

Tecumseh, Nebraska  
October 6, 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 6th day of October, 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: Charles Murphy, James Philippi, Larry Carmine, Kim Jansen, and Jesse Grof. Absent: Kris Brase.

Others present: Katrina Sperl, Mike Flood, Ray Kappel, Ann Wickett, Doug Goracke, Terry Kage, Clint Kage, Carla Kage, Jeremiah Franks, Derrick Hosick, Phil Juilfs, Joy Wheeler, Tony Messer, Carla Meints, Casey Meints, Casey Bohling, Jim Reed, Rhonda Sasser, Lavern Bartels, Bruce Dalluge, Paula Darling, Susan Kerner, Ruth Holben, Carol Behrends, Russell Behrends, Amy Behrends, Raymond Ensor, Beth Rossi, Mike Davison, Jim Seckman, Kaleb Kuhlman, Jim Rieken.

### **Regular Agenda**

Sheriff's Deputy Hosick distributed the Sheriff's report to the Council. He stated that the speed limit signage in the area of the school is unenforceable as there is no clear beginning or end for "school zone" speed limits. Hosick distributed a plan that clearly defines where new signs should be placed and/or current signs should be relocated. As this project would not affect current city code, the City Council directed Public Property employees to make the necessary changes.

Mayor Montz asked Public Property Foreman Goracke to report on the recent power outages and Goracke distributed a report outlining the time line of outages and repairs that had occurred since September 20, 2014. Utility employees worked from September 20 through October 2<sup>nd</sup> repairing and exploring possible causes for the outages. On September 28<sup>th</sup> HK Scholz was called to assist with finding the cause and on October 2<sup>nd</sup> they were on site to adjust relays. Goracke stated that on October 2<sup>nd</sup> a fault occurred at the substation where OPPD ties in and that a tumbleweed had lodged on the jumper and grounded to the insulator causing the last of the outages. He was able to repair and replace the equipment that was damaged at the substation and power was restored. The Mayor commended the employees on their response time and Councilmember Murphy stated the City was fortunate to have back up power. Amy Behrends told the Council that her credit card machine was ruined and wanted to know if the City was going to pay for the damages as she had been told the problem was OPPD's. Again Goracke stated it was the tie-in to OPPD that was damaged that caused the problem. Councilmember Carmine responded by saying that there are programs similar to the one that OPPD customers can subscribe to that protects electronics, appliances, etc., and that businesses and property owners should consider buying the equipment or subscribing to those types of services to protect against damages from power surges. Beth Rossi told the Council she had spoken with a hospital board member who told her the power had gone out during surgery. Goracke responded by saying the hospital had a back-up generator that was to be used during interruptions in electric service.

As there was no quote given to the Council for the purchase of equipment to be used by the Sheriff's Department in Tecumseh city limits, the purchase was tabled until November's meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Philippi, seconded by Councilmember Jansen, to approve the purchase of a rack mountable HP Managed Switch 24X10/100/1000 + SFP for computer system at City Hall at the price of \$379.89. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilmember Carmine reported that he had received a letter from Aqua Chem, a company out of Bellevue that sells pool chemicals and equipment, asking for a chance to quote chemicals used at the pool. Carmine thought we should give the company a try as they were local to the area and the cost of shipping would be significantly less. Councilmember Carmine asked Public Properties Foreman Goracke if the pool surface had been sealed and Goracke reported that the company had planned to come in November and Goracke asked that they come during warmer months as it may produce a better result.

Public Properties Foreman Goracke reported that the Nebraska Department of Roads had conducted a Plan-In-Hand meeting with Olsson Associates engineer Shane Huxoll and several state and federal agencies regarding the downtown project and that there may be some changes to their views on awnings and signs. The project design is currently 30% complete and the City of Scottsbluff and Tecumseh are in competition for the project funds for 2016-17. Goracke also stated employees have been working on cleaning up the wash-out of gravel from driveways and alleys from the recent rains.

Clint and Carla Kage presented the Council with a petition from the Shawnee/Santee neighborhood requesting “Children at Play” signs as vehicles travel at a high rate of speed going from Lincoln Street on the south to Highway 136 on the north. Phil Juilfs thought stop signs should be added. Councilmembers asked if reducing the speed limit would help. Karla Meints asked if trees could be trimmed on Lincoln and 10<sup>th</sup> as they nearly cover the stop sign. Discussion also included crosswalks and speed bumps. City Attorney stated he would work with residents and city employees in writing a resolution to address these issues. In the meantime, city employees will order signs and get the “Children at Play” signs erected.

Motion by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Grof, to transfer the City of Tecumseh Responsible Charge duties to the Nebraska Department of Roads for all street projects involving federal grant funds. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Economic Development Director Goracke reported he was working on a proposal to bring a business to downtown Tecumseh. He is also finishing work on acquiring several properties in town that were in bankruptcy.

Goracke reported on the Board of Public Works meeting and stated that 85% of the well project is complete. The Board agreed to purchase a cell phone booster for use at the wells. The Board tabled a bore job at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the Railroad as they did not have enough information. The 10-inch water line in that area needs to be replaced and the Board will address the cost of the boring at the November meeting. Resolutions addressing sewer rates for Large General Service users were passed. Additionally, the Board asked the foremen to research policies of similar sized cities regarding how they address disconnecting water service to businesses/homes that are occupied.

The Mayor ended the meeting by reading a letter that he had sent to the Chieftain. In the letter he focused on recent controversies concerning salaries and spending. He reiterated his faith in employees, the Board of Public Works and the process that has been used to approve recommendations made by the Board.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Councilmember Philippi, seconded by Councilmember Grof, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of September 8, 2014 regular meeting and the September 19, 2014 special meeting
2. Pay bills for City Funds
3. Review and consider allowing Seneca Sanitation to exercise their option to extend their Trash Hauling agreement with the City for one year at the current price
4. Review and consider approval of Corporate Resolution #14-10 that allows the form of PREMIUM ONLY Flexible Benefits Plan including any applicable Dependent Care Assistance Program, Healthcare Flexible Spending Account Plan, Adoption Assistance Program, Tax Free Transportation Program, and/or Health Savings Account, effective July 1, 2014.
5. Approve Contract between the City and SENDD for General Administration of 14-HO-3S057 – Housing Rehab Grant in the amount of \$20,000 (which will come from grant funds)
6. Accept Councilmember Kristen Brase’s resignation for Ward 3
7. Review and consider declaring a vacancy for Ward 3

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

On motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

Paula Darling

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MAYOR

William J. Montz, Sr.