

**MINUTES-March 18, 2024**  
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, March 18, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. according to the notice published in the Wisner News Chronicle issue of March 14, 2024, 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, LJ Parker, Jay Meyer, and Mayor Soden. Staff present: Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, Stephanie James, City Clerk/ Treasurer, and Doug Salmen, Chief of Police.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA, MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING, AND CARE CENTER, CITY, & CITY/RURAL FIRE BOARD FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT. Moved by Barry and seconded by Gobar to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – WATER TREATMENT PLANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ACCEPTING OF PLANS AND SET BID DATE OF MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – ROGER PROTZMAN, JEO. Mr. Protzman said that the plans for the water treatment plant are 95% to 99% complete. They are waiting on a few items from the electrical engineer to get nailed down and will be wrapped up. The goal dates are to try and get the plans stamped on March 28<sup>th</sup>, then get them submitted to NDEE by April 1<sup>st</sup>, next is to begin advertising for bids on April 17<sup>th</sup>, then a bid opening date set for May 15<sup>th</sup>, then finally, an awarding of bid at the May 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Mr. Protzman said that they have updated the cost opinion for the project with a small increase to accommodate the pumps. There were also some gas heaters in the plans with one that had to be electric heat, so it was decided then to just make them all electric heaters. Mr. Protzman stated that we still have a healthy contingency budget of almost \$500,000.00. Things seem to be stabilizing right now. Mr. Protzman talked to the state and for the state revolving fund loan, the city has to have a public hearing. The public hearing will be set for the May 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting. The state also requires a review fee of \$7,600.00 which will go through the next council meeting. Moved by Barry and seconded by Parker to accept the plans and set the

bid date for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TERMINATION OF THE 401k PLAN. Mayor Soden introduced Resolution No. 2024-2 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO TERMINATE THE CURRENT CITY OF WISNER 401(K) PLAN AND TO TAKE ALL OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WISNER TO ACCOMPLISH THOSE PURPOSES. Mayor Soden then asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-2. Moved by Parker and seconded by Gobar to approve Resolution No. 2024-2. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Jay, Barry, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. Mayor Soden declared Resolution No. 2024-2 adopted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – DINKLAGE GRANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WISNER COMMUNITY ARTS & REC'S DINKLAGE GRANT APPLICATION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Parker to approve the Dinklage Grant submitted by the Wisner Community Arts and Rec and to forward it onto the Dinklage Foundation for final approval. Roll call: Ayes: Jay, Barry, Parker, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – DINKLAGE GRANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE MAIN STREET FLOWER BASKETS' DINKLAGE GRANT APPLICATION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Jay to approve the Dinklage Grant submitted by the Main Street Flower Baskets and to forward it onto the Dinklage Foundation for final approval. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – DINKLAGE GRANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE WISNER SENIOR CENTER'S DINKLAGE GRANT APPLICATION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Parker to approve the Dinklage Grant submitted by the Wisner Senior Center and to forward it onto the Dinklage Foundation for final approval. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – DINKLAGE GRANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THUNDER BY THE RIVER'S DINKLAGE GRANT APPLICATION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Gobar to approve the Dinklage Grant submitted by Thunder by the River and to forward it onto the Dinklage Foundation for final approval. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Barry, Gobar. Nay: Jay. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – DINKLAGE GRANT – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE WISNER POLICE DEPARTMENT'S DINKLAGE GRANT APPLICATION. Moved by Barry and seconded by Parker to approve the Dinklage Grant submitted by the Wisner Police Department and to forward it onto the Dinklage Foundation for final approval. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Barry, Gobar. Nay: Jay. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A TORO GROUNDS MASTER 72" MOWER. Mr. Woldt stated that this was discussed during budget time last year, that a mower was going to be needed soon. To buy it on

payments like we have in the past, with four yearly payments and the first payment due up front. The payments will be \$7,783.37 with an interest rate of 7.55%. The total cost of the mower is \$28,042.00. The mower will be purchased through Midwest Turf out of Omaha, NE. Moved by Gobar and seconded by Jay to purchase the Toro Grounds Master 72" mower. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FOR THE PAVILION IN THE PARK. Mr. Woldt said that there were two proposals that were turned in and the lowest proposal came from Big Red Construction in the amount of \$47,008.64. Councilman Barry asked if Mr. Vacanti received bids for the playground and picnic tables or is that we have bids out for so far. Mr. Woldt said that the pavilion is what was out for bids so far. The pavilion will be completed before the middle of June. Moved by Barry and seconded by Jay to accept the proposal from Big Red Construction for the pavilion in the park. Roll call: Ayes: Barry, Parker, Jay, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – WISNER CARE CENTER – AUTHORIZE OPERATING LOAN AND SET INTEREST AND TERM. The operating loan is for \$150,000.00 for ten years with an interest rate of 3%. Moved by Barry and seconded Gobar to approve the operating loan to the Wisner Care Center in the amount of \$150,000.00 for ten years with an interest rate of 3%. Roll call: Ayes: Parker, Jay, Barry, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. Councilman Barry stated that the Wisner Care Center was approved by the Treasury to receive funds over a million dollars. The Care Center has been working on this since last September. The Care Center has been talking to their senators to see when the funds will be coming.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 – MONTHLY POLICE REPORT – D. SALMEN. Doug Salmen, Chief of Police, made available the monthly police activities report to the mayor and council. Councilman Barry asked Chief Salmen if they use their lights when stopping people because no one sees them using their lights. Chief Salmen explained how they handle some of the stops. Councilman Barry said that he has been receiving phone calls and the public would like to see the police department pull more people over. Councilman Barry stated he would like to see a little more presence on the highway.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - BUILDING PERMITS. Randy Woldt, City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, stated he has one building permits at this time at 605 Ave E to install windows in the basement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, COMMENTS BY COUNCIL, CITY OFFICIALS AND GENERAL PUBLIC.

- A. Mr. Woldt stated that on the west side of the park, the one set of playground equipment, one of the slides has a hole in it. It is barricaded off so it can't be used. There is an outfit that can do plastic welding. The city will see where they are at after the grants are awarded.
- B. Mayor Soden was asked by Chief Salmen that he will be taking a week off for his daughter's wedding and we had two part time officers that worked for the city but one had to resign due to the police department he was working for has mandatory overtime and has no extra time to work for the city. Mayor Soden said that Officer

- McLean would work the two days that are needed but wanted to know if she would get paid for the time. Council did not mind so that the days would be covered.
- C. The reporter from the Wisner News Chronicle asked a few questions regarding the termination of the 401k plan and the Dinklage Grant process. The reporter asked if she could get the city council member emails to get some comments from them regarding the third officer.
  - D. Scott Krusemark wanted to thank everyone for passing along their Dinklage Grant application onto the Dinklage Foundation.
  - E. Rich Franchini stated that he has lived in Wisner for forty-three years and has never really seen any traffic being slowed down through town. He would like to see a little more action but would also like to see writing a few more tickets.
  - F. Steve Kurpgeweit agreed with Mr. Franchini and does hear a lot of complaints about traffic through town.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 - MOTION TO ADJOURN TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024, AT 7:00 PM. At 7:27 PM moved by Parker and seconded by Barry that the City Council adjourn to meet in regular session on April 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers at the City Office. Roll call: Ayes: Jay, Barry, Parker, Gobar. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Attest:

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Mayor

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City Clerk/Treasurer