

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on February 26th, 2024 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 Sudbeck, Bartling, Christensen, and Kathol; City Clerk-Treasurer Bencoter, Deputy Clerk Schulte, and Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt.

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 meetings 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 February 12th, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Building Permits for Lisa Dendinger were presented. Leroy Hansen explained to counsel that Lisa Dendinger had two separate properties she owned that she would like to put up storage/workshops on, off of Hoese St and off of W Hwy 57. A motion to approve both building permits for Lisa Dendinger was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the Special Liquor License request from Cedar Catholic High School for their fundraising event on March 17th, 2024. A motion to approve the Special Liquor License for Cedar Catholic High event on March 17th, 2024 was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

The LB840 Drawdown Request for Detlefsen Construction for New Industrial Park in the amount of \$39,767.93 was discussed. Economic Development Director Miranda Becker explained to council that the Sales Tax money Economic Development receives is divided into different projects and the amount in the funds for the Industrial Park is what the committee designated for that project. She explained the drawdown was for moving dirt and getting lots back to normal where dirt was removed. A motion to approve the drawdown request in the amount of \$39,767.93 to Detlefsen Construction 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.

Ordinance 893 was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. Economic Development Director Miranda Becker explained to Council that Holy Trinity would like to open a Family Home II daycare in the congregational church basement. Currently, zoning regulations do not allow for a Family Home II daycare to be at that location, and the zoning regulations are lacking in all zoning types. Childcare in Hartington is a huge issue and we need more daycare in the community. Adding childcare as a permitted or conditional use in the zoning regulations helps to alleviate the lack of daycare issues the City is having. A motion to suspend the 3 readings of the Ordinance was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried. A motion to adopt Ordinance 893 was made 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 January, 2024 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was distributed by Deputy Zimmer. There were 396 hours patrolled. School traffic was 2 ¼ hours. Calls of service were 1 EMS Assist, 1 Disturbance, and 3 Accidents. Traffic stops were 0 Verbal Warning, 0 Written Warning, and 2 citations. 0 Arrests were made.

Clerk Bencoter presented the signed petitions for the City Shop. Cedar County Clerk, Jessica Schmit validated there were 122 accepted signatures for the petitions, which meets the requirement needed of 10% of registered voters of the last municipal election.

Clerk Bencoter presented the signed petitions for the Skylon Ballroom. Cedar County Clerk, Jessica Schmit validated there were 112 accepted for the petitions, which meets the requirement needed of 10% of registered voters of the last municipal election.

Resolution 20240226 – Resolution Calling an Election in the City of Harting, Nebraska; and Related Matters was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to approve Resolution 20240226 - Resolution Calling an Election in the City of Harting, Nebraska; and Related Matters was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker discussed the request for the reduction of the speed limit on Hwy 84 to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). He stated this goes along with getting approval of an access point on the South of the business park and avoiding a turning lane. The request to the NDOT is not a for sure thing, we have the traffic study completed and submitted. Councilman Sudbeck discussed the amount of accidents that have happened in that area. Mayor Becker stated he believed they should try and ask to reduce to 35 mph along the newly annexed area on Highway 84. A motion to approve the City to submit a request to the NDOT to request lowering the speed limit to 35 mph along the new annexed city limits on Hwy 84 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.

Mayor Becker discussed looking into Post Mounted Speed Delay signs along Hwy 84. He stated he has spoken with the NDOT and we would have to get a permit and need certain NDOT approved signs that range from \$1,000-\$10,000 a piece. Councilman Kathol asked if he was thinking on the West side and Mayor Becker stated yes. Councilman Christensen stated those signs work in alerting drivers as Crofton has one and it is working for them. Mayor Becker stated they should first see where the speed limit with NDOT goes and look at the possibility of a sign down the road.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: Working on buying some netting which did run slightly over budget at approximately \$6,400. Working on getting pickleball set up at the small park.

Pool –Councilman Bartling: nothing

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Meeting with MidStates on the speakers at Complex as they believe they are not working correctly and one on the South end may be blown out. We will have two track district meets on May 8th and May 9th this year. Working on filling cracks in the track and Randy Kathol will start on concession roof. There was damage to the new fence, but the person who caused the damage has come forward and is paying for the damage. At the Auditorium, Wheelchair Dynamics came and replaced the batteries and serviced the chair lift. Damage is being done to the ceiling tiles by footballs in the Auditorium and those will be replaced all at one time later this year. There will be no theatre production this year and public-school basketball is done in the Auditorium.

Fire/Ambulance– Councilman Christensen: nothing on fire/ambulance, but wanted to mention that Hartington is also hosting district golf and baseball this year so will be a busy summer.

General – Mayor Becker: The reaction from the town hall meeting was positive and very well attended. There was lots of information gathered and it was very civil. There appears to be a lot of support for the shop and support for a community center, whether the Skylon or a new one. If the Skylon fails, believe we should look at the possibility of a new one. The vote will happen in May and if approved, will need to get bids on the City Shop. Mayor Becker asked who owned the old firehall. Councilman Christen and Barling verified that the Rural Fire Board (RFB) owns half and the city owns half. Mayor Becker stated he believes if the City Shop goes through, we should look at selling the building. Councilman Christensen was not sure about that and believed the deal with the RFB was that if the building was sold all the proceeds would go to the fire department.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: none

Clerk Bencoter: The sale for the lot where the current Community Garden is, will be auctioned off on Monday, March 4th at noon at the City Hall. Councilman Sudbeck asked if we could send a reminder to the public that it is the policy for the Transfer Station that all loads taken there must be covered or they may not be able to use the Transfer Station facilities.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: Mayor Becker asked how it was going and Deputy Clerk Shulte stated it was going good.

Public Comments: What amounts was the Resolution for election asking for. Mayor Becker verified it was asking for 1.3 million for the City Shop and 1.6 million for the Skylon.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: EMC Insurance Companies 8,427.02, Kennedy, Peier, Loftus & Reynolds, LLP 500.00, Landmark Surveying Associates 1,200.00, Nebraska Public Power District 83.98, Nebraska Cooperative Government 100.00, SHIFTR 13.50, TextMyGov 2,250.00.

Streets: Bank of Hartington 22,353.56, Blue Cross Blue Sheild 918.963, EMC Insurance Companies 1,285.23, Nebraska Department of Transportation 1,730.40, Nebraska Public Power District 3,005.59.

Water: Arens Car Wash 3.00, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 1,179.31, EMC Insurance Companies 963.92, Nebraska Public Health Environment Lab 48.00, Nebraska Public Power District 321.39.

Sewer: EMC Insurance Companies 1,387.46, Feilmeier Electric 904.64, Nebraska Public Power District 2,831.06.

Sanitation: Blue Cross Blue Shield 1,466.92, EMC Insurance Companies 1,182.99, Stop N Go 379.32, B. Stilwell 10.84.

Fire: Dearborn National Life Insurance Company 123.68, EMC Insurance Companies 511.17, Nebraska Public Power District 147.86, Stop N Go 99.80.

Ambulance: EMC Insurance Companies 335.91, Emergency Medical Products 6.10, K. Fischer 335.00, Nebraska Public Power District 116.29, Stop N Go 120.41, Stryker Sales LLC 7,744.00.

Recreation: Nebraska Public Power District 63.16.

Pool: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 140.00, Nebraska Public Power District 47.37.

Parks: Nebraska Public Power District 287.54.

Complex: Concrete Product Co. 333.60, Fisher Tracks 140.00, Nebraska Public Power District 77.37.

Library: Tami Anderson 350.00, Blue Cross Blue Shield 6290.67, Demco 414.15, Eakes Office Solutions 227.76, K. Emanuel 61.64, Hartington Chamber of Commerce 45.00, Ingram 634.48, Nebraska Public Power District 164.33, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 595.00, Quill Corporation 93.52.

City Hall: Blue Cross Blue Shield 2,215.51, Nebraska Public Power District 314.71, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 480.00.

Auditorium: Nebraska Public Power District 95.14

Transfer Station: Cedar-Knox Public Power District 298.58, Deere Credit, Inc. 25.00, EMC Insurance Companies 511.19, Feilmeier Electric 75.00, Olson's Pest Technicians 75.00, Sanitation Products, Inc. 559.64.

Vets Memorial: Nebraska Public Power District 60.40

Clerk Bencoter added two additional checks for approval of payment. She requested check #64112 to Blue Cross Blue Shield for \$10, 892.06 and #64113 to Dearborn National Life Insurance Company for \$123.68 to be paid. A motion to pay the bills along with checks #64112 and #64113 to Blue Cross Blue Shield and Dearborn National Life Insurance Company was made by Councilman Bartling and 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 Christensen 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 5:36 PM. The next scheduled meeting is March 11th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter
City Clerk-Treasurer