

The Hartington City Council met on April 11, 2022 at the city hall for their regular meeting beginning at 7:00 P.M. Notice of time and place of the meeting was given in the advance notice by posting. Notice of time and place of the meeting was communicated in the advance notice to the mayor and council.

Present were Mayor Becker; Councilmen Bartling, Peitz, and Sudbeck; City Clerk-Treasurer Schaecher; Deputy Clerk de Waal; and Legal Advisor Pier. Councilman Christensen was absent.

Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., followed by all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the open meeting 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 of the March 28, 2022 meeting and the March 2022 Treasurer's Report was made by Bartling and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The March 2022 Cedar County Sheriff's report was distributed by Deputy Zimmer. There were 326 ¼ hours patrolled. School traffic was 4 hours. Calls of service were 1 accident, 2 welfare checks, 1 traffic control, 1 open door, and 1 alarm. Traffic stops were 6 verbal warnings, 9 written warnings and 3 citations. There were 3 arrests.

Clerk Schaecher reported that Peg Anderson, from Anderson and Anderson Insurance, requested to reschedule to April 25, 2022 to present the EMC Insurance dividend check.

The Arbor Day Proclamation was read by Mayor Becker. The City of Hartington has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Ordinance No. 879 – Establishing Rates for Receipt and Disposal of Garbage at the City Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Center was introduced by Councilman Sudbeck. A motion to dispense with the readings on three separate days was made by Bartling and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. A motion to adopt Ordinance No. 879 was made by Peitz and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20220411 – Establishing Rates for Water, Sewer, and Garbage Services was the next item on the agenda. Councilman Bartling and Councilman Peitz each voiced concerns about the rate increases for water and sewer. Councilman Bartling also stated he would like to hear the report from the auditor and would like to have the entire council present for a vote. A motion to table the resolution until April 25, 2022 was made by Bartling and seconded by Peitz. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker discussed the personnel policy updates that included holiday and vacation changes. Mayor Becker stated the vacation policy is very important in the hiring process and the City is trying to propose benefits similar to the County. Mayor Becker stated the City has been trying to hire a sanitation position for several months, to no avail. Juneteenth was the added holiday to the policy. A motion to approve the personnel policy updates was made by Councilman Bartling and was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

February and March Income and Expense Reports for the Baseball/Softball Association were presented by Clerk Schaecher. There was no income for February and March. The only expense for February was League Dues to Ralph Bishop League in the amount of \$300.00. The expenses for March were 2 tournament registrations to Brandon Valley Baseball Association in the amounts of \$350.00 each, for a total of \$700.00. A motion was made to approve the expenses by Councilman Bartling and was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Big Hair Brewhaus request to block Broadway Avenue from Main Street to Anderson Body Shop for Cedar County News 30-Year and Big Hair Brewhaus 1-Year Anniversary on May 21, 2022. Councilman Peitz made a motion to approve the request and this was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Kyle Overturf from AMGL approached the Mayor and Council to discuss the 2021 audit. Kyle reported that the General Fund was upside down by around \$500,000 last year and is now \$340,000, so we are moving in the right direction. Kyle told the Mayor and Council that Hartington has nice property tax valuation and the Westfield Acres TIF is almost paid off, so Hartington is in a good position to turn things around. Councilman Bartling asked Kyle what the biggest concern would be and Kyle stated the sanitation/transfer station is a big problem, as the revenue is not covering the expenses. Clerk Schaecher asked Kyle for suggestions on how to curb the baseball expenses, as the City has already spent what was budgeted for the year. Kyle stated the association will need to find ways to do fundraisers, as that is what he sees other towns do.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Peitz: None

Pool/Interim Gun Range – Councilman Bartling: None

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: There have been 3 track meets already at the complex. The door has been fixed at the auditorium. July 5th is the set date for the back outside wall coating at the auditorium.

Fire/Ambulance – Councilman Christensen: Absent

General – Mayor Becker: None

Steve Pier: None

Clerk Schaecher: None

Deputy Clerk de Waal: None

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked for a copy of the new ordinance and Kyle also gave him a copy of the audit.

The following bills were presented for payments:

General: AMGL 15,885.00, BOKF 13,276.25, Cornhusker Press 81.05, EMC Insurance 7,957.24, Floral Designs 57.78, Great America Financial Services 105.00, Hartelco 340.51, Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association 1,061.63, Northeast Nebraska News Company 238.76, and Plumbing & Electric 17,113.10

Streets: Appeara 50.00, Bank of Hartington 2,536.89, Colonial Life 27.22, EMC Insurance 1,213.58, Farmers Union Coop 680.47, Grossenburg Implement 1,773.45, Kruse True Value 31.24, NPPD 2,918.66, Peitz Service 3,590.62, Rose Equipment 117.48, Steffen Electric 150.50, Team Lab 4,127.00, and US Cellular 59.83

Water: EMC Insurance 910.19, Hartington Shopper 114.54, C. Kramer 166.66, NPPD 403.74, One Call Concepts 44.57, Peitz Service 90.53, and Wiechelman's Repair Shop 20.00

Sewer: EMC Insurance 1,310.12, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts 428.19, Hartington Shopper 114.53, C. Kramer 166.67, Midwest Laboratories 454.00, and NPPD 2,783.13

Sanitation: Bank of Hartington 166.66, Colonial Life 263.02, EMC Insurance 1,117.05, Farmers Union Coop 475.23, Fischer Feed & Supply 1,368.00, Hartington Shopper 114.53, C. Kramer 166.67, LP Gill 5,559.05, Stop N Go 433.51, and Wiechelman's Repair Shop 5,601.49

Fire: Carhart Lumber 53.59, D&J Variety 18.49, Dearborn National Life 114.56, EMC Insurance 482.67, Farmers Union Coop 428.02, Feilmeier Electric 336.43, Hartelco 45.41, Hartington Shopper 147.00, Keith's Package Liquor 60.34, Leise Lawn Care 85.00, NPPD 124.18, Peitz Service 296.12, Stop N Go 50.69, and Yankton Janitorial Supply 104.00

Police: Cedar County Sheriff 13,398.56

Ambulance: Burnell's Foodtown 35.17, D&J Variety 18.50, EMC Insurance 317.19, Hartelco 45.42, NPPD 92.60, Stop N Go 109.27, US Cellular 186.40, and Western Iowa Tech 95.00

Cemetery: Cedar Knox Rural Water 58.30

Recreation: Carhart Lumber 2,473.20 and NPPD 63.16

Pool: NPPD 47.37

Parks: Carhart Lumber 29.99, NPPD 287.54, and Plumbing & Electric 723.32

Complex: Hartelco 43.54, Kruse True Value 9.88, NPPD 77.37, Plumbing & Electric 433.92, and Tri-State Turf & Irrigation 725.00

Library: Bank of Hartington 333.34, D&J Variety 122.79, Hartelco 170.07, Kruse True Value 7.99, and NPPD 162.96

City Hall: Colonial Life 49.40, D&J Variety 54.90, Eakes Office Solutions 83.10, D. Fischer 112.50, NPPD 286.47, and Ramada Inn 464.75

Auditorium: Appeara 118.00, R. Kathol 660.00, NPPD 95.17, and X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 185.00

Economic
Development: Eakes Office Solutions 35.55, Floral Designs 57.78, and Hartelco 52.92

Transfer
Station: EMC Insurance 482.67, Farmers Union Coop 654.99, Gill Hauling 876.96, Hartelco 45.88, and Wiechelman's Repair Shop 245.00

Total payroll for the month of March was \$47,738.76.

A motion to pay the bills, in addition to Bank of Hartington for \$83.33 and NEDA for \$200.00, and except for the Peitz Service bill, was made by Councilman Bartling and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. A motion was made to pay the Peitz Service bill by Councilman Bartling and was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Sudbeck – yes, and Becker – yes. Motion carried. Peitz abstained and signed a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bartling and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for April 25, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher
City Clerk - Treasurer