

City Council Meeting Minutes  
January 2, 2024

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Schuyler, Nebraska, met in regular session at the Schuyler Municipal Building on January 2, 2024 at 6:00 o'clock PM in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by posting a copy of the notice in three public places in the city, as evidenced by Attachment A hereto, said form of notice being the designated method for giving notice. The Mayor and City Council received advance notice of the meeting. A copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Mayor Lindberg convened the meeting and Clerk Lora Johnson recorded the proceedings. The following council members were present: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Absent: Kretz and Wolfe.

Administrator DeRoos reported he will be meeting with JEO the following week to go over the Street Projects for 2024. They will go over the streets selected in the one- and six-year plan. They will also go over the following years projects to get plans ready earlier to be shovel ready. The Police Station furniture has been cut to less than \$30,000. He has contacted the Bidder and the Historical Society about the Ballroom roof replacement bid requirements and adjustments to the bid. He is waiting to hear back from the Historical Society. The roofer agreed to the changes of a California cut and ice and water shield up the whole roof. He would like to schedule a Study Session to discuss vacant buildings on the 16th before the council meeting.

Clerk Johnson reported that the auditor was here the previous week and finished on Friday. She was able to visit with Lindberg and Holmberg. Her full report will come in March. Lindberg stated it was a very informative conversation.

Library Director White reported they will be having activities during the Christmas break of painting ceiling tiles, movies and wii tournament. They will be having a puzzle swap in January.

Economic Development Director Ringenberg reported that the company called 5 Reasons are who would be coming for the study session to explain their process for the vacant buildings. After the study session it will then be decided by the City Council if they would like to move forward. There is a potential to have a data center come to Schuyler. The Downtown Revitalization has been working on Adopt a Pot program and have an MOU with the City that will come to the Council. She will be getting the Schuyler Community Guide updated with NPPD and Loup Public Power. The Midwinter Leadership Summit will be February 16<sup>th</sup>. She has been working on restaurant outreach and a Godfathers to Go. She also has several grants in process. One is Save America's Treasures. The Railside Green Statewide Arboretum is a grant for plantings and trimming. She continues work on the Brownfield Grant. Then putting in a grant for the Eagles into the USDA Rural Development Energy Efficiency Grant. Last, she is going to start the Downtown Creative District Grant. She does have concern of all the grants possibly coming through at the same time.

Housing Specialist Bywater reported he has been looking into Micro TIF to be used for single projects for smaller developers. This would have to be passed by the City Council in Ordinance. He met with the Utilities to discuss the Mares Property and the plotting of the land into a subdivision. He met with a few demolition crews about the demolition of the Top Notch and they are giving an estimate around \$250,000. The Schuyler Home Builders closed on their home last week, returning \$125,000 back to the LB840 fund. He will be out of office from the 4<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Council member Baumert moved to approve the December 19, 2023 and December 28, 2023 council meetings minutes and dispense with its reading. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Holmberg moved to approve payment of claims for the period from December 16, 2023 through December 29, 2023, in the amount of \$181,861.60 and the following exceeding \$1,000: JEO, Eng. Fees, Streets, \$23,135.00; 402 Electric, Elect. Range, Police, \$2,887.49; Bomgaars, Supplies, Streets/Admin/Special Projects, \$1,281.74; Midwest Service & Sales, Parts/Labor, Streets, \$2,794.00. All claims under \$1,000 listed on (Attachment 1). Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

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January 2, 2024

Council member Baumert moved to authorize pay application #12 for Schuyler Police Station Renovation in the amount of \$352,516.66 to Rogge General Contractors. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Holmberg moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Compliance on Maintenance Agreement No. 79 with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Baumert moved to approve to seek bids for a 2024 Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicle AWD for the Police Department being funded with ARPA Funds. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Administrator DeRoos stated this is a change in what was budgeted for as we are not able to get a Ford Interceptor. They are not producing any until December. A Durango is four months out. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one.

Mayor Lindberg opened a discussion on Police Incentive Pay. Lindberg stated this is about housing incentives for only Police Officers who live in Schuyler. Chief Farber stated it only covers Police Officers not hire ranking officers. Lindberg would like to change the policy to include officers of every rank that live in Schuyler. Council member Holmberg asked if there is a reason they weren't included. Farber stated he thinks at that time when officers were promoted, they didn't need any special incentives. With the state of policing now it is an arms race with other departments to get and retain officers. He has a meeting January 8<sup>th</sup> with Senator Flood to represent cities of our size to discuss everything going on with policing and everyone short officers. What can they do to get people back into wanting to go into law enforcement. Any incentives they can offer to recruit and retain officers. If they know they can go down the road and get more incentives they are going to go. The rate currently is \$500 every six months. He would like to see an increase to the rate as well to \$750 or \$1,000 every six months. He thinks it will help and make them more competitive. Mayor Lindberg asked how many officers currently live in the city limits. Chief Farber responded currently it is just two sergeants and the chief that live here but do not receive an incentive. Clerk Johnson stated currently no officer is receiving this incentive. Council member Holmberg stated he thinks the amount should be raised to \$1,000 with being 4 officers short. Officers are leaving due to different benefits and incentives offered elsewhere. Lindberg stated he also wants to point out the safety of the officers when there are no officers living in town and they need back up it takes more response time to have them come from out of town. The Chief and Sergeants are on call one weekend a month. Council member Kasik stated the School also has an incentive program for living in town. Attorney Seckman asked what year this was started. Farber stated back in 2008 and has not been changed since then.

Council member Baumert moved to adjourn. Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Mayor Art Lindberg

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City Clerk

STATE OF NEBRASKA)  
COUNTY OF COLFAX) SS  
CITY OF SCHUYLER)

I, Lora Johnson, City Clerk for the City of Schuyler, Nebraska, hereby certify that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for said meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that the minutes of the City Council of Schuyler, Nebraska, from which the foregoing proceedings have

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January 2, 2024

been extracted, were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next council meeting.

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City Clerk Lora Johnson