

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

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting and April, 2025 Treasurer's report was made by Councilman Sudbeck and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Council reviewed an Application for Permit to Sell Permissible Fireworks at Retail by Fly By Night Fireworks. Clerk Bencoter explained that she spoke with them and they stated it was the exact same as last year and at the same location. A motion to approve the Application for Permit to Sell Permissible Fireworks at Retail by Fly By Night Fireworks was made by Councilman Kathol and seconded by Councilman Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker stated last year there were concerns with the safety of children on the highway during the fireworks display. He stated the event is getting larger and asked if there was a way to be able to close the highway. Clerk Bencoter explained Council could approve a Resolution to close off the highway like they do for the parade and then it has to be approved by the Nebraska Department of Transportation. She stated there has to be an alternate route for people to get around. Mayor Becker asked to have that on the next meeting.

Councilman Sudbeck introduced Resolution 20250512 for the Sale of Real Property. The Resolution would be for the sale of Old Firehall located at 102 E. Centre Street with a minimum reserve of \$200,000. A motion to approve Resolution 20250512 for the Sale of Real Property 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 Kathol reviewed the bid the City received for the siding of the Shelter House. He stated three people contacted him with interest, but only one bid was turned into the City from Randy Kathol Construction for \$20,824. He stated they could wait, but it is getting pretty bad and the work would be done in the fall after the summer use of the Shelter House. A motion to approve the bid from Randy Kathol Construction for siding of the Shelter House at \$20,824 was made by Councilman Sudbeck 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 Interlocal Agreement for Use of School Buses. Clerk Bencoter explained this was the yearly agreement signed for the use of a school bus for summer activities such as swimming. It is the same agreement as last year. A motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Use of School Buses 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 appointment of Chase Dettman to the Hartington Volunteer Fire Department by Fire Chief Ryan Marsh. A motion to approve Chase Dettman to the Hartington Volunteer Fire Department 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 resignation of City Clerk – Treasurer, Brittni Bencoter as of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Himself and Council thanked her for everything she has done for the City in the past 2 years. A motion to approve the resignation of City Clerk – Treasurer, Brittni Bencoter as of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 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.

The April, 2025 Cedar County Sheriff's Report was reviewed. There were 401 hours patrolled. School traffic was 2 hours. Calls of service were 1 Welfare Check, 1 EMS Assist, 2 Traffic Controls. Traffic stops were 3 Verbal Warning, 1 Written Warning, and 0 Citations. 0 Arrests were made.

Clerk Bencoter introduced 3 building permits; Jerrold and Casey Schulte for a storage shed, Holy Trinity Early Learning Center for a storage shed, and Lisa Dendinger for a fire incinerator. She stated the fire incinerator was outside of City limits and Fire Chief Ryan Marsh spoke to her and he stated

he did not have any issues with it. A motion to approve building permits for Jerrold and Casey Schulte, Holy Trinity Early Learning Center, and Lisa Dendinger was made by Councilman Christensen and seconded by Councilman Kathol. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Kathol – yes, Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

#### Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Kathol: The matting for the court has been put down and they painted pickleball court lines.

Pool – Councilman Bartling: The pool is set to open around the 26<sup>th</sup>, they will be cleaning it this week and sign up night is tonight.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: As of now there are 2 bidders very interested in the track and they have a few options in different types of track. If they go with asphalt there are grant opportunities as well. Councilman Kathol asked about funding for the project and Councilman Sudbeck stated they have some money in the Verizon rental account and the complex accounts that can be put towards the project.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: none.

General – Mayor Becker: none.

Legal Counsel Nikki Brandt: The City has received a summons regarding a property that was bought on a tax sale with a lien the City has on the property. She stated the City could remove the lien, which was put on in 2022 for non-payment of a transfer station bill of around \$240, or the City can keep the lien and if the person selling the property gets more than they bought it from, the City would then get its money.

Clerk Benscoter: It is time for health insurance renewal and the rates will be going up 18% this year for around \$1,100 estimated increase per month. She stated Matt Dresden did do comparisons and this policy is still the cheapest in comparison to plans, even with the increase.

Deputy Clerk Schulte: none.

Public Comments: Rob Dump with Cedar County News asked what the City's intentions were on replacing the City Clerk – Treasurer. Mayor Becker stated they are in talks with Deputy Clerk Schulte and will have decisions soon and then can advertise for a Deputy Clerk if she takes the position.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General:	Community Redevelopment Authority 2,009.87, FP Finance Program 115.98, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 233.12, Hartelco 305.48, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, Reynolds & Brandt 500.00, Northeast Nebraska News Company 188.99.
Streets:	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,774.68, Bank of Hartington 266.66, Barco Municipal Products Inc. 525.98, Carhart Lumber Co. 27.98, Colonial Life 27.22, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 2,103.11, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 688.24, Grossenburg Implement 600.00, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 57.48, Leise Concrete 22,560.00, Menards, Inc. 52.41, U.S. Cellular 172.66, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 329.83.
Water:	Barco Municipal Products, Inc. 315.87, Fischer Feed & Supply 213.90, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 738.37, Municipal Supply Inc. 37.98, One Call Concepts, Inc. 14.46, Peitz Service 51.70.
Sewer:	Barco Municipal Products Inc. 315.87, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 991.24, Franklin Templeton Services LLC 724.62, Hartelco 66.60, Hartington Ace Hardware 43.94, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 89.48, Northeast Ag Consulting 150.00, One Call Concepts Inc. 14.47, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 88.79.
Sanitation:	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 887.34, Bank of Hartington 83.33, Colonial Life 129.66, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 631.12, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 461.05, Grossenburg Implement 4.59, L.P. Gill Inc. 8,405.10, U.S. Cellular 83.62.
Fire:	Fyr Tek 2,699.19, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 336.49, Hartelco 46.21, Hartington Shopper 295.00, NP Mart 24 28.35, Wiechelman's Repair Shop 35.00.

Ambulance: Ambill Associates, LLC 1,015.00, Burnell's Foodtown 159.16, Fischer Feed & Supply 34.24, Hartelco 46.22, Hartington Ace Hardware 12.99, U.S. Cellular 140.38.

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 57.60, Maverick Heine 950.00, Toby Heine 950.00.

Recreation: Plumbing & Electric 1,079.12.

Pool: B. Steffen 51.63, Hartington Shopper 253.50, Kneifl Paint & Caulk 8,000.00, Team Topia 150.00.

Parks: Art Kathol Appliance, Inc. 189.68, Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 55.37, Grossenburg Implement 64.89, Hartington Tree 262.80, Hartington Ace Hardware 61.71, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 31.38, Jerry's Service 170.63, Northeast Nebraska News Company 315.20, Plumbing & Electric 21.88, Tri-State Turf & Irrigation LLC 838.00, Yankton Janitorial Supply, Inc. 196.00.

Complex: Plumbing & Electric 1,452.54, Tri-State Turf & Irrigation, LLC 400.00, X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 1,700.00.

Library: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 2,573.29, Bank of Hartington 333.34, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 670.86, Hartelco 161.83, Northeast Nebraska News Company 52.50, Tri-State Turf & Irrigation, LLC 166.12.

City Hall: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 3,638.10, Bank of Hartington 166.67, Burnell's Foodtown 11.45, Colonial Life 140.18, Eakes Office Solutions 14.49, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 334.69, Hometown Leasing 62.05, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 260.00.

Auditorium: Appeara 75.46.

Economic Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC 392.80, Hartelco 47.85, Hometown Leasing 31.02.

Transfer Station: Farmers Union Coop Gas & Oil 755.81, Franklin Templeton Investor Services LLC 64.39, Hartelco 47.47, Hartington Shopper 244.80, Jerry's Service 622.00.

Hi-Fi: BOKF, NA 36,803.65.

City Shop: Certified Testing Services Inc. 1,486.00, Concrete Product Co. 1,487.50, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts, Inc. 2,500.00, League of Association of Risk Management 221.58, RaDec Construction Co. Inc. 231,496.95.

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, 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 5:37 PM. The next scheduled meeting is May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittni Benscoter  
City Clerk-Treasurer