

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on March 11th, 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, and Christensen; City Clerk-Treasurer Bencoter, Deputy Clerk Schulte, and Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt. Councilman Kathol was absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 26th, 2024 meeting was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker stated there would be no Sheriff report this meeting due to a scheduling conflict for the Sheriff's office and the report would be on the next meeting.

Building Permits for Jon and Janet Wiechelman, Fred and Hannah Schneider, and Marvin C. Johnson were presented. Council had no questions or comments. A motion to approve building permits for Jon and Janet Wiechelman, Fred and Hannah Schneider and Marvin C. Johnson was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Sign Permits for Security Bank were presented for a free-standing sign and a building sign. Council had no questions or comments. LeRoy Hansen stated that the City may need to look at altering the price of the sign permit fee as its \$20 regardless the price of the sign. A motion to approve the sign permits for Security Banks free-standing and building sign was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

The resignation for Drake Turner from the Fire Department was introduced. A motion to approve the resignation of Drake Turner from the Fire Department was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20240311 – Authorization of City Clerk/Treasurer to Make Certain Payroll and Other Recurring Monthly Expenses was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. Clerk Bencoter explained that currently there was a resolution allow the City Clerk/Treasurer to make payroll and employee benefit payments in between council meetings if needed, but it did not allow the City Clerk/Treasurer to make utility and insurance payments if needed. This resolution would avoid any late fees, shut-offs and negative ratings on utility and insurance payments. Mayor Becker explained the payments would still be approved at the next Council meeting, but this would alleviate the penalties Clerk Bencoter mentioned when we have longer duration between meetings. A motion to approve Resolution 20240311 – Authorization of City Clerk/Treasurer to Make Certain Payroll and Other Recurring Monthly Expenses was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Ordinance 894 – To Approve Sale of Certain Real Estate was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to waive the three readings of Ordinance 894 was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried. A motion to adopt Ordinance 894 – To Approve Sale of Certain Real Estate was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker explained that since the Nordby Addition was going to be getting street pavement done this summer, he recommended Council look at paving some streets on the One Year Plan and save money by doing it all at one time and saving on mobilization fees. He suggested they look at the block that was unpaved behind Hartington Tree and around Centre St and Madison Ave. Councilman Sudbeck questioned if the curbs needed repaired. Councilman Christensen suggested to meet with those involved along with City Utility Superintendent, Corey Kramer.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: absent.

Pool –Councilman Bartling: Will start roofing the pool soon to have ready in time to open.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: The Auditorium will close on May 28th and they will be repainting the walls this summer. He has been filling cracks at the track in preparation for track season which starts soon. He has received a proposal for a PA system at the Complex from Mid States Audio & Video for all new speakers and add a few more speakers to the crowd's nest to get immediate sound. If approved, it would not be ready by track season, but they could possibly have it ready by football season. He suggested the City move the old speaker system to the new building at the complex.

He discussed the different track proposals; if we went back to asphalt and rubber, the estimate would be between 400,000-450,000 and would last 18-20 years. If we changed to a post tension track the cost would be around \$700,000 last about 40 years and can tighten the cables as time goes on. Councilman Sudbeck stated he is leaning towards the post-tension track. Dan Hoelsing and Hartington Foundation are working on writing a grant to aid in the cost of the track and would like to add the speaker system into the grant. They need a commitment from the City and the two schools to move forward with the grant. Mayor Becker asked when we would know any information on when the grant is decided and Councilman Sudbeck did not know. Mayor Becker stated he thinks it's worth a shot to try for the grant. Councilman Bartling stated he believes we should sell the field to the school as their tax base is bigger than the City if we are unable to get a grant. Councilman Sudbeck stated Council needed to make a decision by next meeting on the speaker system as the bid is good for 30 days.

Councilman Sudbeck stated the new building at the Complex is coming along and will be shingled next week. He stated Hartelco will provide Wi-Fi free of charge. He stated he believes we should sell the tan shed at the Complex as we are no longer using it after May 1. He stated they are \$2,500 new so believed it should be sold beginning at \$750. Councilman Christensen asked if it was in the way and if it wasn't, then we should make sure we don't need it before deciding to sell it. Mayor Becker stated they should speak with the baseball and softball associations first to make sure they don't need it.

Councilman Sudbeck stated X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping was wanting to work on getting their summer contract signed and there was not to be a price increase. He stated they would only take care of the football field this year.

Fire/Ambulance– Councilman Christensen: nothing.

General – Mayor Becker: The Transfer Station was awarded the grant for \$25,000 to put towards the purchase of the new semi and nice work was done by Economic Development Director Miranda Becker in completing the grant processes.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: none

Clerk Bencoter: The ARPA money used to currently pay for law enforcement expenses would be all used up in May and then the law enforcement expenses would come out of General again. The City does not have a fee schedule in place when someone asks for a property to be re-zoned to a different district. We have checked with the Cedar County Assessor office and in the past, they have not been receiving the Ordinances when there is a change in zoning district and would like copies of those in order to accurately update their records; however, the filing cost per Ordinance is currently \$22 which currently the City is paying for since there is no fee collected on a zoning district change. Councilman Christensen asked what fees we do have and Clerk Bencoter stated we have a fee for building permits depending on the cost of the structure and a sign permit fee which is \$20 regardless of the amount which is what LeRoy Hansen was referring to earlier, but there is no fee for a zoning district change. Councilman Christensen asked for the process of the district change of zoning. Clerk Bencoter explained there is a request made, then we have to advertise the public hearing for planning and zoning, create a map of residents within 300', mail out letters to those residents, planning and zoning hearing, and repeat the process for the City Council public hearing. She stated many other towns charge for an application to change the zoning district and there are costs to the City associated to it that currently we are paying for. Mayor Becker stated we should at least be reimbursed the cost of the filing fee. Councilman Christensen asked Clerk Bencoter to put something together for next meeting on a filing fee recommendation.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: none.

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked if there was more information on the grant for the Transfer Station semi. Mayor Becker stated there wasn't anymore at this time.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: Cedar County Registrar of Deeds 66.00, D & J Variety 302.20, FP Finance Program 11598, Hartelco 332.13, Hartington-Newcastle Public School District 3,450.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company 259.23.

Streets: Bank of Hartington 266.6, Bomgaars 419.49, Carhart Lumber Co. 3.00, Colonial Life 27.22, D & J Variety 22.47, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 712.45, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 993.67, Grossenburg Implement 1,973.59, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 457.13, Kruse True Value 44.30, Nebraska Public Power District 3,100.61, Peitz Service 222.09, U.S. Cellular 101.71, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 2,223.01, Yankton Janitorial Supply, Inc. 268.00.

Water: Hartington Shopper 112.93, Kruse True Value 20.99, Nebraska Public Power District 388.85, One Call Concepts, Inc. 3.79, Peitz Service 8,127.61.

Sewer: Bomgaars 69.06, D & J Variety 13.47, Robert Heimes Dirt Man 470.27, Grossenburg Implement .72, Hartelco 66.60, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 5.40, Hartington Shopper 112.93, Kruse True Value 9.99, Midwest Laboratories 522.57, Nebraska Public Power District 3,075.16, One Call Concepts, Inc. 3.79.

Sanitation: Bank of Hartington 83.33, Bomgaars 59.95, Colonial Life 129.66, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 420.57, Hartington Shopper 112.94, Peitz Service 135.72, U.S. Cellular 75.81.

Fire: D & J Variety 24.46, Danko Emergency Equipment 535.00, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 15.25, Hartelco 47.95, Hartington Shopper 283.50, Kruse True Value 199.40, Nebraska Public Power District 157.05, Rural Fire Board 3,201.00, Tri-State Communications, Inc. 113.00.

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,667.86.

Ambulance: Anderson Body Shop 245.00, Burnell's Foodtown 108.50, D & J Variety 43.45, Emergency Medical Products 18.30, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 430.74, Hartelco 47.95, Matheson Tri-Gas 490.63, Nebraska Public Power District 125.48, U.S. Cellular 125.43.

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 61.72.

Recreation: Nebraska Public Power District 63.16.

Pool: Nebraska Public Power District 47.37.

Parks: Beacon Athletics LLC 3,708.00, Grossenburg Implement 36.69, Nebraska Public Power District 287.58, Plumbing & Electric 102.10.

Complex: Grossenburg Implement 36.69, Hartelco 44.56, Nebraska Public Power District 77.37.

Library: Bank of Hartington 333.34, D & J Variety 39.24, Eakes Office Solutions 185.71, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 385.86, Hartelco 161.46, Midwest Tape 26.24, Nebraska Public Power District 178.78, Usable Life 29.00.

City Hall: Bank of Hartington 166.67, Eakes Office Solutions 117.97, Dixie Fischer 100.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 369.70, Hometown Leasing 62.05, Kruse True Value 14.99, Nebraska Public Power District 531.40, Northeast Nebraska Clerks Association 20.00, Usable Life 1.00.

Auditorium: Appera 75.46, Nebraska Public Power District 95.52.

Economic Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 272.56, Hartelco 59.23, Hometown Leasing 31.02, Usable Life 14.50.

Transfer Station: Bomgaars 61.64, Carhart Lumber Co. 92.99, Gill Hauling Inc. 1,628.62, Hartelco 47.19, Jerry's Service 670.00, L.P. Gill, Inc. 9,134.02, Peitz Service 1,414.45, Wheelchair Dynamics 340.00.

Vets Memorial: Nebraska Public Power District 57.22

Creative District: Creatively Seeded LLC 2,092.50.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM. The next scheduled meeting is March 25th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter
City Clerk-Treasurer