

MINUTES-January 17, 2023
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 Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. according to the notice published in the Wisner News Chronicle issue of January 12, 2023, 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 Soden 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 Soden 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 Soden also announced that this meeting is being recorded.

Present on the roll call: Cathy Gobar, Barry Meyer, Jay Meyer, LJ Parker, and Mayor Soden. Staff present: Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent and Stephanie James, City Clerk/ Treasurer.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA, MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 REGULAR MEETING, CARE CENTER, CITY, & CITY/RURAL FIRE BOARD DECEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT, AND SPECIAL DESIGNATED LICENSE – BRU’S PACKAGE & LOUNGE – 03/18/2023 – BEER GARDEN – 10:00 AM TO 2:00 AM-ST. PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Parker to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GAS PROFORMA AND GAS RATES-ANDREW ROSS, NMPP. Andrew Ross could not be present at the meeting. Moved by Gobar and seconded by Jay to postpone this agenda item until February 21, 2023 when Mr. Ross will be available to attend the council meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Jay, Barry, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – WATER TREATMENT PLANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SRF AND ARPA FUNDING-ROGER PROTZMAN, JEO. Roger Protzman is at tonight’s meeting to explain the funding the city received and to explain the cost differences between the two different treatment types which are Ion Exchange and Reverse Osmosis. The City of Wisner received a letter from the State of Nebraska on January 3, 2023 that is offering a grant for a water treatment plant. Mr. Protzman explained that there is a stipulation with this grant. When the state received the ARPA funds, Governor Ricketts had a bill introduced into legislature where they peeled off about four million dollars of the ARPA

money and set it aside to be earmarked for reverse osmosis. Mr. Protzman said of that four million, about 1.4 million was earmarked for rural residents in the State of Nebraska for home treatment systems and the rest of the money is earmarked for communities to help with high nitrate issues through reverse osmosis. Mr. Protzman is unsure of how many towns submitted for this funding but the State of Nebraska chose the City of Wisner for \$2,775,000 ARPA Grant. The state is also offering in addition to the ARPA Grant, is a state revolving (SRF) loan to pick up the difference. The SRF would have a 45% loan forgiveness, thirty-year loan with 1% interest. Mr. Protzman stated that he talked to the state to get some more clarification and to understand it better. He wanted to know if there were any strings attached and what are the implications of the strings. Previous council was interested more in the Ion Exchange instead of the Reverse Osmosis plant. The state did some costs per year which is included in the letter received from the state. Also stated in the letter is that the city has sixty days to decide if they want to accept the funding. Mr. Protzman handed out a conceptual option of probable cost for the Ion Exchange and the Reverse Osmosis (this cost comparison is a draft). Mr. Protzman went over this sheet during the council meeting. Discussion was held on the cost of the two different plants and how they worked. The copy of the letter from the State of Nebraska and the draft copy of the cost comparison is attached to these minutes. More discussion on this topic will be held at the next regular council meeting on February 6, 2023 and a decision to approve or not to approve the funding to take place on February 21, 2023. The city does have some funding set aside for this project as well to help with the cost.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – MONTHLY POLICE REPORT – D. SALMEN. Doug Salmen, Chief of Police, made available the monthly police activities report to the mayor and council.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - BUILDING PERMITS. Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, stated he had no building permit applications at this time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, COMMENTS BY COUNCIL, CITY OFFICIALS AND GENERAL PUBLIC.

- A. Randy Woldt stated that he will be gone for the February 6th council meeting. Mr. Woldt gave an update on the water tower. Another water sample will be taken soon. Mayor Soden stated that he heard that the contractors did not know about the \$1,000 per day fine but it is stated in the contract. Citizen Russ Breitreutz asked that a clean water sample has to be taken before the water tower can be filled. Mr. Woldt stated that is correct and then the tower will be sanitized and then will be filled. Mr. Woldt said that the water line going into the tower has to pass a test and after the water tower is filled, they have to have two consecutive samples out of the tower pass the test as well.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - MOTION TO ADJOURN TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023, AT 7:00 PM. At 7:53 PM moved by Gobar and seconded by Barry that the City Council adjourn to meet in regular session on February 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers at the City Office. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk/Treasurer