

The Hartington City Council met on May 24, 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 was absent and Legal Advisor Pier was present via zoom.

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 May 10, 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 April 2021 Cedar County Sheriff's report was distributed by Deputy Schultz. There were 364 ½ hours patrolled. School traffic was 6 ¼ hours. Calls of service were 4 EMS assists, 2 welfare checks, 2 uncontrollable juveniles, 1 disturbance, 3 accidents, 2 suspicious persons, 1 alarm, 2 animal complaints, and 1 open door. Traffic stops were 1 verbal warning, 1 written warning, and 2 citations. There were 4 arrests.

The X-Pert Lawn & Landscaping Complex Maintenance Agreement was presented and discussed. The cost of their services is going to increase by \$1,200.00 from last year, which is the sum of \$10,200.00, payable in \$1,700.00 monthly installments from June to November. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Peitz and seconded by Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

A fireworks permit was presented and reviewed from Fly By Night Fireworks, LLC. Peitz 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.

Building permits were presented and reviewed from Taylor Johnson – Deck and Stan and Julie Becker – House. A motion was made by Peitz and seconded by Bartling to approve the permits. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

The City of Hartington's Personnel Policy was the next item on the agenda. Clerk Schaecher stated additional holidays were approved by Mayor Becker, so these corrections were made and an error of when vacation balances are computed each year was noticed by Clerk Schaecher, which also needed to be corrected. Mayor Becker stated he felt the vacation leave needed to be researched and compared to other municipalities, as it is becoming a deterrent for new hires. Clerk Schaecher requested the sick leave to also be researched. Councilman Peitz made a motion to table the policy updates until further research is done on leave. This was seconded by Councilman Sudbeck. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

Park – Councilman Peitz: A mower is having some problems, so Grossenburg Implement is trying to figure out what is wrong with it. There is no flag pole at the City Cemetery, so this is being checked into, along with a solar light.

Pool/Interim Gun Range – Councilman Bartling: Water is in the pool, with weather permitting, it should open on Friday or Saturday.

Complex/Auditorium – Councilman Sudbeck: Track is done for the season. Baseball helmet and bat racks are being installed, along with signs for field 1 and field 2. The auditorium leak repairs have been completed.

Fire/Ambulance-Councilman Christensen: Absent

General – Mayor Becker: None

Steve Pier: The City is to receive approximately \$200,000.00 from the Clifford Phillips Estate. There are no restrictions on how to spend the money. The exact amounts change as the markets change. Fire should receive roughly \$55,000.00, Ambulance \$55,000, Felber Park \$30,000.00, and the

Library \$45,000.00. Each amount needs to be earmarked for the department. A nice thought would be to inform Clifford's brother and sister as to how the money was used.

Clerk Schaecher: None

Deputy Clerk Carlson: None

Public Comments: Rob Dump asked if the Mayor had asked for more patrolling due to the recent break-ins around town. Mayor Becker stated the break-ins are going on all over the county. The Cedar County Sheriff's Office has advised locking your doors and to report something out of the ordinary. Rob Dump also asked for an update on the street projects. Mayor Becker stated Broadway may be opened up this week. There have been some water issues on Madison Avenue, but they should be able to move forward and are ahead of the deadline.

The following bills were presented for payment:

General: Great America Financial Services 125.16, Kennedy, Pier, Loftus, & Reynolds, LLP 400.00, and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 26,393.84

Streets: Black Hills Energy 419.78, Colonial Research Chemical 214.11, Fischer Feed & Supply 25.50, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 520.38, Hartington Auto & Truck Parts 19.67, NPPD 3,359.27, and Pomp's 495.00

Water: Cedar-Knox PPD 937.97, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 358.37, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 13,239.16, Nebraska Public Health 134.00, and NPPD 459.21

Sewer: Black Hills Energy 67.81, Hach Company 326.36, Midwest Laboratories 389.00, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 2,738.04, NPPD 2,954.19, and Wied-N-Ridge 2,950.00

Sanitation: Franklin Templeton Investor Services 535.09, LP Gill 6,292.86, and Stop N Go 99.23

Fire: Black Hills Energy 38.53, Feilmeier Electric 79.25, Leise Lawn Care 105.00, NPPD 122.90, and Tri-State Turf & Irrigation 457.85

Ambulance: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital 411.38, Black Hills Energy 38.53, Emergency Medical Products 149.23, and NPPD 91.32

Recreation: T. Grutsch 74.46 and NPPD 63.16

Pool: Black Hills Energy 30.25, Hawkins 2,500.40, and NPPD 47.37

Parks: Drahota Landscape Design 647.85, Mike's Electric 601.04, and NPPD 380.06

Complex: Fischer Feed & Supply 5.00, Mike's Electric 601.04, Memphis Net & Twine 656.64, and NPPD 47.37

Library: Black Hills Energy 132.70, Centurion Technologies 79.00, Eakes Office Solutions 88.36, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 316.80, G. Miller 633.00, Hartington Chamber of Commerce 45.00, Hometown Leasing 48.40, Ingram 736.83, Midwest Tape 35.48, NPPD 172.53, Tri-State Turf & Irrigation 39.62, and WT Cox-Information Services 126.34

City Hall: Black Hills Energy 57.58, Franklin Templeton Investor Services 319.96, P. Guy 100.00, League of Nebraska Municipalities 325.00, and NPPD 253.41

Auditorium: Black Hills Energy 179.48, NPPD 100.31, and R. Sudbeck 4,895.00

Economic
Development: Franklin Templeton Investor Services 181.44 and Noun Photography and Graphics 95.00

Transfer
Station: Cedar-Knox PPD 145.94, Deere Credit 461.28, and Fischer Feed & Supply 20.00

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

seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Becker – yes. Motion carried. Sudbeck abstained and signed a Potential Conflict of Interest Statement.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sudbeck and seconded by Peitz. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling – yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for June 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher
City Clerk - Treasurer