

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 Bartling, Christensen, Kathol, and Sudbeck; City Clerk-Treasurer Bencoter, Deputy Clerk Schulte, and Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 4:59 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 July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 meeting and July, 2024 Treasurer's report was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – abstained, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker presented the August, 2024 Sheriff's report for the month of July, 2024. There were 387 ½ hours patrolled. School traffic was 0 hours. Calls of service were, 1 EMS Assists, 3 Welfare Checks, 2 Accidents. Traffic stops were 0 Verbal Warning, 0 Written Warning, and 0 citations. 2 Arrests were made.

Brett Mainquist was present to represent the Hartington Softball. Mayor Becker informed Council that the Softball Umpire 2024 payment request from Hartington Softball was significantly higher this year and asked Brett Mainquist to explain the umpire fees for this past summer. Brett Mainquist informed council that they just took over this year and did not know the price paid for umpires in the previous year so they paid the umpires \$40 per game. Mayor Becker asked Clerk Bencoter for information on the difference in fee requests from last year. She stated last year Softball requested \$670 and this year they have requested \$1,790. She stated after speaking with Brett and Renae Mainquist it appears that last year the Softball league may not have requested payment for all of the umpire fees and the fee last year was \$20 per game and this year was \$40 per game which accounts for the larger amount being requested. Councilman Sudbeck asked Brett Mainquist if they had problems finding umpires and he stated it was very hard to find umpires and sometimes they would show up late to get out of umpiring so they needed to pay more to get people to show up. A motion to approve the softball umpire fees for 2024 in the amount of \$1,790 was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker asked Clerk Bencoter to explain to Council the League Insurance Government Health (LIGHT) program for the City employee health insurance. She explained to council that she attended a class on the LIGHT program this spring at Clerk's school to learn more for the City. The LIGHT program is a pool health insurance offered in conjunction with the League of Municipalities which pools municipalities so smaller municipalities are able to provide affordable health insurance to their employees. The insurance program currently offered through LIGHT is the exact same insurance, coverage area, and providers as the City currently has and the only difference will be the deductible will increase slightly. Currently the single deductible is \$2,700 and family is \$5,400 and those will raise to \$3,000 for single and \$6,000 for family. Currently the City pays \$12,234.00 per month, and on the LIGHT program the City would pay \$8,873.41 per month. The LIGHT program does require the City to purchase \$20,000 life insurance policy on the employees which is an additional \$7.20 per employee. Mayor Becker stated that any deductibles employees have currently accumulated for the year, will transfer over and the employee will not need to start over. He stated this would be a great deal for the City. Councilman Christensen asked how easy it was to transfer over and Clerk Bencoter stated the process has begun and is simple. Councilman Sudbeck introduced Resolution 20240812A - To Authorize Membership in the League Insurance Government Health (LIGHT). A motion to approve Resolution 20240812A - To Authorize Membership in the League Insurance Government Health (LIGHT) 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.

Councilman Sudbeck introduced Resolution 20240812 – Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance to Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards 2024. A motion to approve Resolution 20240812 – Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance to Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards 2024 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.

Mayor Becker presented the Amendment to Interlocal Independent Contractor Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. He explained the Law Enforcement Contract is for three years at a time and our current one expires this year. The new contract has an increase of 2% per year and he checked on

what other cities were paying and we were getting a deal. He stated he asked Sheriff Koranda why other villages and cities do not have to have law enforcement agreements or have to pay and Sheriff Koranda stated due to the size of the City of Hartington, the City needs to have an agreement. Mayor Becker stated they also discussed placing efforts to certain places and areas the City would like to see. A motion to approve Amendment to Interlocal Independent Contractor Agreement for Law Enforcement Services was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt presented Ordinance 905 and explained she changed the nuisance and abatement procedure to allow the City to remove abandoned vehicles not meeting code and at their expense. She made the Ordinance cleaner and easier to follow by anyone reading it. Councilman Sudbeck introduced Ordinance 905 – Amending Sections 7-201 Through 7-207 of the Code of Ordinances Relating to Nuisances, the Abatement Procedure, and Abandoned, Unlicensed or Inoperable Vehicles. A motion to suspend the 3 readings for Ordinance 905 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 905 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 presented the Bid Package for the City Shop. He stated it has not changed much from the previous packets presented to Council members. He discussed it needed to be posted for a certain time period in the paper and Legal Counsel Brandt stated there was a time length, but would need to look up the certain time length in the Ordinance. He asked Council members what date for bid packages to be in by and after looking at the calendar, Council members decided to have bid packages in by September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 so they can be reviewed and approved on the following Council meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A motion to approve the bid package for the City Shop and have bids due back by September 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Matt Dresden with Security Wealth spoke with Council members regarding the LIGHT program. He stated the difference between our current plan and the new plan is that the LIGHT program price is determined on health and our health scale has improved since 2 years ago when the City looked into the program first. He stated the LIGHT program is new to him since it is only for municipalities and the City of Hartington is his only municipality. He stated the network is the same and pharmacy network is actually larger. Councilman Bartling asked if they looked at claim numbers for the previous year to determine the health scale and Matt Dresden stated they do. He said with this plan the City can also keep their HSA plan. With Obamacare the City would have to give the same amount of funds to each employee, even those not getting health insurance, to keep it fair and equal. He believed this was a better plan for the City.

#### Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: nothing.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: pool is closed for the season.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Soccer and football will be starting shortly, exterior painting is completed, the tan building has been moved, and an ice machine was donated for the concession stand. He purchased two display boards to put on the concession area of the complex because people have been duct taping up signs, leaving them, and then the residue sticks. He has spoken with Hartelco about getting cameras up at the complex because there are issues with vandalism, and vehicles damaging fences. He is also going to speak with law enforcement about patrolling the complex area more. The floor is done at the Auditorium and will open to the public on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

Fire/Ambulance– Councilman Christensen: nothing.

General – Mayor Becker: The Skylon project is underway and there will be a notice in the paper and letter to the editor this week. Thank you to Bill Yates for working with Roger Wortmann and to Economic Development for work with the land the Skylon will go onto. Many folks have reached out and are wanting to donate money and we encourage them to. The notice will be in the paper for 30 days and Council will act on the lease agreement during a special meeting if needed as all involved are waiting on a final decision from the City.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: The notice for bids for the City Shop project has to be published for 7 days prior to vote. She asked if the City Engineer provided an estimated cost for the project. Mayor Becker stated the City does not have Engineer of their own. She stated the City would probably need to hire someone to know if the bids coming in are on point.

Clerk Bencoter: The 8 CD's the City set up in February are maturing on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and if Council is wanting to add anymore or change anything to the current CD's, action will need to be taken before August 30<sup>th</sup>. The CD's accumulated \$17,299.67 in interested in the last 6 months. The Rural Fire Board did ask to put an additional \$7,500 into their CD that accumulated in the Ambulance Savings account in the last 6 months. Mayor Becker asked Clerk Bencoter to reach out to Economic Development to make sure they did not want to make any changes to their CD. No other changes or additions were suggested. The Auditorium will be opening in September and if council is wanting to make any changes to the prices for the Key Fobs, that would need to be on next Council meeting. Council agreed the current rates were fine. Councilman Kathol asked if the Community Theatre would be in there next spring and Lee Carl was present and verified there would be a play in there this spring. Council suggested there be a line on the agreement notifying people that the City will close the Auditorium for the Community Theatre in the spring. Councilman Sudbeck stated that coaches for any sports using the Auditorium need to contact the City Office first to make arrangements.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: none

Public Comments: Rob Dump with Cedar County News asked for the Law Enforcement Contract numbers. Clerk Bencoter stated the first year would be \$167,294.64, the second year would be \$170,640.48, and the third year would be \$174,053.28. He asked Clerk Bencoter for a copy of Ordinance 905.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: Cedar County Clerk 941.06, Cedar County Register of Deeds 16.00, D & J Variety 111.84, Eakes Office Solutions 172.98, FP Finance Program 115.98, Hartelco 303.90, Hartington Shopper 88.70, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP 710.00, League of Municipalities 4,770.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company 821.14.

Streets: Auto Hospital 4,897.99, Bank of Hartington 266.66, Bomgaars 165.56, Carhart Lumber Co. 49.48, Cedar County Register of Deeds 10.00, Colonial Life 27.22, Concrete Product Co. 579.96, D & J Variety 15.98, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 1,160.85, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 961.25, Grossenburg Implement 892.48, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 43.56, Kruse True Value 43.97, Leise Concrete 42,153.75, Radar Sign 4,318.00, Sherwin-Williams 155.07, U.S. Cellular 171.87, Usable Life 14.50, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 480.00.

Water: Cedar-Knox Public Power District 2,159.85, Hawkins, Inc. 949.19, Hartington Shopper 88.70, K. Krause 93.54, League of Municipalities 351.00, Northeast Public Health Environment Lab 96.00, One Call Concepts, Inc. 8.55, Peitz Service 167.93, Plumbing & Electric 11,205.80.

Sewer: Bomgaars 109.81, Hartelco 66.60, Hartington Shopper 88.70, League of Nebraska Municipalities 351.00, Leise Concrete 4,667.00, Midwest Laboratories, Inc. 358.15, One Call Concepts, Inc. 8.55.

Sanitation: Bank of Hartington 83.33, Colonial Life 129.66, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 424.43, Hartington Shopper 88.70, L.P. Gill Inc. 24,241.67, NP Mart 24 895.94, C. Ponce 21.36, U.S. Cellular 82.90, Usable Life 14.50, Wiechelma's Repair Shop 114.72.

Fire: Auto Hospital 392.45, Dearborn National Life Insurance Co. 123.68, Hartington Volunteer Fire Department 25,493.00, Hartelco 46.08, Leise Lawn Care 162.50, Peitz Service 135.63.

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,667.86.

Ambulance: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital 12.30, Burnell's Foodtown 32.74, D & J Variety 10.08, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 72.57, Hartelco 46.07, Hiway 84 Auto & RV Wash 19.75, Kruse True Value 19.99, Keith's Package Liquor 22.00, Leise Lawn Care 162.50, NP Mart 24 70.72, Peitz Service 138.23, Steffen Drug Store 22.98, T. Leise 278.19, U.S. Cellular 139.63.

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 55.65, Maverick Heine 950.00, Toby Heine 950.00.

Recreation: Pioneer Manufacturing Company 566.83.

Pool: A. Reifenrath 150.00, Hawkins Inc. 35.00, Hartelco 102.94, Jerry's Service 219.70, Kruse True Value 10.37, NP Mart 24 146.94, Nordby Fencing LLC 75.00, TNEMEC Company Inc. 1,261.20.

Parks: Bomgaars 752.24, Carhart Lumber Co. 129.90, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 332.43, Grossenburg Implement 87.11, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 11.71, Jerry's Service 312.69, Kruse True Value 7.58, Kneifl Pain & Caulk 1,500.00, Plumbing & Electric 38.00. TNEMEC Company Inc. 463.78.

Complex: Carhart Lumber Co. 29.78, Hartelco 44.57, J. Sayler 505.45, Kneifl Paint & Caulk 2,500.00, Plumbing & Electric 20.00, TNEMEC Company Inc. 574.99, X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping 1,700.00.

Library: Tami Anderson 250.00, Bank of Hartington 333.34, Charleen Meyer 80.00, D & J Variety 130.89, Data443 Risk Mitigation Inc. 97.52, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 377.86, Hartelco 161.44, Ingram 244.90, Quill Corporation 139.97, Usable Life 29.00, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 465.95.

City Hall: Bank of Hartington 166.67, Colonial Life 140.18, Dixie Fischer 150.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 464.26, Hometown Leasing 62.05, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 106.50, Usable Life 14.50.

Auditorium: Appera 78.06, Art Kathol Appliance, Inc. 155.00, Court Floors LLC 1,300.00, Kruse True Value 21.47.

Economic  
Development: Cedar County Register of Deeds 52.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 258.76, Hartelco 48.89, Hometown Leasing 31.02, Usable Life 14.50.

Transfer  
Station: Bomgaars 163.62, Cedar-Knox Public Power District 147.94, Gill Hauling Inc. 4,149.96, Hartelco 47.19, Hartington Shopper 294.80, Jerry's Service 1,507.71, Olson's Pest Technicians 80.00

A motion to pay the bills 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.

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 5:36 PM. The next scheduled meeting is August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter  
City Clerk-Treasurer