**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON NOVEMBER 16, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M.**

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

Present were: Mayor Dave Pease, and Council Members Marty Peregoy, Jason Jones, Ethan Coatney, and Spencer Vogt. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 19, 2020, regular Council meeting. Council Member Peregoy made a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

The City Clerk reported that November 2020 Hwy Allocation was $7,725.31 and August 2020 City Sales Tax was $4,166.32.

Council Member Peregoy made the motion to ratify and approve the claims already paid pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-01. Motion was seconded by Council Member   
Vogt, Discussion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

Council Member Coatney made motion to approve the claims still needing paid. Motion was seconded by Council Member Peregoy, Discussion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

JEO-$2,115.00(wtr); WesTech-$12,600.00(wtr); NMC Rental-$1101.28(wtr); OPPD - $3,172.32(gen,sts,p&r,wtr, fr, rurfr); Windstream - $539.25(gen,wtr,fr,res); Casey’s - $632.61(sts,fr,res); Card Services -$543.48(gen); Black Hills Energy - $102.59(gen, fr, rurfr); Access Systems -$ 144.16(gen); The Cleaners-$24.00(gen); Westlake ACE Hardware -$22.11(wtr); Hawkins-$1,118.47(wtr); First Wireless, Inc.-$905.25(fr,rurfr); Emergency Apparatus Maint.-$768.07(fr); Eakes Office Solutions-$121.26(gen); Miller Monroe Farrell Insur.-$10,229.00 (gen); Board of Public Works-$5,178.36(wtr); Concrete Industries, Inc.-$1,215.00(sts); Eggers Bros. Inc.-$30.20(sts); American Recycling & Sanitation-$2,568.12(gen); Bound Tree-$134.30(res); Kelly Adams-$11.54(gen); Emergency Medical Products-$435.73(res); Hireright-$54.06(gen); One Call Concepts-$1.15(wtr,swr); Deckers-$5.06(gen); NAPA Auto Parts-$53.49(sts); Sack Lumber-$7.98(wtr);Interstate All Battery Center-$106.00(fr,rurfr); Utilities Section League of Municipalities-$507.00(gen); Auburn Automotive-$36.00(sts); Heather L. Pemberton-$485.00(gen); Auburn Newspaper-$250.21(gen); Cornhusker Press-$71.65(gen); Cody’s USave Pharmacy-$280.89(res); CLIA Laboratory-$180.00(res);

General(gen), Streets(sts), Water(wtr), Sewer(swr), Parks & Rec(p&r), City Fire(fr), Rural Fire(rurfr), Rescue(res), Grant(grnt).

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Pease stated the water report can be found in the Clerk’s office. He also noted that we experienced 2 leaks this past month causing the tower level to lower. The town is really pushing the capacity of the temporary water treatment plant, and we urge everyone to conserve water the best they can.

Mayor Pease stated that there was no Mayor’s Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** Allan Adams spoke with the Council about the ditch that is located on the north side of the berm around the water treatment plant. Adams asked what the City plans to do to clean out the ditch that is already partially plugged. Mayor Pease said he will have the City Clerk look into contractors to see if the City will need to go out for bid to get the work completed.

**Item 2.** Vanessa Sherman with the Peru Community Impact Group updated the Council on the plans and changes for the upcoming holiday events. She noted that all events will follow current directed health measures. A flyer will be sent out to the community with an outline of activities that they can participate in.

**Item 3.**  The City Clerk informed the Council that our current bank is unable to meet the requirements for automatic water bill payments through Power Manager. She will be looking into what other local companies use for utility bill payments.

**Item 4.** Deborah Solie, Disaster Recovery Coordinator reported that the Long-Term Recovery Group will be hosting a Town Hall on December 1st at 6:30 in the Performing Arts Center at Peru State College. It is being held at the college so the event can follow directed health measures. There will be discussion involving the water treatment facility, levee repair, streets, and the results of the grocery store survey. Solie presented updates to the Council about where the HMGP stands. NEMA has let us know which homes will not be included in this grant. Other funding options are being sought and considered for those homes specifically. Lastly, the Long-Term Recovery Group has received $4,000.00 that will go directly toward families in Peru.

**Item 5.** Mayor Pease informed the Council that he looked into borrowing the full amount of $520,000.00 from the USDA for the City match on the streets project. He explained that paying the loan off over 20 years would cost the City $31,000.00 a year. If this money is dedicated to pay off that loan it then takes away from other streets that have damage down the road. The budget would need to be reconfigured and modified. Council Member Vogt asked when an answer would be needed. Mayor Pease stated that we would be okay with the $520,000.00, he just wanted Council to be aware. No formal action was taken by Council.

**Item 6.** President Hanson recalled the purpose of ImPERUving as oNE and referred to the group’s motto. He gave thanks to Deborah Solie, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, for the hard work she has put in to help the City improve. He requested that members of the Council consider writing a letter that could be included in applying for a second grant that would allow the Disaster Recovery Coordinator to assist the City of Peru for a second year.

**Item 7.** Council discussed the possibility of having the City Office closed on Christmas Eve. The City Attorney noted that if you follow the federal holidays, Christmas Eve is generally a half day. City Clerk stated that no one is usually around on Christmas Eve and hardly any business takes place. After further discussion Council Member Vogt made a motion to have the City Office closed on Christmas Eve, 12/24/2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” Vogt, Peregoy, Coatney. “NAY” Jones. Motion Carried.

**Item 8.** Council reviewed the bid from Jim Smith for repair to the bridge at the intersection of 7th Street and Oregon Street. Council Member Peregoy inquired if the bridge would look how it did before the accident. The City Clerk stated that it would be similar. Council Member Coatney clarified that the check to repair the bridge has already been received from the Insurance Company. The Clerk assured it had been received. With no further discussion. Member Coatney made motion to approve said bid, Council Member Vogt seconded said motion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 9.** Council reviewed the bid from Jim Smith to repair the portion of Oregon Street between 7th Street and 735 Road. Mayor Pease said that this is the street he had the most concern with this past year. The best way to repair this street will be to replace the culvert and patch the street with concrete. This project will cause the road to be closed, so homeowners living on the stretch of road should be given plenty of notice as to what will be taking place and how long a detour will need to be used. With no further discussion Council Member Peregoy made a motion to approve Jim Smith’s bid to repair the portion of Oregon Street west of 7th Street, Motion was seconded by Council Member Vogt. Roll Call Vote indicated: “NAY” Jones, “AYE” – Vogt, Peregoy, Coatney. Motion Carried.

**Item 10.** Council reviewed the bid from Jim Smith to repair 2nd Street between Oregon Street and California Street, as well as Nebraska Street between 2nd Street and 3rd Street. Council Member Coatney noted that all the bids for street repair on the agenda total over $21,000.00. Council Member Peregoy asked if Smith would be able to prioritize which is done first. Mayor Pease said that is advisable. City Attorney Ligouri said it would be beneficial to know if Smith planned on completing the repairs this year (2020) or next year (2021). Discussion was had about having Smith repair Nebraska Street and potentially approve the other repair come spring. With no further discussion Council Member Coatney made motion to approve the repair of Nebraska Street between 2nd Street and 3rd Street and to discuss the potential repair of 2nd Street between Oregon Street and California Street next year. Motion was seconded by Council Member Peregoy. Roll Call Vote Indicated; “AYE” – Vogt, Peregoy, Coatney. “NAY” – Jones. Motion Carried.

**Item 11.** Council looked over several different types of salt/sanders that would replace the City’s current sander. After discussion about each sander Council Member Peregoy would like to know what Scott and Harold think works best for the City. Council Member Vogt agreed that it would be best to have Scott and Harold review them before voting on which one to purchase. The question was brought up if this is something that could be purchased cheaper during the off season. No formal action was taken by Council.

**Item 12.** The rental of City Hall during the pandemic was discussed by the Council. Mayor Pease noted that this is an ongoing issue. The Governor did put out new Directed Health Measures for a new occupancy standard. Brent Lottman and Mayor Pease figured the math on that and 25% of the normal occupancy is 18, this should be the current standard. The ventilation system will be looked at by Air Stream Plumbing and Heating. Solie said there is a possibility for a rural development grant to help apply up to 55% of the City Hall renovation that could apply to the ventilation repair or upgrade. The church group that rents the City Hall on Sundays have had as many as 40 people. City Attorney Ligouri thinks that 40 people is too high for the current circumstances. The church would need to cluster in family groups and then have six-foot distancing between the family groups. City Hall is not compatible with the group’s needs. City Attorney Ligouri stated that this is something that needs to be considered and that Mayor Pease can temporarily suspend rental of the City Hall without Council approval. No further discussion was had. No formal action taken by Council.

**Item 13.** Council Member Coatney made motion to approve Resolution 2020-11 Signing of the Year – End Certification of City Street Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jones. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 14.** Zach Schulz from JEO reviewed the change order #1 for the 2020 Park Water Main Extension Project. This change order comes from discussion had a couple months ago. It adds the inclusion of service lines to the new water main. It is a cost increase of $6,495.00. The contract has been amended to include this work. Council Member Peregoy made motion to approve Change Order #1 for the 2020 Park Water Main Extension Project. Motion was seconded by Council Member Vogt. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 15.** Project No. 200716.00 – 2020 Park Street Water Main Extension was reviewed by Council. Zach Schulz stated Mayor Pease had the authority to sign the contract pursuant to the language within the award. This was for Council review so Council is aware of what Mayor Pease is signing. No formal action was taken by Council.

**Item 16.** Zach Schulz with JEO discussed that Task Order # 191141.05 Wastewater Treatment Improvements is an engineering agreement to provide design, bidding, and construction. This does not include any additional flood protection to the lagoons. It just brings everything back to pre-flood conditions. Timeline for this is 4 months for design, from there the bidding process is 2 months and then there will be discussion about acceptable timeline for construction. The fee amount is broken out better for the FEMA process. The total sum would be $41,100.00. With no further discussion, Council Member Peregoy made motion to approve Task Order #191141.05 Wastewater Treatment Improvements. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 17.** Zach Schulz with JEO explained Task Order # 191141.06 Water System Improvements. He explained that this is all the engineering services from the start of design to project close out. The task order is being presented now so the City can start once we have FEMA approval. The timeline is 300 days for the design. JEO realizes this is a long time, but they are going to have to get through potential roadblocks with the railroad, D.O.T, and landowners. The project completion date is the end of 2022. The total fee amount is $577,000.00. The one thing that can hold the project up will be bacteria testing. JEO has seen some pass quickly and some that have taken a year to pass. JEO has done extensive work to make sure this all follows the code and standards of FEMA. With no further discussion, Council Member Peregoy made a motion to approve Task Order # 191141.06 Water System Improvements. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 18.** Consideration of the City of Peru, NE, Water Supply Contract with the City of Auburn, NE, and Board of Public Works (BPW) was presented to the Council. City Attorney Ligouri said he has a revised version that has gone out to JEO and the BPW. City Attorney Ligouri is waiting to hear back if there is anything further before it goes out to the Peru City Council. BPW is ready and willing to sign so whenever it gets finalized with BPW and JEO then it can be offered to Peru City Council for approval. No formal action was taken by Council.

With there being no further business, Council Member Coatney made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Peregoy seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

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Dave Pease, Mayor

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Charlotte Carpenter, City Clerk - Treasurer