

**MINUTES-August 15, 2022**  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS-  
1111 AVE E, WISNER, NEBRASKA 68791

The City Council of the City of Wisner, Nebraska met in regular session in the Council Chambers at the City offices in Wisner, Nebraska, on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. according to the notice published in the Wisner News Chronicle issue of August 11, 2022, a copy of proof of publication is attached to these minutes. Notice of the meeting was posted in three public places which are the Wisner Post Office, Wisner Public Library, and the Wisner City Office. Notice of the meeting and the agenda were mailed or emailed to the mayor and all members of the City Council. A true copy of their signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the advance notice of this meeting and the agenda is filed in the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer. An agenda for the meeting was kept continuously current, and was available for public inspection at the City Offices three days before the meeting date. Agenda subjects were contained at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. Mayor Dixon presided and the City Clerk/Treasurer recorded the proceedings of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the general public.

Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order, and announced the location of the posted Open Meeting Act, pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Mayor Dixon also announced that this meeting is being recorded.

Present on the roll call: Cathy Gobar, Terry Soden, Barry Meyer, Jay Meyer, and Mayor Dixon. Staff present: Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, Stephanie James, City Clerk/Treasurer, Doug Salmen, Wisner Police Chief, and Officer Tiffany McLean, Wisner Police Department.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA, MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2022 REGULAR MEETING, CARE CENTER, CITY, & CITY/RURAL FIRE BOARD JULY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT, WISNER FIRE & RESCUE DEPT. – APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP TO FIRE – ASHTON FERRIS, AND SPECIAL DESIGNATED LICENSE – LANTZ’S STEAKHOUSE – SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 – WISNER CITY AUDITORIUM – 4:00 PM TO 11:30 PM – WEDDING RECEPTION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Gobar to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Soden, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – REVIEW GENERAL AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS BUDGET FOR FY 2022-23; AUTHORIZE PUBLIC HEARING FOR AUGUST 29, 2022 AT 7:00 PM IN THE CITY OF WISNER COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1111 AVE E. Mayor Dixon said that the City has not received the property tax request from Cuming County as of tonight’s meeting. Moved by Soden and seconded by Jay to authorize a public hearing for 7:00 PM on Monday, August 29, 2022 to review the General and Enterprise Funds Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Roll call: Ayes: Soden, Jay, Barry, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – REVIEW ONE- & SIX-YEAR STREET PLAN; AUTHORIZE PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 AT 7:05 PM IN THE CITY OF WISNER COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1111 AVE E. The council and public had a copy of the One- and Six-Year Street Plan. Council had time to review the plan. Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent reviewed the different streets and alleys that are included in the One- & Six-

Year Street Plan. Most of the work to be done is asphalt mill off and overlay with some patching of concrete. Moved by Barry and seconded by Gobar to authorize a public hearing for September 6, 2022 at 7:05 PM in the City of Wisner Council Chambers – 1111 Ave E. Roll call: Ayes: Jay, Barry, Soden, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – RESOLUTION NO. 2022-9 – MUNICIPAL ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE FORM 2022. This is a yearly process that needs to be done in order to continue receiving our Highway Allocation funds. Moved by Gobar and seconded by Jay to approve Resolution No. 2022-9 Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance Form 2022. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Soden, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AT THUNDER BY THE RIVER, WITHOUT CREATING EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP. Moved by Barry and seconded by Soden to approve the appoint Andy Mohr, Bryan Walter, Bryan Wiggins, Jeremy Hampton, Rick Haase, and Jason Witzel, certified law enforcement officers to help assist Wisner Police Department during Thunder by the River on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mayor Dixon asked Chief Salmen if he had anything to add at this time. Chief Salmen stated he has received two of the three ATV's that these guys will be using down at the park from 5:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Soden, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – SPLASH PAD COMMITTEE – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A FUNDING COMMITMENT AND TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY. David Branch, Cuming County Economic Development Director and Ms. McGuire were at tonight's meeting and showed a slide of what the splash pad could look like down at Central Park created by JEO. Discussion was held on the splash pad such as coating and design. A copy of the budget is attached to these minutes. Mr. Branch said the reason why we are coming to you tonight is the application through the Nebraska Game and Parks is due the first of September and the Dinklage Grant has to go through council first for their meeting in October. Mr. Branch said they have a commitment from the Cuming County Visitor's Bureau in the amount of \$20,000.00. Mr. Branch will be meeting with the Daugherty Foundation. To start the application process for the Nebraska Game and Parks is to get a commitment letter from the city saying the city is committed to this project and will back this project. The funds do not commit the city, it just allows them to start the application process. Moved by Gobar and seconded by Barry to commit \$250,000.00 and to submit the application on behalf of the City of Wisner. Roll call: Ayes: Soden, Jay, Barry, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – THUNDER BY THE RIVER – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE USE OF ATV/UTV'S DURING THE TRACTOR PULL AND LIQUOR LICENSE QUESTIONS. Scott Krusemark had some questions regarding the liquor license. Mr. Krusemark understands ending at 1:00 AM, that sales need to be done by then. Mayor Dixon stated that sales end at 1:00 AM and the bar area cleaned out by then. The campers can continue to drink as long as everyone behaves themselves. Mr. Krusemark stated that they bought an off sales license this year, so when we call last call, we can sell off sale? Mayor Dixon said as long as you are completed by 1:00 AM. Mayor Dixon suggested to make the last call announcement by 12:15 to 12:30 AM so they can get it bought and out by 1:00 AM. Mr.

Krusemark asked if they clear the beer garden themselves. Mayor Dixon stated that the officers will come in and help clear the area. Mr. Krusemark wants to make sure that when coming in to clear the area to come in nicely and with not a lot of authority to make it a more of a peaceful departure. Mr. Krusemark asked about the use of ATV/UTV's. Mayor Dixon said they can come uptown but ask that they stay off the state highway, they can cross the highway if need be but need to abide by the sunset clause. Chief Salmen stated that last year during Thunder by the River he tried to keep them off the highway. Chief Salmen would stop them and give them directions on how to get to different areas of town without going on the highway. Mr. Krusemark said that with the sunset rule, for the Thursday night fish fry and that someone came in to the Wisner VFW and announced over the PA system that all the ATV/UTV's needed to be back down in the park in ten minutes. Officer McLean said that they got accused of that but never said that, and allowed them to drive them. Chief Salmen said he does not want to remove any funds from this town or American Legion but we still have to look at the rules and a lot were overlooked last year. Mr. Salmen just said you have to stay off the highway and not carrying an open container. Mr. Krusemark said that he is not a member of the VFW but supports them. Officer McLean said that her and Chief Salmen are both veterans and support them and they did not make that announcement. Mayor Dixon said, as the pullers pull in and we gave you some guidance, would that be conveyed to the pullers. Mr. Krusemark said absolutely. Mayor Dixon said to just make this clean, I am going to ask for a motion to suspend licensing and to allow after hours transportation as long as they stay off the highway. Chief Salmen also stated as long as they follow state statute and no open containers. Moved by Gobar and seconded by Barry to suspend licensing of ATV/UTV's from August 18 through the 21<sup>st</sup> and to suspend the sunset rule but remain off of Highway 275. Ron Machacek with the Wisner VFW said he was here at tonight's meeting to get an understanding what they needed to do as a Vet's Club. Mr. Machacek said that if they have ATV/UTV's in the back they are allowed to stay as long as they don't have an open container and head right back to the park after they are done. Council was in agreeance and Mr. Machacek thanked everyone. Roll call: Ayes: Jay, Barry, Soden, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – AUTHORIZE NEXT REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. Moved by Soden and seconded by Jay to authorized the nest regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 due to the Labor Day holiday. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Soden, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – MONTHLY POLICE REPORT – D. SALMEN. Doug Salmen, Chief of Police, made available the monthly police activities report to the mayor and council. Councilwoman Gobar asked Chief Salmen for weed contacts do you have to have a complaint. Chief Salmen said not always, there are a few places that I have stopped at and made contact with the resident. The procedure is to service notice. Some homes have been taken care of. Curbs are getting bad and the police will be making contact with the residents. If not taken care of the next step will be to the city attorney to get letters sent out. Mayor Dixon stated that he talked to Randy and Chief Salmen and this was one item that was address and there is a good plan in place. Mayor Dixon would like a reminder placed on Facebook to get out to people and help Chief Salmen and Officer McLean out. Chief Salmen has a form letter that he would like to be sent out first before the city attorney is contacted. Mr. Woldt has sprayed some areas of town and should be dying off soon. Mayor Dixon said another item that was addressed at their meeting was the speeding and the lack of patrolling on Highway 275. Mayor Dixon stated that a majority of their patrolling time needs to be done between the twenty-five mile per hour zones. Mayor Dixon feels that someone will get killed especially by the banks. Need to start slowing this traffic down through town. Chief Salmen said that he worked Highway 275 this last

weekend but a majority of the people that are going thirty or more are the locals. Mayor Dixon said he doesn't see that, he fills up daily different times of the day, and anytime sees someone in the forty-five to fifty mile per hour area and every business owner along that stretch of highway will attest to that fact. Mayor Dixon told Chief Salmen that he finds it unacceptable that we are not writing citations. Officer McLean said I have been working the past two days, a combination of six to eight hours, I am sure someone has said that I have been in the office, trying to get the computers working. The computers were up and working and now having the same issues as the Sheriff's Office. Office McLean said the issue is, is the system updates that they continue to do on the docking stations and everything else, just like any other technology, as soon as they do the update then something is not working. Officer McLean said I may get fired after this, but does not understand, I understand that you want us working Highway 275, but I can promise you there is a great number of citizens that enjoy and have expressed that they enjoy seeing us coming through the neighborhoods. Officer McLean went on to say, when we first started working here, we were hit burglaries and a whole lot of other stuff and now that is not happening. Mayor Dixon said yes and there is no patrolling on 275. Officer McLean said that is not true sir. Mayor Dixon stated that there is very little police presence on 275 other than sitting in front of the office. Office McLean said lack of observing police does not mean we are not there doing something. Chief Salmen said I worked 275 last weekend and was called to a half-naked six-year-old autistic child running down main street and down ninth street on Friday, so of course I am going to take care of that call. Then right after that I received a dog call, and also another call. Chief Salmen said we are trying to balance it out, 275 is an issue and I am not denying that, but it also is one part of our job. Most of our calls for service take us into town and with the way things are going it is probably going to get worse. Councilman Barry said when you are not getting those calls for service, be on 275 even if it is just driving up and down the highway, just make a presence. Councilman Barry said don't smirk at me Tiffany, I don't like that smirk. Officer McLean said I can't do anything right when it comes to this city as far as being a police officer, whatever we do is wrong, Thursday there was no cop working at all because we don't have any part timers, and I smiled, I can't smile in a meeting. Councilman Barry said it is the way you smiled and don't want to argue with you. Office McLean said I am not arguing, I have been accused of being crabby by some of you other ones and you haven't talked to me at all. Councilman Barry said I talk to you at church all the time and I wave at you. Office McLean said that is the only time sir. Councilwoman Gobar said I am scared sometimes to approach you because of your attitude. Councilman Barry said I don't want to get into a pissing match here guys. Office McLean then walked out and said you will have my two weeks tomorrow and the accreditation leaves when the police officers leave so good luck. Mayor Dixon said it looks like we have a resignation to deal with. Mayor Dixon asked if anyone else had anything further to add. Chief Salmen said he is just going to keep trying to survive. Curt Lantz asked if anyone has thought of putting up those radar flashers. Mayor Dixon said that he will be looking into that in our general comments section.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - BUILDING PERMITS.** Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, stated he had one permit at this time at 1120 Ave E for Midwest Bank's new building. Startup sounds like the first part of September.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, COMMENTS BY COUNCIL, CITY OFFICIALS AND GENERAL PUBLIC.**

- A. Mr. Woldt said with the Grandview Project, Taylor with Olsson will be lining up a meeting with Great Plains and Cuming County Public Power to discuss with them about moving the fiber and other stuff that is located up there. Mr. Woldt said he has not heard any new updates regarding the easement at the Grandview site. Mr. Woldt also gave an update on the water tower. The painting is done and the last Mr.

- Woldt has heard the other guys are supposed to be moving in the first part of September to work on the plumbing part. Councilman Barry asked if they are going to take down the old water tower. Mr. Woldt said that is part of the bid. Mayor Dixon asked about the repeater on the old water tower and if that will be moved to the new tower. Mr. Woldt said it will be the same equipment but some cost to move it over to the new tower. Councilwoman Gobar asked if there would be a light on the new water tower. Mr. Woldt believe it is supposed to have a light on it. Councilman Barry asked Mr. Woldt where those six new camper pads going to be located at. Mr. Woldt said he was going to place them along the road by the basketball court heading towards the two smaller fields. Councilman Jay asked if they will have water hook ups as well. Mr. Woldt said that they could run one hydrant over there.
- B. Mayor Dixon stated that Chief Salmen received a letter saying the department has been accredited. Mayor Dixon would like to congratulate Doug and Tiffany on their hard work on getting this police department accredited. This will allow this department to access funds. Chief Salmen said that the State of Nebraska has set aside 5.4 million dollars for smaller agencies. Just a couple of years ago, the state patrol was the only agency accredited in the State of Nebraska and then it increased a little more. Chief Salmen thinks we are one of the first Class 2 Cities in the state to get this, and took about six months' worth of work to get. Chief Salmen said that they need new radios and if they get a call they can't even get out. We would be saving the city taxpayers money. Chief Salmen said he appreciates the fact that you said congratulations, it did take a lot of work. Chief Salmen said he will see where this goes in two weeks what direction this will go. Mayor Dixon said congratulations on getting this department accredited.
- C. Councilman Soden asked about the stop light and where we are at with that. Mr. Woldt said that the state is supposed to be getting us a plan. Mayor Dixon said several weeks ago they had a meeting with the state and come up with a few plans and every single thing was shot down. Mayor Dixon said we will go at this piece by piece. The first thing we are going to do is request that we move the twenty-five mile an hour zone on the east side of town one block and two blocks on the west side of town. Then put up the signs that Mr. Lantz brought up that flash and says your speed. Mr. Woldt has not heard back from the state, that one was gone on vacation but should be back this week. We will try to get this accomplished and then move onto the next thing. Councilman Soden had a person ask him about sidewalks out by the school that will connect the Grandview Addition some way. Mr. Woldt said there will be sidewalks in Grandview but nothing coming down 18<sup>th</sup> Street at this point.
- D. Councilman Barry asked about his grandpa's old place on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 275. The back yard is getting bad with trees growing all over in the back. Mayor Dixon asked to have that place put on the list to be in contact with.
- E. Scott Krusemark asked about installing a stop light. Mayor Dixon said we did ask and it was shot down. Councilman Barry said we asked for all of this, the state said we have money for a roundabout and about a month and a half later received a letter stating the money is all gone. Mr. Krusemark asked about the police at Thunder, and the funding for them. Chief Salmen said the funding for the extra officers will go back to Thunder by the River like it always has. The hourly rate for the officers working at Thunder is \$25.00 per hour.
- F. Dusty with the Wisner News Chronicle asked if the street will have to be closed when working on the plumbing part of the water tower. Mr. Woldt said it is not planned to close any streets. They had options to dig or bore the lines.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 - MOTION TO ADJOURN TO MEET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022, AT 7:00 PM. At 7:59 PM moved by Barry and seconded by Jay that the City Council adjourn to meet in special session on August 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers at the City Office. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Soden, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

---

Mayor

Attest:

---

City Clerk/Treasurer