passed the course and are state certified. Our new EMTs are Jami Dailey, Katelyn Fischer, Katie Lammers, Hal Thoene, and Crystal Eickhoff. Clerk de Waal mentioned that one EMT took the final testing a little later so we are still waiting on their State License to come in. So the appointment approval will need to be contingent on them receiving their State License before they can officially go on any calls. A motion made by Councilman Bartling to approve the appointment of the new EMTs contingent on them receiving their State License and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol:

Pool – Councilman Bartling: The new vacuum on its way. We have new guards hired.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Is absent but provided information to give to the council for his department report. Clerk de Waal also shared a quote with the Council received from X-Pert Lawn to take over the lawn care maintenance for the ball field at Felber Park. It would be an additional \$7,800 to have X-Pert Lawn take over the maintenance.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: None

General – Mayor Becker: None

Legal Advisor Pier: Absent

Clerk de Waal: None

Deputy Clerk Hines: Zach Lippert wants to donate their gazebo to the Park.

Clerk de Waal called Kyle Overturf from AMGL to discuss the 2022 audit. A full copy of the audit is available at the City Office for review.

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked for copies of the audit and the petition. He also asked where Ryan Eickhoff lives.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: CRA Community Redevelopment Authority 11,964.93, EMC Insurance Companies 8,137.40, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP 650.00, NE Nebraska Economic Development District 2,002.44.

Streets: Bank of Hartington 2,353.56, Bomgaars 339.06 (26.00), EMC Insurance Companies 1,241.06, C. Kramer 73.49, Leise Concrete 8,811.00, Nebraska Public Power District 2,984.76, Rose Equipment, Inc. 1,751.12.

Water: Bomgaars 38.56, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 1,305.91, EMC Insurance Companies 930.79, Nebraska Public Power District 352.44, G. Pedersen 3.00.

Sewer: EMC Insurance Companies 1,339.79, Nebraska Public Power District 2,640.76, NWEA 100.00.

Sanitation: EMC Insurance Companies 1,142.33.

Fire: Black Hills Energy 155.17, EMC Insurance Companies 493.60, Nebraska Public Power District 111.01, Pomp's Tire Service, Inc. 1,174.44, Tri-State, Communication, Inc. 1,617.00.

Ambulance: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital 84.54, Black Hills Energy 155.18, EMC Insurance Companies 324.36, Emergency Medical Products 561.45, K. Fischer 172.12, Matheson Tri-Gas 114.27, Nebraska Public Power District 142.60, M. Thoene 46.19, R. Hamilton 227.38.

Recreation: Nebraska Public Power District 63.16.

Pool: Nebraska Public Power District 47.37.

Parks: Bomgaars 27.45, C. Kramer 218.04, Nebraska Public Power District 287.54.

Complex: Creative Sites, LLC 1,862.00, Nebraska Public Power District 77.37, Plumbing & Electric 545.60.

Library: Feilmeier Electric 343.31, Hometown Leasing 48.40, Ingram 613.46, Nebraska Public Power District 240.52, Ne Nebraska News Company 45.50, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 370.00, Quill Corporation 31.99.

City Hall: Nebraska Public Power District 280.31.

Auditorium: Nebraska Public Power District 91.43.

Economic Development: M. Becker 88.02, NEDA 200.00

Transfer Station: Bomgaars 50.47, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 353.46, Deere Credit, Inc. 461.28, EMC Insurance Companies 493.60.

LB840: Historic Hartington Hotel 104.17.

A motion by Councilman Christensen was made to approve the bills and in addition a check to Groundwater Solutions Group, LLC for 5,585.00; Councilman Bartling seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – 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. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM. The next scheduled meeting is May 15, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniella de Waal
City Clerk-Treasurer