

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on March 25th, 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, and Deputy Clerk Schulte. Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt was absent.

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 March 11th, 2024 meeting and February, 2024 Treasurer's Report 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.

The February, 2024 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was distributed by Deputy Zimmer. There were 367 ¼ hours patrolled. School traffic was 3 hours. Calls of service were 2 EMS Assist, 1 Scam Investigation, 2 Alarm Calls, 1 Drug Possession, and 1 Accident. Traffic stops were 0 Verbal Warning, 3 Written Warning, and 3 citations. 0 Arrests were made.

Mayor Becker introduced the Cash Rent Farm Lease Agreement with Darin Pick for land over by the Transfer Station. He stated this was the same lease and price as last year with no change in amount. A motion to approve the Cash Rent Farm Lease Agreement with Darin Pick 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 introduced the Mid States Audio & Video Contract. He stated this was discussed last meeting regarding speakers at the Complex field. He asked Councilman Sudbeck if there were any other options and Councilman Sudbeck stated, not really. Councilman Sudbeck stated the current system is 20 years old and was last serviced 6 years ago. He stated he spoke with Mid States Audio & Video today and they told him that if we signed the contract today, they will invoice us for a deposit of ½ of the contract price of around \$36,000 and will invoice for the remainder after the work is completed this fall. He stated there could be some salvage value to the old speakers and could find somewhere else to put them to use. Councilman Kathol asked if the current speakers blew out because they were set too loud or why. Councilman Sudbeck stated he did not now for sure if that was the reason or the weather. He stated they will try to include the speaker purchase in with the grant for the track, but were not sure if it would be granted with the track if we were awarded the grant. Councilman Christensen asked if the funding stream for the speakers was there and Mayor Becker stated it was. Councilman Christensen stated he didn't see any other option. A motion to approve the contract with Mid States Audio & Video for around \$36,000 was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker introduced the discussion for the new zoning and permit fees. He asked Clerk Bencoter if she completed the document that shows the process for the replat and rezone of a property. She stated she completed the document that shows each step and the approximate cost to the City for each step. She stated the average cost to the City for a replat is \$50-\$60 per plat, and if there is a preliminary and a final plat the cost is double as the process has to be repeated for each plat. The average cost to the City for a rezone is \$100-\$140. She explained the higher cost for a rezone is because an Ordinance is needed and Ordinances have to be published and filed with the County Assessor's office which both have fees and costs associated. Mayor Becker clarified that currently the City does not charge anything for a replat and rezone and Clerk Bencoter verified that was correct. Mayor Becker asked Clerk Bencoter if \$100 for a replat would cover the fees and she stated yes. Mayor Becker asked Clerk Bencoter if \$200 would cover a rezone and she stated yet. Clerk Bencoter explained that Council would need to currently vote on an amount and start date and then Clerk Bencoter can complete a Resolution for Council to review at next Council meeting based off of the amounts voted on today. A motion to approve a fee of \$100 per plat for a replat and \$200 per rezone to be effective May 1, 2024 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 introduced the Complex Maintenance Agreement with X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping. Councilman Sudbeck stated he spoke with Brad Arens with X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping and he would like the agreement completed earlier than normal and the figures would be the same as last year, \$10,200 paid out over a 6-month period. He stated this would cover the 2 big fields at the Complex only, additional maintenance such as for sprinklers would be extra. A motion to approve the Complex Maintenance Agreement with X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping for \$10,200 was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: The area for the new batting cages has been marked out. He believed the netting had been ordered and Clerk Bencoter verified everything has been delivered. He stated Gary Kuehn will take care of the field.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: The new roof should be started next month and the lifeguards have been hired.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: He stated he has found a home for the tan building as the track people would like it for the long jump area to store things. The roof is done on the new building.

Fire/Ambulance– Councilman Christensen: none.

General – Mayor Becker: He discussed that Cedar Knox Rural Water is needing to find a new water source and currently they are working with Yankton on a possible project. Mayor Becker discussed that he met with the NRD and spoke to offer the Hartington project as a possibility for Cedar Knox Rural Water. He stated the Yankton project is proposed to cost 10 million dollars more than the Hartington project. The revenue to the City of Hartington could be an additional half million dollars a year. He stated that currently Cedar Knox Rural Water charges \$12.81 per unit sold which is 1,000 gallons. The Hartington project proposes a rate of 3.4 which is below Yankton’s rate which starts year 1 at 3.49 and will raise over a 10-year period. Currently Cedar Knox Rural Water has received a 7 million grant that they and Mayor Becker are in the process of verifying if it could be used on the Hartington project and not just have to be used on the Yankton project. Mayor Becker stated he is working to speak with Governor Jim Pillen to be able to grant that permission so that Cedar Knox Rural Water has the option of keeping the use of the grant money within the State of Nebraska instead of sending the money out of state. Mayor Becker stated that Cedar Knox Rural Water was concerned of the higher rate the City of Hartington has over Yankton for nitrates as Yankton treats their water and the City of Hartington does not, but the City of Hartington is still well within the State limits. Mayor Becker assured Council that if we were granted the project the City of Hartington would have enough water and could dig additional wells if needed down the line.

Councilman Kathol asked how much water Cedar Knox Rural Water sells to South Dakota and Mayor Becker stated none. Mayor Becker said the Hartington project could be completed sooner than the Yankton project for Cedar Knox Rural Water. Councilman Christensen stated that he knows people who currently have Cedar Knox Rural Water are cautious on their water use because the amount is so high per unit and if that amount were to be cheaper as proposed by the Hartington project, people may use more water, which will bring more revenue to the City of Hartington. Mayor Becker stated that Advisory Board meets on April 11th and will give their recommendation to Cedar Knox Rural Water at that time. Councilman Kathol stated he hates to see that money go out of State and Mayor Becker stated he hopes the Governor would allow the 7 million grant funds to be used in the Hartington project and see the money stay in Nebraska as well.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: absent.

Clerk Bencoter: none.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: none.

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked where Mid States Audio & Video was located and Councilman Sudbeck verified out of Sioux Falls. Rob Dump asked Mayor Becker when his meeting with NRD was and Mayor Becker stated it was at their last meeting on March 22nd.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General:	CRA Community Redevelopment Authority 863.77, Mayer Sign, Inc. 130.00, SHIFTR 15.30, Security Shredding 40.00.
Streets:	Bank of Hartington 2353.56, Black Hills Energy 1,270.10, Leise Concrete 2,000.00, Menards 93.96, Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Inc. 232.81.
Water:	Cedar-Knox Pubic Power District 243.87, Hydro Optimization & Automation Solution 93.62, Nebraska Public Health Environment Lab 734.00.
Sewer:	Black Hills Energy 141.59, Midwest Laboratories, Inc. 540.54, USA Blue Book 231.48.
Sanitation:	Northern Truck Equipment Corp. 118,988.00, Stop N Go 512.71.

Fire: Black Hills Energy 194.93, Stop N Go 66.47, Tri-State Communications, Inc. 125.00.

Ambulance: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital 928.11, Avera Medical Group 236.37, Black Hills Energy 194.94, Emergency Medical Products 419.10, Katelyn Fischer 536.00, Stop N Go 70.52, Stryker Sales LLC 5,207.95.

Pool: Black Hills Energy 40.35.

Parks: Beacon Athletics LLC 2,634.00, Folkers Painting, LLC 1,025.00, Roman Sudbeck 771.25, X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping 680.00, Zimco Supply Company 630.00.

Complex: Roman Sudbeck 520.97.

Library: Black Hills Energy 413.67, Humanities Nebraska 75.00, Ingram 306.54, Midwest Tape 40.48, Tri-State Turf & Irrigation, LLC 147.00.

City Hall: Black Hills Energy 112.62.

Auditorium: Black Hills Energy 743.67, X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping 82.50.

Transfer Station: Cedar-Knox Public Power District 1,622.50, Olson's Pest Technicians 80.00.

Vets Memorial: X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping 82.50.

February, 2024 payroll was \$44,578.17.

Clerk Bencoter noted there was a payment for Councilman Sudbeck that needed to be paid separately; check #64197 for \$1,292.22. A motion to pay the bills except check #64197 for Roman Sudbeck was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- abstain. Motion carried.

A motion to pay check #64197 for \$1,292.22 to Roman Sudbeck was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Christen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck- abstain. 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, Sudbeck- yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM. The next scheduled meeting is April 8th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter
City Clerk-Treasurer