

Minutes
City Council
May 6, 2019

The City Council of the City of Tecumseh, Nebraska, met in regular session in the Utilities Conference Room at the Utility Shop on the 6th day of May, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advance publicized notice, a copy of the same being annexed to the minutes of the meeting as Attachment #1, said attachment showing how the availability of an agenda of then known subjects was communicated and the time and specific place of the holding of this notice, the same having been transmitted to each Council Member simultaneously. The Mayor presided and the City Clerk recorded the proceedings.

Routine Business

The following Council Members were present: Travis Goracke, Jesse Grof, Garrett Harris, Tim Kluck, Jim Reed, and Lorie Topp. Absent: None. Others present: 3Staff, City Attorney, and 4 members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Mayor Montz read a statement of availability of current copy of Open Meeting Act.

Additions or Corrections to Agenda – None.

Public Comment – None.

Regular Agenda

Johnson County Sheriff Report – Report distributed. They have 2 pending new hires, just waiting for polygraph tests to be completed. They will both need to go to training in September.

City Clerk Report:

a. A summary of committee meeting actions was provided in the council packets.

Street Department Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. Discussed water pooling on 1st Street near the tracks. Not owned by the City – but we have tried to assist with the drainage problem here. Owner has been trying to work with the railroad on this issue. Discussion on Downtown Square project – Need to be thinking about putting more funds away for this as project costs keep increasing (potentially around \$8 million now), our match will be more as well. Estimated timeframe is still 18 months to 2 years. Should look at budget figures and see what we can do in the near future. Terry Kage asked about progress on potholes – staff indicated they will continue work on this now that an asphalt plant has been started west of town – it will be better material and easier to work with as weather permits. Lavern Bartels mentioned a program in Omaha that allows citizens to fill holes themselves.

Economic Development Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. Working with Mr. Young on his vacant building downtown – ED will be repairing the roof and cleaning up the inside some and will be reimbursed by the owner. The old Vet's Club also needs a roof – will be obtaining bids for this. Reviewing 1 proposal for a new business in town. It appears that the owners of the old motel are trying to sell the property. Staff also indicated that Carmine's burned house will be demolished.

Utility Department Report – Doug Goracke gave the report. Staff indicated that Sargent conducted some well tests today, they did some rock shoring on the sewer ponds, they are burying lines to the fairgrounds, they transferred Tecumseh Poultry to the new dedicated line on Sunday, and staff moved 2 lights from the north side of the square to the Veteran’s Memorial site. Those lights will be replaced by new ones that are on order. The Board also approved resolutions to sell the bucket truck and an old pickup. Wage reviews for Janet and Dina were also approved.

Parks Department Report – Staff indicated that we may need to replace basketball court rims on the older backboards. Doug indicated he spoke with Tim Sisco, who will be doing the pool demo. They plan to start in May. Doug indicated that gas service at the pool site needs to be turned off – Lisa will contact Black Hills Energy. Terry Kage asked about removing a dead ash tree on the fence line of his property, adjacent to the park. Doug indicated they would remove it.

Requests for Street Closure:

- a. Music Festival – July 13th – 4th Street between Broadway & Clay – motion by Reed, second by Grof to approve the street closure as requested. Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.
- b. 9-Line Ambulance Service – June 8th – No one was present to propose a specific request. Table until next meeting.

Tabled – Review Livestock regulations in Residential areas. Discussion. Consensus is not to allow livestock in residential areas. No action taken.

Recycling Center – Misuse, trash, etc. – Discussed fencing the area, limiting hours, use of cameras. Would like to try putting up barricades to block access to the alley when the bins are full – and a sign on the barricades indicating they are full at this time. Motion by Reed, second by Grof to barricade the alley and put up a “full” sign when bins are full. Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Motion Carried. Someone mentioned Unadilla’s recycling center and suggested checking with them on how they run theirs. Lisa will contact them.

Tree Dump – had some discussion about monitoring at tree dump. Tim Kluck suggested it might be a good job for a teacher or students during the summer. He indicated he would be willing to take this position on, but that he was told that Council members cannot hold other City employment. Would like to place this on the agenda for next month to discuss advertising for a Tree Dump Monitor position. Would not require any equipment use – want to check with insurance company if person must be 18 years old. No action.

Pride Committee Recommendations – The committee wanted to review the ordinances on abandoned vehicles and parking on residential lots to be sure they are comfortable with the Pride Committee working on enforcement of these ordinances. Council was supportive of enforcement. No action required.

Summer Recreation Personnel & Wages:

- a. Employment of Immediate Family Members Disclosure Statement – Lisa Beethe filed a disclosure statement & declared a conflict with making recommendations for hires for the Summer Activity Coordinator positions. Ms. Beethe’s daughter is an applicant for the position.
- b. Recommendations to hire Summer Activity Coordinators – we received 3 applications for the positions and staff recommends hiring all 3 people. Other staff expressed concern about hiring Ms. Beethe’s daughter or allowing Ms. Beethe to supervise her. The City’s personnel policy manual states that no person shall be employed by the City or the Utilities in a position under supervisory authority of a member of that person’s family. Members of the Council suggested revising this policy to exclude summer recreation employees since these are short-term part-time positions. Will bring a revised policy to the Council for consideration at the next meeting. It was discussed who else could supervise

the group – members of the Parks Committee indicated they would not be able to supervise, the Deputy Clerk said she could supervise if needed. Upon further discussion the Council decided to have the librarians supervise the coordinators this summer. **Motion by Goracke, second by Grof to have the librarians supervise the Summer Recreation Coordinators. Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Topp. Voting Nay: Reed. Motion Carried.** Motion by Goracke, second by Reed to hire all 3 applicants (Morgan Moran, Haley Beethe, and Corral McClintock). Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

c. Recommendations for summer recreation wages – A list of summer recreation personnel and wage recommendations was submitted to the Council for review. There was a question regarding mowing duties for Jesse Grof and why he is able to hold this position while he is a Council member, but others could not. Mr. Grof indicated he would resign this position and to remove him from the summer recreation wage list. Motion by Grof, second by Goracke to approve the 2019 Summer Recreation Personnel & Wages list (minus Jesse Grof's position). Voting Aye: Goracke, Harris, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Abstaining: Grof, Kluck. Motion Carried.

Wage Review for Janet Brown and Dina Harris – completion of probation period. Proposed wage increases are \$0.52 for Dina Harris (to \$17.50/hour) and \$0.50 for Janet Brown (to \$15.50/hour). The Board of Public Works recommends approval of these increases. Motion by Reed, second by Goracke to approve the recommended wage increases. Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Abstaining: Harris. Motion Carried.

Donation of Vacation Time – Any request to donate vacation time is to be approved by the Board of Public Works or Council as appropriate. Lois McClintock requested to received a donated day from another staff member. Motion by Goracke, second by Kluck to approved the donation request. Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Community Building – Roof Leaks – The roofer has not been here to look at the roof yet. We are in Year 4 of the 10 year warranty. No action at this time.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Reed, second by Topp to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting
2. Pay bills for City Funds

Voting Aye: Goracke, Grof, Harris, Kluck, Reed, Topp. Voting Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

Lisa Beethe, City Clerk

William J. Montz, Sr., Mayor