**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON February 16, 2021 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 Jason Jones, Ethan Coatney, Spencer Vogt, and Quentin Kieler. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the January 19, 2021 regular Council meeting. Council Member Vogt made motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

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

NMC Rental - $2,202.56 (wtr); WesTech - $15,750.00 (wtr); JEO-$15,433.75(wtr,swr); Rieschick Drilling Co.-$2,278.98(wtr); OPPD-$3,100.41(gen,sts,p&r,wtr,fr,res,rurfr); Windstream-$675.17(gen,wtr,fr,rurfr,res); Verizon-$40.01(wtr); Casey’s -$617.45(sts); Card Services-$320.60(gen,sts); Black Hills Energy-$239.209(gen,wtr,fr,rurfr,res); Access Systems-$144.16(gen); Pitney Bowes-$254.97(gen); Ty’s Outdoor Power & Service-$595.51(sts); Emergency Medical Products-$3.60(res); Bound Tree-$25.79(res); Feld Fire-$1,352.79(fr,rurfr); Eakes Office Solutions-$231.95(gen); Eggers Bros.-$25.98(fr,rurfr)Concrete Industries-$3,082.86(sts); One Call Concepts-$1.92(wtr,swr); Heather L. Pemberton, CPA-$1,020.00(gen); Board of Public Works-$7,378.83(wtr,swr); American Recycling & Sanitation-$2,200.00(gen); WM. Yost Trucking-$300.00(sts); Auburn Newspaper-$124.92(gen); Utility Services-$3,460.47(wtr); NAPA-$49.80(sts); Hawkins-$326.35(wtr); NE. Public Health Enviro Lab-$15.00(wtr); The Cleaners-$24.00(gen); Auburn Plumbing & Heating-$27.93(fr,rurfr, res); Miller Monroe Farrell Ins.-$7,462.00(gen); SENDD-$5,761.11(gen); Auburn Automotive-$1,047.63(sts); Burr Farms-$190.00(sts); Decker’s Food Center-$27.93(gen); OK Tire-$43.00(sts); Blue River Area Agency-$100.00(gen); Spencer Vogt-$187.95(fr,rurfr); Jim Smith-$5,600.00(sts)

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

The City Clerk reported that February 2021 Highway Allocation was $6,166.58, the February 2021 Incentive payment totaled $1,000.00, and November 2020 City Sales Tax was $3,691.79.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Pease stated the water report can be found in the Clerk’s office. Pease also noted that the daily amount of water pumped to the tower was 64,000 gallons a day.

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

**Item 1.** Due to lack of interested individuals to sit on theCity of Peru Planning Commission, appointments are to be addressed at the regular March 2021 council meeting. No formal action requested by or of the City Council at this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Deborah Solie, provided updates to the public and Council on flood recovery projects and funding opportunities. Current projects under consideration include the connection to Auburn for water, lagoon updates, repairs to 5th and Hoyt streets and purchasing properties in the 100-year flood plain through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. She also shared progress on forming a grocery store steering committee and other projects affecting Peru including renovation of the ballpark area and the purchase/resale/rehab grant.

**Item 2.** Krystal Knabe with Arbor Day Farm presented the upcoming Radler Bike Festival. The event is expecting 750 bicyclist and they have 3 different route options. The 2nd day of the event will have cyclist coming through Peru. The event will not need to have any streets blocked off. During the event they will have check stations for the cyclist and will likely have one in Peru. If there are groups or individuals interested in sitting at a check station, please reach out to Krystal Knabe.

**Item 3.** Zach’s Bar and Grill addressed the council about providing KENO in the bar again. Zach Reeves stated that the company he used before did not have enough business and it wasn’t profitable. However, he was approached by the company that does KENO at Ted’s in Nebraska City and they were comfortable with the numbers that KENO used to make and felt it would be profitable. The City Clerk will investigate what the City needs to provide, and Reeves will follow up with the company. Council will readdress this item at the regular March council meeting. No formal action taken by the City Council at this meeting.

**Item 4.** Angela Allgood presented information about Xpress Bill Pay. This company would allow customers to pay online, come into the office and pay with a credit or debit card, or have it set up to be withdrawn automatically. The charge to the City for this service is estimated to be $113 a month which is to cover card fees. Council asked for further information about if this would be set up as a contract with the company and if no one were to use the service would the City still be charged monthly fees. Allgood will be doing further research and reporting back at the regular March city council meeting. No formal action taken by the City Council at this meeting.

**Item 5.** Council discussed the City Hall rental rates. Council member Kieler made motion that 501c3 organizations be exempt, nonprofit groups be charged $40.00 and private/profit groups be charged $60.00 Motion was seconded by council member Vogt. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 6.** With the current directed health measures in place the Mayor and Council discussed renting out the City Hall starting in March. Council member Coatney motioned to reopen the City Hall for rent starting March 1st. Motion was seconded by Council member Kieler. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 7.** Council discussed the need of a different city truck, sander, and plow. Mayor Pease spoke with City maintenance personnel and they think a one ton will do everything that they need the truck for. There is $30,000.00 in the budget for a truck. Pease noted that there can be some flexibility there. A member of the public mentioned the idea of a “V” plow and explained how it would be time saving. Council member Jones feels we should do more research and look into bids. Discussion was had about looking into a sander and plow from the same company at a later date. The truck will be addressed at the March regular council meeting once more has been gathered. No formal action taken by the City Council at this meeting.

**Item 8.** Proceeds from the sale of the fire truck were discussed. Mayor Pease noted that they could pay down the principal of the new fire truck or be put the proceeds into the general fund. Council member Vogt stated that he was under the impression that when the fire truck was bought, the proceeds from the old truck were to go toward the principal of the new truck. Council member Jones made motion to apply the proceeds from the sale of the fire truck to the principal amount owed on the new fire truck. Motion was seconded by council member Vogt. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 9.** Council discussed the 5th Street, street improvements for the pre-application for CDBG Emergent Threat grant funds. This grant is for the emergent threat. Therefore, Hoyt Street cannot be tide to this grant, but 5th street can be. The grant is for $400,000.00 – no match required. The phases of street repair have been developed to match our grant opportunities. Before applying, SENDD requested council approval to change the location of what would be repaired on the application. Council Member Jones made motion to approve the pre-application for CDBG Emergent Threat funds for addition improvements to 5th Street. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Discussion had - Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 10.** The current lease on the City owned farm ground (parcel 640060641 & 640060609) expires on February 28, 2021. The current lessee paid $17,500.00 where the prior lease the lessee paid $24,000.00. Council member Jones believes this lease was extended so the lessee could receive grant funds to make repairs and it is uncertain if these repairs were made. Mayor Pease noted that it makes sense to go out for bid and feels that the City should investigate putting the ground into CRP. Council Member Jones feels the lease should be for both parcels and that they cannot be split. After further discussion Council Member Kieler made motion that both parcels go out for bid as a whole, that the notice for bid is placed in the Auburn Newspaper, the bid is for either 3 or 5 years, the lessee will pay the property taxes, the bids are sealed and due to the City Clerk on March 11th by 4:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Vogt. Discussion had - Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

**Item 11.**  With there being no further business, Council Member Coatney made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jones 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