

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF
PERU, NEBRASKA ON THE 18th OF MARCH 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Peru, Nemaha County, Nebraska, were called to meet at City Hall at 614 5th Street, Peru, Nebraska 68421, on the 18th of March 2024, at 6:00 P.M., for a Regular Council Meeting, open to the general public, advance notice of said regular meeting, the designated method of giving notice, including the agenda for said meeting, or the availability thereof was posted at: Peru City Hall, Western National Bank (Bank of Peru), Peru Post Office, and Casey's General Store.

Mayor Dave Pease called the meeting to order and informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Agenda Item 1 – Roll Call

Present at 6:00 p.m.: Mayor Dave Pease, and Councilmembers Quintin Kieler, Theresa Westfall, Katy Novak, and Brent Brown. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 17-105.

Agenda Item 2 – Recognition of Visitors

Mayor Dave Pease informed the public that a copy of City Resolution #2017-02 Pertaining to Conduct Rules for City Council Meetings may be requested from the City Clerk, and read aloud by Councilmember T. Westfall.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Hearing

None for this meeting

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

A.) Approval of Minutes

(i.) Approval of Minutes from February 20th, 2024 Regular Meeting

B.) Approval of Claims- the following claims were presented to the Council by the City Clerk, reviewed, and approved for payment:

Regular Claims:

JEO (Flood)- \$11,543.75 // Kinetic/Windstream (Internet / Utility) - \$850.37
OPPD (Gen / Utility) - \$2,756.35 // Black Hills Energy (Gen / Utility) - \$255.27
Personnel Payroll for check deposited 2/29 (Gen / Acct) - \$8,220.48 // Personnel Payroll for check deposited 3/15 (Gen / Acct) - \$8,758.12 // Payroll taxes for 1/31 and 2/15 (Gen / Acct) - \$4,673.85 // Xpress Bill Pay (Wtr/Swr) - \$89.89 // Access Systems (Gen) - \$197.15 // AKERS (Maint) - \$96.74 // American Recycling & Sanitation (Wtr/Swr) - \$2,735.00 // Auburn Board of Public Works (Wtr/Swr) - \$12,568.32 // Auburn Newspaper (Gen) - \$229.43 // Bound Tree (Res) - \$201.49 // Brent Lottman (Fire/Res) - \$1,203.00 // Casey's Business Mastercard (Gen) - \$1,391.39 // Feld Fire (Fire/Res) - \$2,268.95 // First National Bank Omaha (Gen)- \$1,039.93 // Heather

Pemberton, CPA (Gen/ Acct) - \$630.00 // NAPA Auto Parts (Strt) - \$15.99 // One Call Concepts (Wtr/Swr) - \$11.12 // Quick Med Claims (Fire/ Res) - \$15.00 // WesTech (Wtr/Swr) - \$30,680.0 // Small Claims- Microsoft, Adobe, etc (Gen) - \$23.28

C.) Approval of Monthly Treasurer's Report

D.) Approval of payment for first half of all owed real estate and drainage taxes for City-owned properties, totaling \$12,733.08.

E.) Approval of Kent Marburger and Shana Marburger's applications for membership to the Peru Rescue Squad.

F.) Approval for payment of FEMA program eligible buy-outs, totaling \$80,393.80, to be reimbursed by FEMA/NEMA within 60 days of closing.

Mayor D. Pease presented the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Q. Kieler made motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember T. Westfall. Upon roll call vote: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS. The following voted AYE: B. Brown, Q. Kieler, T. Westfall, and K. Novak. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 5 – Correspondence

G.) None for this meeting

Agenda Item 6 – Old Business

H.) Water report

Monthly water report submitted.

I.) Mayor's Report

Mayor D. Pease reported that the waterline has been performing well and has not had any major maintenance issues. Peru City Maintenance workers have been flushing hydrants, and still have more to get through. If residents are experiencing any issues with their water after a hydrant is flushed, they should contact the City Offices.

J.) Motion: Resident B. Perkins's request to forgive the lien currently active on the property located at 820 2nd Street.

Resident B. Perkins appeared in person to provide an update for the City Council on his plans for the vacant lot, located at 820 2nd Street. B. Perkins stated he is willing to pay for half of the total cost of the lien, if the City will forgive the rest. Discussion was held. Councilmember Q. Kieler made motion to vote on B. Perkin's request. The motion was seconded by Councilmember K. Novak. Upon roll call vote: 1 AYES, 3 NAYS. The following voted AYE: Q. Kieler. The following voted NAY: B. Brown, K. Novak, and T. Westfall. Motion: Did not pass.

Agenda Item 7 – NEW BUSINESS

K.) Reports: City Grant Coordinator M. Williams and City Building Inspector D. Hibler

Report submitted from City Grant Coordinator, M. Williams, stating that more grant projects are being finalized and closed out, which will create space for new projects. City Building Inspector D. Hibler reports that the Peru Board of Health met on the 14th of March to discuss several possible nuisance properties. Building Inspector reported that over 50% of the nuisance properties have been in contact with the City, and are currently on a clean-up plan. Follow up to be conducted for these properties.

L.) Motion for Consideration by Council: On Resident S. Hassler’s request for City donation regarding city-wide Spring Cleanup Day.

Resident S. Hassler, representing the Peru Community Impact Group volunteer organization, requested a donation of supplies from the City of Peru for city-wide clean-up day, scheduled for Friday, April 26th. Requested donation items include: trash bags, latex gloves, 3 roll-off dumpsters, postage for advertising notices, flowers, and potting soil. Councilmember T. Westfall motioned for a vote on Resident S. Hassler’s request, seconded by K. Novak. Upon roll call vote: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS. The following voted AYE: T. Westfall, K. Novak, B. Brown and Q. Kieler. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried

M.) Resolution No. 2024-05:

Approval of City Resolution No. 2024-05, A Resolution for Safe Transportation for Every Peru Pedestrian regarding the installation of raised crosswalks, proposed by Councilmember T. Westfall. It was explained that this proposed resolution would allow for the City to apply for more grants in relation to transportation safety and ADA accessibility. Discussion held. Councilmember K. Novak motioned for a vote on Proposed City Resolution No. 2024-05, seconded by T. Westfall. Upon roll call vote: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS. The following voted AYE: Q. Kieler, B. Brown, K. Novak, and T. Westfall. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried

N.) Ordinance: No. 2024-01

Proposed Ordinance No. 2024-01 was presented for consideration on its first reading. The Mayor announced that the proposed Ordinance was in order. Councilmember T. Westfall moved that these proceedings be kept in a separate and distinct volume known as the “Ordinance Record of the City of Peru”, and that said volume be made part of these proceedings the same as though it were spread at large herein, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Q. Kieler. Council Member T. Westfall introduced the proposed ordinance as Ordinance No. 2024-01 entitled: ADDING SECTION 71.06 TO THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO SET DESIGNATED TRUCK ROUTES & RESOLUTION(S) FOR SEMI-TRUCKS TRAVELING UPON CITY STREETS; TO PROVIDE FOR A WEIGHT RESTRICTION; TO

PROVIDE FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATORS, TO REPEAL ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS THEREWITH' AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. With no further discussion to be had, Councilmember T. Westfall motioned for a vote on Proposed Ordinance 2024-01, seconded by K. Novak. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES and 1 NAYs. The following members voted "AYE": Q. Kieler, T. Westfall, and K. Novak. The following voted "NAY": B. Brown. Motion: Carried.


O.) Motion for Consideration by Council: On Resident M. Peregoy's records request and request for creation of additional documents.

Prior to the regular council meeting, Ms. Peregoy sent a letter to the Mayor and council members regarding her agenda item request. In said letter she discussed her dissatisfaction with a recent public records request she had submitted to the City in which she requested the City to "individually list the city of Peru's employees by first and last name and provide their job titles, job descriptions, usual work schedules, and salaries. If an employee holds more than one position, please list usual work schedule and salary for each position held." The City does not currently have said lists in existence, so pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-712, the City Clerk informed Ms. Peregoy that said lists did not exist, and that pursuant to State law, the public records statutes do not require a public agency to review documents and create abstracts or other lists, or create documents which do not otherwise exist. In the spirit of cooperation however, the City Clerk did send Ms. Peregoy documents that do exist, in which she could ascertain said information, such as the City's wage ordinance, the job descriptions that the City does currently have for its employees, etc.. Ms. Peregoy was also directed to the City's website which lists city employees by name and position. At the council meeting Ms. Peregoy briefly went over her letter in which she requested the City create job descriptions for all city employees, and that those descriptions and a document including the names of employees, and their job title, job description and full-time equivalence be created and made available to the public by the date of the next Council meeting. Councilmember T. Westfall addressed Ms. Peregoy's points within her letter and advised Ms. Peregoy that the City currently has 4 full-time employees, listing the City Clerk, Deputy Clerk, a maintenance supervisor, and a maintenance employee. She also stated that the City also has a part-time building inspector, and a part-time grant coordinator, and briefly described the job duties of said positions. T. Westfall also stated that should Ms. Peregoy have further questions regarding City employees, that she would be happy to have a meeting with her. The City's maintenance supervisor then got up and spoke and described his job duties for the City of Peru. Ms. Peregoy subsequently mentioned the City's requirement to publish job titles and salaries between July 15 and August 15 each year, conceding, as she was a member of the council at the time, that the City was in compliance with said requirement, having published job titles and salaries last August. She was reassured that the same would be done this year between July 15 and August 15. Additional discussion was held from members of the public, council members, and City employees/contractors. There were no motions for vote, therefore, no action was taken on this agenda item.


ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned on the same day at 7:20p.m.

HEREBY ATTESTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED:



Dave Pease, Mayor



City Clerk



