

The Hartington City Council met on April 26, 2021 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 Peitz, Sudbeck, and Bartling; City Clerk – Treasurer Schaecher; and Deputy Clerk Carlson. Councilman Christensen arrived late and Legal Advisor Pier 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 April 12, 2021 meeting was made by Peitz and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The March 2021 Cedar County Sheriff's report was distributed by Deputy Thoene. There were 389 hours patrolled. School traffic was 5 ¼ hours. Calls of service were 1 death investigation, 3 welfare checks, 1 assist other agency, 1 accident, 3 animal complaints, and 1 disturbance. Traffic stops were 3 verbal warnings, 5 written warnings, and 2 citations. There were 2 arrests. Mayor Becker had a question for Deputy Thoene regarding a particular incident and Deputy Thoene stated he would have Sheriff Koranda call the Mayor.

A building permit for Lance Heine - Garage was presented and reviewed. Councilman Bartling made a motion to approve the permit and this was seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20210426 – Bank Authorization was introduced by Councilman Peitz. This resolution removes Shelly Becker as Deputy Clerk and adds Marti Carlson as Deputy Clerk. A motion to adopt the authorization was made by Peitz and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling –yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Brandon Baller submitted a yearly TIF report to the Council for their packets. Clerk Schaecher stated Brandon's report had no significant changes from last year. The report will be mailed to the governing body of the county, school district, community college, educational service unit, and natural resources district whose property taxes are affected by such division of taxes. The mailing is to be in compliance with State Statute 18-2117.02.

Kyle Overturf from AMGL approached the Mayor and Council to discuss the 2020 audit. Kyle stated the depreciation schedule that Mike Pommer submitted last year cannot be relied on, so the goal is to get more information for next year. Kyle reported that the General Fund was upside down by around \$500,000 and has been this way for at least 5 years. Kyle stated that their firm does benchmarking and compared Hartington to other similar towns in population throughout the state. Kyle told the Mayor and Council that Hartington has nice property tax valuation, and due to this, Hartington is in a good position to turn things around. Councilman Peitz asked how next year's budget should be handled and Kyle stated the wants have to be cut out, scale back on spending, and reallocate debt service dollars. Kyle also said since the City has an interlocal agreement with the County Sheriff's Department, the tax levy could be increased. Clerk Schaecher asked if the airport will be audited separately next year and Kyle stated the audits can be separate, but it is cheaper to combine. Councilman Christensen stated he could not understand how the reports appear to be, "doom and gloom, but we still pay our bills." Mayor Becker stated he liked the benchmarking and being compared to other towns.

Roman Sudbeck discussed with the Mayor and Council that the auditorium is experiencing a leak, located at the north exterior wall. The cost estimate presented was \$29,750.00. Since this was not a budget item, Sudbeck was asked by members if there could be a temporary fix and what an estimated cost could be. Sudbeck stated patching the leak could possibly cost around \$5,000.00. Councilman Peitz made a motion to patch the north exterior wall with the costs to not exceed \$6,000.00 and this was seconded by Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker discussed information that was placed in the packets from Miranda Becker, Economic Development Coordinator, regarding vacant buildings in the downtown area and how other towns are encouraging owners to rent or sell these buildings, instead of using them for personal storage.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Peitz: None

Pool/Interim Gun Range – Councilman Bartling: The new filter is going to need a fence around it, so a contractor has been contacted.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: None for the auditorium. The press box expansion was discussed with Trent Becker, but no estimate has been established yet. Research is being done for track repair costs.

Fire/Ambulance-Councilman Christensen: None

General – Mayor Becker: None

Steve Pier: Absent

Clerk Schaecher: None

Deputy Clerk Carlson: None

Public Comments: Rob Dump stated he would like to talk with Mayor Becker at a later time regarding the audit and requested a copy of the audit. Mayor Becker stated he chose AMGL, as this company has followed Mike Pommer’s work with other communities. Mayor Becker also stated that he likes the fact that this company offers information on how the City compares to other towns in population size.

The following bills were presented for payment:

General:	AMGL 15.900.00, BOKF, NA 13,975.00, and Utility Equipment Company 301.75
Streets:	Black Hills Energy 656.02, Bomgaars 845.94, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 509.96, Leise Concrete 2,752.50, and USAble Life 14.50
Water:	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 2,585.08, Cedar-Knox PPD 906.81, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 313.71, Hawkins 1,224.35, Municipal Pipe Services 3,800.00, Nebraska Public Health 15.00, and USAble Life 14.50
Sewer:	Black Hills Energy 71.23
Sanitation:	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 1,745.40, Bomgaars 56.98, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 524.30, Stop N Go 387.39, and USAble Life 29.00
Fire:	Black Hills Energy 120.93, Dearborn National Life 215.36, Stop N Go 70.98, and Tri-State Communications 190.20
Ambulance:	Black Hills Energy 120.92 and Bomgaars 1,369.87
Cemetery:	Cedar Knox Rural Water 55.00
Recreation:	B. Heimes 55.00
Pool:	Black Hills Energy 30.25 and Recreonics 392.91
Parks:	Bomgaars 47.88
Complex:	Bomgaars 13.78
Library:	Advantage Archives 417.62, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska 4,720.78, Black Hills Energy 244.19, Collaborative Summer Library Program 195.97, Demco 231.65, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 316.80, Hometown Leasing 48.40, Ingram 453.69, M. Frederick 22.00, Midamerica Books 365.10, Midwest Tape 126.43, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 70.00, Penworthy 149.60, USAble Life 29.00, and X-Pert lawn and Landscaping 322.00
City Hall:	Black Hills Energy 73.51, Bomgaars 11.58, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 311.28, P. Guy 100.00, Premier Lawn & Landscaping 140.00, and USAble Life 29.00

Auditorium: Black Hills Energy 390.00 and X-Pert Lawn and Landscaping 160.00

Economic
Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services 181.44

Transfer
Station: Bomgaars 123.91, Cedar-Knox PPD 170.17, Deere Credit 461.28, and Pomp's Tire Service
61.00

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, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peitz and seconded by Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Christensen – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for May 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher
City Clerk - Treasurer