

Tecumseh, Nebraska  
May 5, 2014

The City Council of the City of Tecumseh, Nebraska, met in regular session in the Utilities Conference Room at the Utility Shop on the 5th of May, 2014 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in a publicly convened session, the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advanced publicized notice.

### **Routine Business**

Mayor Montz read a statement of availability of current copy of Open Meeting Act. The following Council Members were present: Jim Philippi, Charles Murphy, Jesse Grof, Kim Jansen and Beth Rossi. Absent: Larry Carmine.

Others present: Ray Kappel, Randy Muhm, Paula Darling, Mike Flood and Doug Goracke.

Clerk Darling stated there were no changes to the agenda from the original posted agenda.

### **Regular Agenda**

The Sheriff's Report was distributed by Deputy Randy Muhm and no comments from the Council were made. Councilmembers Rossi, Murphy and Jansen expressed concerns about the misuse of 4-wheelers, 3-wheelers, dirt bikes and go-carts. Rossi stated that the existing ordinance needs to be changed because it is unenforceable and that she is worried someone is going to get hurt. As the City Attorney was not in attendance, the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Montz was asked about moving the 25 mph sign on 1<sup>st</sup> street to the south, perhaps closer to Broadway and 1<sup>st</sup> St. Councilmember Jansen asked if the crosswalks could be painted at 5<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Streets and 5<sup>th</sup> and Grant. Foreman Goracke stated they would be painting the crosswalks after the armor coating as regular maintenance.

Motion by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Rossi, to approve the final planned 3% increase to the present Sheriff's contract with the City of Tecumseh at a cost of \$125,653.54 per year. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Councilmember Philippi, seconded by Councilmember Grof, to approve both items under agenda item 2 which include a. ENH-49(46) CN# 13214 Tecumseh Historic Square Agreement #2 for Preliminary Engineering Services and b. Resolution No. 14-03 for Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement Supplement Number 2-BO1249 between the City of Tecumseh and Olsson Associates for a transportation project for which the city is obtaining Federal funds. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Mayor reported on behalf of the Parks Department and stated that the Arbor Day Celebration in the park was a success, but the arborist with the NRD stated that the older park trees needed to be trimmed. Doug Goracke stated that the pool house roof would be replaced before the pool opened for the season.

Doug Goracke reported that the Economic Development Board had been working with the City Attorney on determining a plan for purchasing properties at auction for demolition.

Mayor Montz explained that the city had been canceled from the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan it had with NACO and that the city was forced to look at other options for the employees. He stated that he, Beth Rossi, Jim Philippi and city and utility employees met with a NACO health insurance representative who presented several health plans for the city to review. The present BCBS plan costs the city \$13,321.44 per month and it was thought that Co-Opportunity Plan could save the city anywhere between \$42,590.88 and \$26,532.12 a year depending on which CoOpportunity Plan was chosen. He stated that the Board of Public Works had recommended that the Council approve Option H of those plans offered by NACO Benefit Services. Doug Goracke expressed concerns about having insurance with a company that took grant money from the federal government and reminded the Council of a time when the city's insurance was not as good as it is now and the hardship it put on employees, and that employees consider their health insurance as part of the salary package and that good insurance helps employee retention. He also acknowledged there was a large savings to be had and that the savings should not be "left on the table". Clerk Darling asked if the Council would consider increasing the deductible reimbursement from \$1,000 to \$1,100. Motion by Councilmember Grof, seconded by Councilmember Jansen, to approve CoOpportunity Health Insurance Option H of NACO

Benefit Services which would cost \$9,772.20 per month with a deductible of \$1,600 per employee and leave the city reimbursement at \$1,000 toward the deductible. Motion failed by 4-1 roll call vote, with Grof voting yea.

Councilmember Rossi asked the Council if they would consider Option G as the deductible with this option would be \$500 instead of \$1,600. This in turn would decrease the amount of the deductible reimbursement the city would have to pay by up to \$11,000. She also stated that she would not feel comfortable voting for an insurance policy that she herself would not buy and that Option G was what the insurance representative had recommended. Councilmember Philippi agreed with Goracke stating that insurance is an important part of employee retention, and Councilmember Grof felt the employees should be considered when the Council votes on their health insurance. Clerk Darling asked if the Council would consider reimbursing the \$500.00 deductible for the employees. Motion by Councilmember Rossi, seconded by Councilmember Murphy, to approve CoOpportunity Health Insurance Option G for \$11,110.43 per month and to not reimburse any deductibles. Motion carried by 4-1 roll call vote, with Grof voting nay.

Motion by Councilmember Philippi, seconded by Councilmember Grof, to cost share the grapple hook with the Tecumseh Utility at the cost of \$1,250 per partner. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Norm Koester was not in attendance to discuss the pond project progress.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Councilmember Rossi, seconded by Councilmember Murphy, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of April 7, 2014 regular meeting
2. Pay bills for City Funds
3. Approve setting the date of the City Council Budget Workshop for Monday, July 28, 2014
4. Approve City Clerk attending the annual Finance Conference in Kearney in June
5. Review and consider approval of waiving Peddler's Permit for weekly Farmers Market to begin sometime in May

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Mayor read a thank you note from Family Health Services on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for waiving the rental on the Community Building for the Home and Garden Show.

On motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

Paula Darling

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MAYOR

William J. Montz, Sr.