

The Hartington City Council met for their regular meeting on February 10th, 2025 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, Sudbeck, and Kathol; City Clerk-Treasurer Bencoter, Deputy Clerk Schulte, and Legal Counsel Brandt. Councilman Christensen was absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM., followed by all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 27th, 2025 meeting and January, 2025 Treasurer's report was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Sudbeck introduced Ordinance 908 – Occupation Tax on short-term rentals. A motion to suspend the three readings was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. A motion to adopt Ordinance 908 was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Sudbeck introduced Resolution 20250210 – Transfer Station rates and procedures. A motion to approve Resolution 20250210 was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Sudbeck introduced Resolution 20250210A – Master Fee Schedule. A motion to approve Resolution 20250210A was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Bencoter reviewed the current 8 CD's the City has which are maturing. She stated the Economic Development wants to keep their CD going with no additions or subtractions to it. She stated she reviewed the CD's with Mayor Becker and they agreed to keep the General, Hi-Fi, Alltell, Complex, and Sewer CD's continuing as is. She stated they discussed they will take out funds from the Sales Tax CD, leaving \$5,000 in the CD as she explained it is easier to keep something in the CD and active then to continually close and open new ones. She stated the Rural Fire Board would like to take \$10,000 from their savings and put into the Ambulance CD. She stated she spoke with the bank that morning and interest rates change each Wednesday so she will check with them the next few weeks, but currently and in the past, the 182-day CD's have had a better interest rate so she recommends staying with the 182-day CD. A motion to approve the CD actions as reviewed by Clerk Bencoter was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Bencoter reviewed the employee Simple IRA addition to the original document to allow employees to change their retirement contribution percentage the first of the following month, anytime throughout the year. A motion to approve the addition to the employee Simple IRA was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Bencoter introduced the Safety Committee Plan and the Injury Prevention Manual that the City needs to update and is required by law to have for our workman's compensation insurance. A motion to approve the new Injury Prevention Manual was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker introduced the Cash Rent Farm Lease Agreement the City has with Darin Pick for the land by the Transfer Station. He stated the rate is the same as last year and has been the rate for the past couple years. A motion to approve the Cash Rent Farm Lease Agreement with Darin Pick was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker reviewed with Council the insurance rates LARM provided for the Golf Course. He stated the Golf Course pays for their liability insurance including their liquor liability and the property is covered under the City's insurance. He stated LARM provided the total cost for the club house, golf cart storage, golf course house, open golf cart shed was \$6,550.23 for the 2024-2025 year. Councilman Kathol asked if that was covered by the City or if the Golf Course reimbursed the City and Mayor Becker stated the City has always covered it.

Mayor Becker introduced and signed the Problem Gambling Awareness Month Proclamation determining the month of March, 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City of Hartington.

The January, 2025 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was reviewed. There were 344 ½ hours patrolled. School traffic was 2 hours. Calls of service were 2 EMS Assist, 1 Welfare Check, 3 Disturbance, 3 Parking Violations. Traffic stops were 2 Verbal Warning, 0 Written Warning, and 1 Citations. 1 Arrest was made.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: Nothing.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: Nothing.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Will begin fixing cracks in the track at the Complex.

Fire/Ambulance– Councilman Christensen: Absent.

General – Mayor Becker: The City Shop is coming along and he has had some inquiries on purchasing of the old City Shop and old Firehall Station. He stated a couple people are interested in buying the buildings as is and they have received a quote on tearing down the current City Shop at \$25,000. He asked Council if they had any appetite to sell or what their thoughts were. Councilman Sudbeck said he would be curious to see what the market value would be on those buildings. Councilman Kathol asked if they wanted to develop or what their plans would be as he wouldn't want to see an eyesore downtown. Mayor Becker stated one person interested in the current City Shop is in the construction business and would have the means to fix it up. He didn't know if the City should try to get some money out of the building instead of paying the cost to demolish or if it could be sold with provisions on what the person purchasing it wanted to do with it first. Councilman Sudbeck said he would like to see someone come up with a plan and present it to them first for the current City Shop and he would like to see the old Firehall go out for bids. Mayor Becker stated we checked with the County and the old Firehall deed is registered in only the City of Hartington's name. Councilman Bartling thought there was an agreement that if the old Firehall was sold, that the proceeds would go to pay back the bond on the new Firehall.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: Nothing.

Clerk Benscoter: Nothing.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: Nothing.

Public Comments: None.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: FP Finance Program 115.98, Hartelco 305.27, Hartington Golf Club, Inc. 1,115.00, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, Reynolds & Brandt 500.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company 310.66.

Streets: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,774.68, Bank of Hartington 2,620.22, Burnell's Foodtown 11.54, Colonial Life 27.22, Farmers union Coop Gas & Oil 1,399.30, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 972.63, Grossenburg Implement 600.00, Hartington Ace Hardware 215.89, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 52.99, Jerry's Service 145.75, Mutual of Omaha 14.40, U.S. Cellular 172.63, Usable Life 29.00.

Water: Christensen Well & Irrigation, Inc. 264.90, Municipal Supply Inc. 1,944.32, One Call Concepts, Inc. 2.24, Peitz Service 143.94, USA Blue Book 709.40, Yankton Winnelson Co. 1,026.00.

Sewer: Hartelco 66.60, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy 150.00, One Call Concepts, Inc. 2.25, Plumbing & Electric 1,719.92.

Sanitation: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 887.34, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Colonial Life 129.66, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 332.15, Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 410.37, Mutual of Omaha 7.20, Pinkelman Sales, Inc. 1,218.02, U.S. Cellular 83.61, Usable Life 14.50.

Fire: Hartelco 46.11, Hartington Shopper 295.00, Jerry's Service 81.32, Peitz Service 390.50, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 525.00.

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,941.22.

Ambulance: Bound Tree Medical, LLC 562.62, Burnell's Foodtown 296.51, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 117.39, Hartelco 46.12, Hiway 84 Auto & RV Wash 15.50, Matheson Tri-Gas Inc. 73.68, Northeast Community College 1,252.00, U.S. Cellular 140.36, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 525.00.

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 57.60.

Pool: Hartington Shopper 179.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company 142.88.

Library: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 2,573.29, Bank of Hartington 333.34, Burnell's Foodtown 13.99, Carhart Lumber Co. 98.99, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 449.00, Hartelco 161.78, Mutual of Omaha 14.40, Usable Life 29.00.

City Hall: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 3,638.10, Bank of Hartington 166.67, Burnell's Foodtown 19.04, Colonial Life 140.18, Dixie Fischer 100.00, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 529.75, Hartington Ace Hardware 5.49, Hometown Leasing 62.05, Mutual of Omaha 14.40, Northeast Nebraska Clerks Association 20.00, Usable Life 29.00.

Economic Development: Frankling Templeton Investor Services, LLC 257.70, Hartelco 47.58, Hometown Leasing 31.02, Mutual of Omaha 7.20, Usable Life 14.50.

Transfer Station: Gill Hauling, Inc. 1,136.37, Hartelco 47.43, Jerry's Service 927.86, Menards, Inc. 353.07, Overhead Door Company 23,104.00, Peitz Service 9.22.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM. The next scheduled meeting is February 24th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittini Bencoter
City Clerk-Treasurer