

City Council Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Schuyler, Nebraska, met in regular session at the Schuyler Municipal Building on November 15, 2022 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 Knutson convened the meeting and Clerk Lora Johnson recorded the proceedings. The following council members were present: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Absent: no one.

Mayor Knutson announced a retirement reception on Thursday, November 17th from 5 to 7 PM for Jim McGowen Utility Superintendent at the Ballroom.

Colfax Foundation member Fran Sobota addressed the council to provide an update. They would like to create a collaboration with the City and the Foundation. They are hoping this project will give the foundation more visibility in order to receive more endowments. They have started to pursue a Public Works Grant through NENEDD in the amount of \$250,000 to \$400,000 with a 25% match. They plan to add to the original plans at the corner 12th & B, restrooms, a fence and additional concrete. They will be back to the City when they have heard back from the grant to discuss financing, vision, and MOU.

Council member Baumert moved to appoint Keith Hajek as Utility Superintendent. Council member Holmberg seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Kretz complimented the Police on helping citizens in need with changing a battery in a car and helping with squirrels in an attic.

Attorney Seckman reported he is working on an MOU for the Colfax County Veteran's Memorial at the Oak Ballroom.

Administrator DeRoos reviewed the JEO project status report. He stated the asphalt overlay project will not be bid out until January of 2023. America's Pathway is nearing completion. The Storm Sewer Flap Gate project is also almost completed, it still needs to be seeded and that will wait for spring. Council member Holmberg and Kretz met with DeRoos and city staff to discuss the rental agreement for the Oak Ballroom. He is also looking at some Point of Sale Software to be able to update how it is being tracked at the ballroom now.

Clerk Johnson reported she has been doing training on the new time clocks and digital sign. She announced the auditors will be here on the 22nd and 23rd if anyone would like to speak to them. The reorganizational meeting will be December 6th at 6:30 PM.

Emergency Manager Evert stated it's time to get your flu and covid booster shots. If you don't feel good stay home. You may see people wearing masks and that's ok it's their choice.

Police Chief Farber reported John Dodge has submitted his resignation and will be taking a job outside of law enforcement and his last day is November 25th.

Streets and Park Manager Colvin reported they got the new street sweeper and skid steer. The skid steer was fitted for a new snow plow. They have done some research on a salt shed and found a company that makes dome canvas structures that sit on shipping containers. They are continuing to research installation of this type of structure.

Library Director White reported they have Spanish literacy classes online along with the English as well. They will be coming up with activities for the children during winter break.

Building Inspector Glodowski reported that our ordinance does not allow for shipping containers within the city. He has been working with Attorney Seckman to update the ordinance to allow them in certain areas.

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Economic Development Director Brandenburgh reported that next week the benches will be installed at America's Pathway. They are working with the NENEDD on ARPA funds for the Center in the amount of \$15,000. She introduced Carol Ringenberg as the new Economic Development Director on November 21st.

Housing Specialist Bywater reported that he has been in contact with Senator Fischer's office about flood control and levee issues. They will have a conference call with one of her aids on the 16th, also attending will be Flood Plain Administrator Glodowski and Administrator DeRoos.

Council member Rodriguez moved to approve the November 1, 2022 council meeting minutes and dispense with its reading. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Holmberg moved to approve payment of claims for the period from October 29, 2022 through November 11, 2022, in the amount of \$546,922.79 and the following exceeding \$1,000: Rose Equipment, Street Sweeper, ARPA-Sp. Projects, \$25,872.52; Sirsi Corporation, Software Maintenance, Library, \$7,463.36; Colfax County Food Pantry, Supplies, CDBG Grant, \$25,179.61; Axon Enterprise, Inc., Tasers, Police, \$2,831.88; JEO, Eng. Fees, Police-Sp. Project/Admin, \$35,416.15; Visa-Pinnacle Bank, Council Tech/Supplies, Admin/Streets, \$2,496.22; Karel & Seckman, Legal Fees, Police-Sp. Projects/Admin, \$1,727.00; Titan Machinery, Skid Steer, Streets, \$49,800.00; RDG, Housing Study, LB840, \$3,915.00; Electronic Engineering, Equipment, Police, \$1,163.45; Stephanie Harder, Refund, Ballroom, \$1,100.00. All claims under \$1,000 listed on (Attachment 1). Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Holmberg moved to approve the October 2022 Treasurer's Report. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Mayor Knutson opened a public hearing to hear testimony of support and opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations concerning construction of two new wells and water transmission main improvements as outlined in the Preliminary Engineering Report as required for State Revolving Loan Funding from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

Roger Protzman with JEO was present and presented the proposal to decommission existing Well 21 due to nitrates and install two new Wells to supply the city. The proposed project would consist of installing new municipal wells, buildings and associated piping to connect to the existing transmission main. A water main will be installed to connect existing Well 14 to the water transmission main so that it can also be used to mitigate certain elevated elemental concentrations if necessary. He reviewed the state agencies comments. (Attachment 2) Attorney Seckman asked how much the loan for the revolving loan is. Protzman stated they applied for 2.65 million from the State Revolving Loan and they are offering 33% loan forgiveness for about \$800,000.

Council member Baumert moved to close the public hearing. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Baumert moved to approve pay application No. 5 to Robert Woehler & Sons Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$46,416.32 for the Channel and Flap Gate Improvements. Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Attorney Seckman asked if we would be pursuing liquidated damages on this project or not. Administrator DeRoos stated that is something that has not been decided yet. Attorney Seckman stated he knows the economy contributed to the delay but there were still significant delays past the contracted end date. Mayor Knutson stated there is still \$13,000 in retainage. He suggests the Administrator get with the JEO Engineer to discuss. Council member Baumert and Rodriguez withdrew their motions. Council member Holmberg moved to table this item. Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

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Council member Holmberg moved to approve health insurance plan with BlueCross BlueShield Nebraska Light Plan with the Nebraska League of Municipalities. Effective Date: December 1, 2022. Council member Rodriguez seconded the motion. Clerk Johnson review this new policy would be \$3,700 a month lower than the current policy. She reviewed the benefits for the employee are better with co-insurance and max out of pocket is significantly lower. Mayor Knutson stated that there will be some growing pains with changing plans but will be beneficial in the future. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Baumert moved to table motion to approve application to the LB840 Contractors and Developers Loan Program in the amount of \$125,000. Council member Kasik seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Holmberg moved to approve for Cargill and the Chamber to host a Holiday Lighted Parade on Sunday, December 11th from 6 PM to 8 PM in the Downtown Area. Council member Baumert seconded the motion. Chamber Director Jedlicka stated the exact route has not been decided. She is working with the Police Chief. There are plans to be able to have the event in cold weather more like a drive-in movie with people able to stay in their vehicles. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

Council member Kretz moved to approve updated rental agreement for the Oak Ballroom. Council member Holmberg seconded the motion. Attorney Seckman asked for the significant changes. Administrator DeRoos stated that rent will be \$1,000 for rental of a Friday or Saturday. The hourly rate would be \$40 for week day. The council reviewed wording and asked for changes to be made to the agreement in the gratuity, alcohol pricing, giving the Ballroom Manager the authority to negotiate price due to size and requirements on security. Council member Kretz changed his motion to approve updated rental rates of \$1,000 for Friday and Saturday rentals and \$40 an hour for week days. Council member Holmberg seconded the motion. Voting for: Baumert, Holmberg, Kasik, Kment, Kretz and Rodriguez. Voting against: no one. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

Mayor Jon Knutson

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

City Clerk Lora Johnson