

The Hartington City Council met on August 31, 2020 at the city hall for 2 public hearings and a special 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 Sudbeck, Bartling, and Peitz; City Clerk – Treasurer Schaecher, Deputy Clerk Carlson, and Legal Advisor Pier. Councilmen Christensen was absent.

Mayor Becker opened the public hearing for the Local Option Municipal Sales Tax of a Total of One and a Half Percent (1½%) to Place on the General Election Ballot to be Held on November 03, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. Tim Burbach approached the Council, with the question of, “Why the need for the increase and why the need for the increased amount for Economic Development?” Councilman Peitz stated the downtown revitalization project was started prior to him becoming mayor and the 1% city sales tax was a need for making bond payments. Mayor Becker stated the City has been using equipment that is getting older, the City Shop is in rough shape, and there are much needed infrastructure improvements such as the storm sewer and certain streets. Councilman Peitz stated Madison Avenue repairs have been pushed off for years. Tim Burbach stated he agreed with the Council on the need for infrastructure and equipment, but was wondering why the increase for Economic Development. Chris Miller stated the percentages for how the tax revenue is divided remains the same. Tim Burbach made the suggestion to make the voters aware of how the current tax revenue has been used. Mayor Becker stated the City and Economic Development are working together on educational materials to present to the public prior to the election. Tim Burbach commended the Mayor and Council on the job they are doing. Rob Dump asked the Council what will be done to promote the sales tax increase. Miranda Becker, Economic Development Coordinator, stated she is working on a power point presentation to be played on Cedarvision, there will be articles placed in the newspaper, there will be a mailer in the City utility statements, the website will have a display, and there will be flyers. Miranda Becker also stated a town hall meeting may be a possibility. Councilman Peitz stated a if a town hall meeting would take place, it would have to be held somewhere in which people could be spread out for Covid safety measures. There were no further questions or comments, so Mayor Becker closed the hearing at 7:21 P.M.

Mayor Becker opened the public hearing for the Hartington, Nebraska Economic Development Plan Using Thirty-Five Percent (35%) of the Non-Motor Vehicle Portion of the One and a Half Percent (1½%) Sales Tax to be Placed on the General Election Ballot to be Held on November 03, 2020 at 7:21 P.M. Tim Burbach asked the Council to reiterate that the percentage of the sales tax for Economic Development will remain the same. Mayor Becker stated confirmation that the percentage remains the same. With no further comments, Mayor Becker closed the hearing at 7:22 P.M.

Mayor Becker called the special meeting to order at 7:22 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.

Resolution 20200831 – Placing a Ballot Question to Approve a Total of One and One-Half (1½%) Local Option Municipal Sales Tax in the General Election on November 03, 2020 was introduced by Councilman Peitz. A motion was made by Councilman Peitz to adopt the resolution and this was seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling –yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 20200831A – Placing a Ballot Question to Approve the Hartington, Nebraska Economic Development Plan Using Thirty-Five Percent (35%) of the One and One-Half Percent (1½%) Sales Tax in the General Election on November 03, 2020 was introduced by Councilman Peitz. A motion was made by Councilman Peitz to adopt the resolution and this was seconded by Councilman Bartling. A roll call vote was taken. Bartling –yes, Peitz – yes, and Sudbeck – yes. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

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 7:26 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is for September 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schaecher
City Clerk - Treasurer