

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON THE 16th DAY OF June 2025 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 16th of June 2025, at 6:00 P.M., for a Regular Meeting, open 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), and the Peru Post Office.

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

Mayor Katy Novak 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. Said resolution was read aloud by Councilmember T. Westfall.

Agenda Item 1 – Roll Call

Present at 6:00 p.m.: Mayor Katy Novak and Councilmembers Theresa Westfall, Josh Whisler, and Rachel Brown. Upon roll call, a quorum was declared pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 17-105.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Hearing: None

Agenda Item 3 - Water Report

Mayor Novak shared that the water report is available to the public, in city office, during business hours

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes: from the May 19th, 2025 regular meeting.

B. Approval of Minutes: from the June 3rd, 2025 special meeting.

C. Approval of Minutes: from the June 9, 2025 special meeting.

D. Approval of Claims: The following claims were presented to the Council by the City Clerk, review, and approved for payment: Regular Claims: Black Hills Energy (Fire/Rescue) - \$77.84 // Black Hills Energy (Gen) - \$58.58 // Kinetic/Windstream (Internet/Utility) - \$958.58 // OPPD (Gen) - \$863.45 // OPPD (Streets) - \$1,218.47 // Personnel Payroll including tax & retirement for check deposited 5/31 (Gen) - \$12,933.52 // Personnel Payroll including tax & retirement for check deposited 6/15 (Gen) - \$12,686.45 // Access Systems (Gen) - \$260.98 // American Recycling & Sanitation (Wtr/Swr) - \$2,660.00 // Asphalt Kingdom (Streets) - \$2,199.00 // Auburn Auto Center (Gen/Maint) - \$70.57 // Auburn Board of Public Works (Wtr/Swr) - \$12,132.09 // Auburn Newspaper (Gen) - \$901.00 // Brown Glass (Gen/Maint) - \$290.00 // Casey's Business Mastercard (Gen/Maint) - \$1,102.69 // First National Bank (Card) (Gen) - \$1,564.05 // Grainger (Wtr/Swr) - \$261.16 // Heather L. Pemberton (Gen) - \$649.00 // Hydro Optimization & Automation (Wtr/Swr) - \$1,025.07 // JB Excavating & Concrete (Streets) - \$40,000.00 // Jim Smith (Wtr/Swr) - \$240.00 // Ligouri Law (Gen) - \$3,375.30 // MMC Consulting (Gen) - \$395.00 // Ne Det of Environment & Energy (Wtr/Swr) - \$19,472.71 // Ne Mosquito & Vector Control Assoc (Gen/Maint) - \$30.00 // One Call Concepts (Wtr/Swr) - \$15.26 // Pitney Bowes (Gen) - \$169.29 // Sara Harms (Gen) - \$320.00

E. Approval of Donation: of donation of flowers and plants from Embassy Landscape Group to be planted in or around the City of Peru's ballpark.

Councilmember T. Westfall made a motion to approve consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember R. Brown. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following voted AYE R. Brown, T. Westfall, J. Whisler, The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 5 – Old Business

F. Mayor Report: K. Novak thanked everybody who helped out with old Man River days. She said It was successful by every metric that she had heard of in terms year to year, she expressed how happy she was and again, wanted to thank everyone who made it happen.

G. City Clerk Report: None

H. Grant Report: M. Williams reported that all of the claims for the flood been submitted and ready to close them out. They are now releasing funds from both federal and state. An AED grant (for a defibrillator). One is needed at City Hall, there are events and private rentals and it would be a good thing to have. She said she should hear back in two to three weeks if it is approval. The value is \$1,300 to \$1,600. B. Lottman is advising on the type of defibrillator to get. It will be in case on the wall, and will have an alarm, and the ability to call help call 911. The T-Mobile Parks grant was denied, but we were told to apply for the second round, large projects in Omaha and Grand Island received the grant instead. Other options besides grants are being looked into. The biggest problem is we don't have matching funds. Possibly we can join with PCIG, they're a 501C3.

I. Facilities Report: none

J. Committee Reports: 1. Finance: B. Lottman Chair gave the financial update: He stated that the finance committee finally has the cash position of the city figured out. The State revolving fund loans have a balance of just over five million. There is just short of three million coming back from FEMA from the water project very soon, this will have to go directly back to the SRF loan, which will leave just north of 2.5 million left to pay. The finance committee is working on ways to leverage the interest upfront, and we will have more defined options next month for the council to consider. These plans will have to have a long-term commitment from the city, letting the money sit there and work instead of spending it on something short term, and losing the opportunity to get out from under this very large debt. The next thing is the work will be starting on the budget in July, so this is the time to get the thing needed or wanted for the community and submit them to Traci. Work out priorities, figure out how to work out the next fiscal year. The needs of the public works department were brought up, lots of infrastructure work and the machinery to do the work. We need to get a dollar value for each need.

Agenda Item 6 – New Business

K. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04 OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA EXEMPTING A DESIGNATED CITY GREENSPACE FROM CITY CODE 891.24 RELATING TO THE HEIGHT OF GRASS, WEEDS, AND VEGETATION, AND ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN. T. Riehle was asked to explain the need for this resolution. This is a dule idea from Phil and myself. Now that all the green space in the North End is cleaned up, our maintenance crew is going to have to keep up with it. The area is a vast, and the ground is rough, even though it's been clean. It is incredibly unrealistic for the crew to maintain that area within the city's

ordinance. All they would do is just mow that area, and when they were finished, they would start all over again. The area would be very, very hard on our equipment, the manpower, and other resources, to keep mowed on a regular weekly or biweekly basis would be ridiculous. Phil is getting ready to plant a combination of rye grasses, and we've just got the boom sprayer so he can keep it the weed free. It will look like a lovely Prairie with all the grass swaying in the wind, growing its own seed heads, re-seeding itself, let nature take its course. In the meantime, we don't drown trying to take care of that and lose all of our equipment to it. Traci presented a map showing the area with everything outlined in black. Phil will shred it at least once a year towards the fall, which is spelled out in the resolution too. This is not in lieu of any development, but in the interim. Councilmember T. Westfall made a motion to approve exempting the City's greenspace from the city code ordinance 91.24 relating to the height of grass weeds and vegetation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember R. Brown. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following voted AYE J. Whisler, T. Westfall, R. Brown. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried

L. Approval to: Allow Fire Chief to proceed with Dept. of Interior Skid Unit grant for Fire Department in cooperation with Rural Fire District, including allowing for formal advertisement for bids if needed. B. Lottman explained that this originated with the Rural Board, a SAM number was needed and one is already established on the city side of things, so basically, he needs permission to run it through the City. This gets the department another grass truck. It is about \$7,000. Councilmember T. Westfall made a motion to allow the Fire Chief to proceed with the Department of Interior Skid Unit grant for fire department in cooperation with the Rural Fire district, including allowing for formal advertising for bids if needed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Whisler. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following voted AYE: J. Whisler, T. Westfall, R. Brown. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried.

M. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING CLASSIFICATION/DESIGNATION TO REAL PROPERTY IN PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, CITY LIMITS; TO DESIGNATE COST OF FEES; TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY TO SHOW SAID CHANGE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR SECTIONS THEREOF; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Proposed ordinance No. 2025-06 was presented for consideration on its second 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 J. Whisler. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following voted "AYE": J. Whisler, R. Brown, T. Westfall. The following voted NAY: none. Motion Carried. Council Member T. Westfall introduced the proposed ordinance as Ordinance No. 2025-06 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING CLASSIFICATION/DESIGNATION TO REAL PROPERTY IN PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, CITY LIMITS; TO DESIGNATE COST OF FEES; TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY TO SHOW SAID CHANGE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES OR SECTIONS THEREOF; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OR POSTING OF THE ORDINANCE. Having read Ordinance 2025-06, Councilmember T. Westfall moved for its approval on its second reading and its title agreed to, which motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Whisler. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following Council Members votes "AYE" T. Westfall, J. Whisler, R. Brown. The following voted Nay: none. Motion

Carried. The Mayor declared that said Ordinance No. 2025-06 be approved on its second reading and its title agreed to.

N. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08 Park & Rec is seeking Approval to become a committee and dissolve the commission. (suspension of rules) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA REPEALING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 32.05, BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; STATING THE EFFECT OF THE REPEAL OF MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 32.05; CREATING A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE; DEFINING DUTIES AND TERMS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE. The Mayor announced that the introduction of the proposed Ordinance 2025-08 is now in order. Councilmember T. Westfall moved that these proceedings will 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, said motion was seconded by J. Whisler. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYs, 1 ABSENT. The following voted "AYE": R. Brown, J. Whisler, T. Westfall. Motion Carried. Council Member T. Westfall moved to suspend rules for Ordinance 2025-08; Council member J. Whisler seconded for the suspension of rules. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYs, 1 ABSENT The following Council Members votes "AYE" R. T. Westfall, J. Whisler, R. Brown. The following voted Nay: none Motion Carried. The Mayor declared the statutory rules in regard to the passage and approval of Ordinances be suspended so that Ordinance No. 2025-08 might be introduced, read by title and then moved for final passage as the same meeting. There was discussion. This is the second time this ordinance is before the Council. The first time on June 3rd as No. 2025-07 was failed in order to be discussed at this council meeting. N. Novak said he remained confused as to what was going to change and why they were wanting to do this change. He said they are getting conflicting answers, and he wants the City's attorney to attend the next commission meeting and spell out the differences and answer questions. It was confirmed that he had received the memo from Morgan explaining the difference, but the commission had not had an opportunity to go over it as a group. Also, it was confirmed at their last meeting the members voted unanimously to become a committee, a copy of the minutes was provided to the council for their reference. There was a lot of discussion between N. Novak, K. Novak, and all the Council members about fund raising, management of the parks, the ball field and concession stand, its use and maintenance, budgeting, control of the P&R checking account, how to get reimbursed, asking council for permission to do things, and how often they needed to report. Want to get out from the constraints of being a commission, having to comply with the Open Meeting Act, keep minutes and posting Agendas. As a committee people outside of the city limits could join, and it would make things more flexible. The point was made by J. Whisler that regardless, Council approves the budget and the spending. K. Novak brought up a concern that maybe Councils in the future would not be as friendly towards Parks as the present Council is. Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-08 now comes on for reading. Council Member: T. Westfall read Ordinance 2025-08 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PERU, NEBRASKA REPEALING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 32.05, BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; STATING THE EFFECT OF THE REPEAL OF MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 32.05; CREATING A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE; DEFINING DUTIES AND TERMS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS

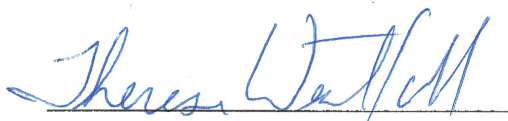
ORDINANCE. AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OR POSTING OF THE ORDINANCE. Council member T. Westfall moved for final passage. Motion was seconded by council member J. Whisler. Upon roll call vote: 2 AYES, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT, the following Council Members votes "AYE" T. Westfall, J. Whisler, the following voted NAY R. Brown, K. Novak. The Motion Failed.

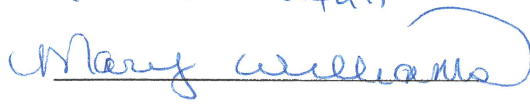
O. Approval for: Mary asking for permission to apply for NDEE grant for the North-end water loop. Has been taken to committee, and was recommended to bring it to council.to apply. This request has been taken to Mayor to get permission, and she has approved for me to bring it to council. Councilmember T. Westfall motioned that the city give permission to apply for the NDEE grant for the north end water loop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember R. Brown. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following voted AYE: R. Brown, J. Whisler, T. Westfall. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried.

P. Approval to: have the already purchased security camera system for the city office installed. \$840.00 work done by action technology our tech service company. The council approved the purchase of the camera and at that time they were going to be installed by an employee at no charge, however that did not happen and that employee no longer works here. Councilmember T. Westfall made a motion to approve the estimate for installation of the security camera system. The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Whisler. Upon roll call vote: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 Absent. The following voted AYE: R. Brown, J. Whisler, T. Westfall. The following voted NAY: None. Motion: Carried.

Meeting adjourned on the same day at 6:36 p.m.

HEREBY ATTESTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED:


~~Katy Novak, Mayor~~ Council President
Therese Westfall


~~Traci Riehle, City Clerk~~
Mary Williams
Deputy Clerk

