

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on December 9<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 Councilman Bartling, Christensen, Kathol, and Sudbeck; City Clerk-Treasurer Bencoter, Deputy Clerk Schulte, and Legal Counsel Brandt. Mayor Becker was absent.

Council President Christensen 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 November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and November, 2024 Treasurer's report was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Council received the Certification of Election Results stamped by the Cedar County Clerk resulting in Chris Bartling and Roman Sudbeck as the re-elected Council members to the City of Hartington.

The Oath of Offices for Councilman Bartling and Councilman Sudbeck were conducted and Notary Public, Brittnei Bencoter, City Clerk-Treasurer witnessed the Oaths.

Council President Christensen introduced the Utility and Transfer Station write offs of uncollectable bad debt. Clerk Bencoter stated this was what she discussed at last meeting as the accounts are too old to collect or people have moved and we are unable to locate them. A motion to approve the write off of \$2,204.60 in uncollectable Utility and Transfer Station debt was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Council President Christensen presented the Garage Bay Rental Agreement for Kruse True Value. Clerk Bencoter explained this was the exact same as last year's agreement and the amount was still entered as \$150 per month unless Council wanted to change that. A motion to approve the Garage Bay Rental Agreement for Kruse True Value for the 2025 year as written was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation Maintenance Agreement Renewal was presented next by Council President Christensen. A motion to approve the Nebraska Department of Transportation Maintenance Agreement Renewal was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20241209 Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent 2024 was presented by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to approve Resolution 20241209 was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Community Redevelopment Authority had a new appointment of Brandon Baller as his term expired and needed reappointment. A motion to approve the appointment of Brandon Baller to the Community Redevelopment Authority was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

Council received the L.P. Gill Rate Increase report which shows they have raised most of their pricings by \$1.00 per ton for the 2025 year.

The following Annual Appointments were made by Council President Christensen:

Ambulance: Eric Becker, Troy Bottolfson, Dirk Dailey, Jami Dailey, Donna Davey, Crystal Eickhoff, Dixie Fischer, Katelyn Fischer, Carol Hamilton, Jeff Jones, Clay Kleinschmit, Tim Kuchta, Katie Lammers, Steve Leise, Melissa Lordemann, Charles Meirose, Steve Rokusek, Patty Schieffer, Hal Thoene, Marilyn Thoene.

Firemen: Ryan Marsh, Brandon Fischer, Zachary Adcock, Chris Bartling, Doug Becker, Matthew Burbach, Dan Carl, Jimmy Christensen, Dirk Dailey, Dave Feilmeier, Jerrold Schulte, Rod Fischer, Brian Gall, Pat Guy, Jacob Haahr, Robert Hamilton, Mark Heimes, Matthew Kathol, Tyler Kathol, Tucker Lammers, Austin Mann, Mike Jueden, Dustin Neuhalfen, Corey Pearson, Gage Pedersen, Brad Peitz,

Darin Pick, Thomas Potts, Chase Rolfes, Nathaniel Rutar, Brad Steffen, Chris Steffen, Dan Steiner, Bill Thoene, Aaron Wiechelman, Jon Wiechelman, Adam Wortman.

Official Bank: Bank of Hartington  
City Attorney: Kennedy, Pier, Loftis, & Reynolds, LLP  
City Engineer: JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
Street Superintendent: Terry J Mead, JEO Consulting Group, Inc., License Number S-1138, Class A  
Zoning Administrator: LeRoy Hansen  
City Clerk-Treasurer: Brittini Benschoter  
Deputy Clerk: Casey Schulte  
Utility Superintendent: Corey Kramer  
Official Newspaper: Cedar County News  
Tree Board: Dan Kathol – Chairman, Leander Lammers, Esther Larsen  
Health Care Provider: Dr. Amy Rief-Elks  
Citizens Advisory Committee for the Economic Development Plan: Jason Dendinger, Lee Carl, Burnell Herbolzheimer, and John Kramer.

A motion to approve appointments listed by Council President Christensen was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol.

Legal Counsel Brandt wanted to clarify that Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP would have a name change to Kenney, Pier, Loftus, Reynolds, & Brandt, LLP beginning January 1, 2025. A motion to approve appointments listed by Council President Christensen was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck - yes. Motion carried.

The November, 2024 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was reviewed. There were 276 ½ hours patrolled. School traffic was 1 ¾ hours. Calls of service were 1 EMS Assist, 1 Alarm, 1 Disturbance, 1 Traffic Control. Traffic stops were 1 Verbal Warning, 2 Written Warning, and 0 citations. 0 Arrests were made.

#### Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: The net has been taken down for the new batting cages, but the old net and the tarp are still out.

Pool –Councilman Bartling: Nothing.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: A part had to be ordered for one of the hanging heat units that is not working in the Auditorium as it is past warranty. They believe it may have sustained damage from a past water leak.

Fire/Ambulance– Councilman Christensen: Nothing.

General – Mayor Becker: Absent.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: Nothing.

Clerk Benschoter: Just a reminder we will not have a meeting on December 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the holiday that week and people's schedules so the next City Council meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: Nothing.

Public Comments: Rob Dump with Cedar County News asked if the Kruse True Value agreement was for the garages at the City office and Council President Christensen stated it was.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: FP Finance Program 115.98, Hartington Tree 670.00, Hartelco 304.91, Hartington Shopper 49.70, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP 1,193.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company 408.98. SHIFTR 15.30.

Streets: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,774.68, Bank of Hartington 2,620.22, Bomgaars 956.65, Colonial Life 27.22, D & J Variety 46.97, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 909.70, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 922.78. Grossenburg Implement 600.00, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 526.09, Kruse True Value 7.49, Leise Concrete 26,672.00, Mutual of Omaha 28.80, Overhead Door Company 571.50, Rose Equipment, Inc. 249.20, U.S. Cellular 171.93.

Water: Burnell's Foodtown 6.49, Hartington Shopper 49.70, One Call Concepts Inc. 25.14, Peitz Service 90.41.

Sewer: Bomgaars 44.85, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 501.96, Hartington Shopper 49.70, Kruse True Value 114.99, One Call Concepts, Inc. 25.14.

Sanitation: Blue Cross Blue Shield 887.34, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Colonial Life 129.66, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 436.96, Hartington Shopper 49.70, L.P. Gill, Inc. 8,545.19, Mutual of Omaha 14.40, Peitz Service 380.98, U.S. Cellular 83.27.

Fire: D & J Variety 10.49, Dearborn National Life Ins. Company 122.64, Hartelco 46.16, Jerry's Service 48.71, Tri-State Communications, Inc. 13,226.78.

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,941.22.

Ambulance: Burnell's Foodtown 38.60, D & J Variety 44.45, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 191.10, Hartelco 46.16, Jerry's Service 51.70, Kruse True Value 44.97, K, Fischer 1,018.40, Matheson Tri-Gas Inc. 75.77, U.S. Cellular 139.35.

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 57.60.

Pool: Art Kathol Appliance, Inc. 957.92.

Parks: Bomgaars 72.43, Grossenburg Implement 659.47, Jerry's Service 103.13.

Complex: Central Valley Ag 243.70, Kruse True Value 12.99, Menards 278.80, Plumbing & Electric 142.75, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 1,700.00.

Library: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 2,573.29, Bank of Hartington 333.34, D & J Variety 89.92, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 466.60, Hartelco 161.69, Kruse True Value 153.94, Mutual of Omaha 28.80.

City Hall: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska 3,638.10, Bank of Hartington 166.67, Colonial Life 140.18, Eakes Office Solutions 651.97, Dixie Fischer 150.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 524.94, Hometown Leasing 62.05, Kruse True Value 15.98, Mutual of Omaha 28.80, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 170.00.

Auditorium: Appears 78.06, Bomgaars 23.98, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 26.00, Kruse True Value 50.00.

Economic Development: Eakes Office Solutions 188.69, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 263.34, Hartelco 47.89, Hometown Leasing 31.02, Mutual of Omaha 14.40.

Transfer Station: Gill Hauling Inc. 1,523.63, Hartelco 47.36, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 7.04, Hartington Shopper 224.80, Jerry's Service 668.30, Peitz Service 830.87, Sanitation Products, Inc. 42.14.

Skylon Event Center: Roger Wortmann 100,000.00.

City Shop: Certified Testing Services, Inc. 1,112.00, Lammers Engineering, LLC 2,500.00, Nebraska Public Power District 2,506.22, Plumbing & Electric 45,765.00, RaDec Construction Co., Inc. 39,941.54.

Councilman Sudbeck stated that he believes part of the Plumbing & Electric bill, Check # 64998 should be tabled. He stated he believes we should table the part of the dirt because when Plumbing & Electric bid the project they did not know where they were going to get the dirt from so it was in the bid, but Plumbing & Electric used the City's own dirt from the Airport, so he believes we shouldn't have to pay for our own dirt. He stated he believes we should pay the portion of \$45,765.00 and table the remainder \$18,937.50 for the dirt. A motion to pay the bills, and to only pay \$45,765.00 and table the remainder of Check# 64998 to Plumbing & Electric, was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 PM. The next scheduled meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter  
City Clerk-Treasurer