**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON July 19, 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 at 6:00 p.m.: Mayor Dave Pease, and Council Members Ethan Coatney, Spencer Vogt, Quentin Kieler, and Marty Peregoy. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2021, regular Council meeting. Council Member Peregoy made motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

Council Member Vogt made the motion to approve the claims already paid pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-01. Motion was seconded by Council Member Kieler; Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

Council Member Coatney made motion to approve the claims still needing paid. Motion was seconded by Council Member Peregoy; Discussion, Roll Call Vote Councilmember Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

NMC Rental - $1,101.28 (wtr); WesTech - $12,600.00 (wtr); JEO-$28,600.00(wtr,swr); OPPD-$3,112.57(gen,wtr,p&r,sts,rurfr,fr,res);Windstream-$578.32(gen,wtr,p&r,sts,rurfr,fr,res); Verizon-$40.01(wtr); Casey’s-$909.75(sts,res,fr); Card Services-$244.68(gen); Black Hills Energey-$130.41(gen,fr,rurfr,res); Access Systems-$144.16(gen); The Cleaners-$24.00(gen); Concrete Industries-$7,646.25(sts); Heather Pemberton, CPA-$485.00(gen); Mike Sullwold-$562.50(swr,p&r); Board of Public Works-$15,184.63(wtr); One Call Concepts-$10.36(wtr,swr); Municipal Supply-$1,817.97(wtr); Hawkins-$994.71(wtr); Auburn Newspaper-$75.52(gen); American Recycling & Sanitation-$2,375.00(gen); Purchase Power-$388.95(gen); Commercial Rec. Specialists-$297.75(p&r); Jim Smith-$11,500.00(sts); Quick Med Claims-$132.17(res); Xpress Bill Pay-$39.50(wtr,swr); Schmidts-$26,915.00(wtr); Suez-$3,460.47(wtr); Bound Tree-$124.02(res); Auburn Auto Center-$44.19(sts); Eakes Office Solutions-$236.86(gen); Miller Monroe Farrell-$152.00(gen); Frontier Cooperative-$140.00(sts); NE Public Enviro Lab-$253.00(wtr);Stryker-$65.66(res).

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 the 4th District Municipal Equalization Aid was $96,493.91, July 2021 Highway Allocation was $8,710.88 and the April 2021City Sales Tax totaled $4,194.62.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Pease noted that Board of Public Works is currently troubleshooting issues and the plant. JEO and a consultant from Culligan are also assisting in this.

Mayor Pease stated there wasn’t a mayor’s report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** Zach Reeves requested to close a portion of 5th Street for an event on August 4th from 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM and an event on August 28th from 4:00 PM – 2:00AM. He stated that the street would be cleaned up and open right after 2:00 AM. Councilmember Peregoy made motion to approve closing 5th street between the old Shooter’s bar and Zach’s Bar and Grill on August 4th from 5:00PM to 2:00 AM and on August 28th from 4:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kieler. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

**Item 2.** Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Deborah Solie, reported that quarterly reports to FEMA and NEMA have been submitted. HUD has signed the contract that moves the CDBG grant funding to the next level. The DED is now accepting questions about these funds through mid-August. The City does plan to apply for these funds because they can potentially assist with matching FEMA dollars. SENDD is aware of this grant and will assist the city in applying for them. Northeast Long-Term Recovery applied for a grant that would extend Solie’s position for another 18 months. The good news has been received that this application was approved and Solie will be able to continue assisting the city in the flood recovery process. Nebraska Forestry Service has met and is interested in piloting with Peru to help come up with a plan for the potential green space. Lastly, the UNL Extension had funds that were used in Peru to build a picnic shelter at the Sid Brown Park. The idea behind the grant was to give a space in multiple communities that allows for people to come together. After some small concrete work is complete the picnic shelter will be ready for use.

**Item 3.** Deborah Solie presented different recommendations for the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. The City of Peru has received it’s first tranche of funds, the second tranche will be given to the city in July of 2022. The State has given permission to use funds for replacement businesses or businesses struggling do to COVID. Another use of funds could be upgrade all of the current water meters with radio read meters. Ken Swanson from BPW suggested focusing on installing the radio read meters at the college first. After further discussion Solie recommends using the funds for business development and radio read meters. Council further discussed how to split the funds between the 2 projects and what kind of timeline is needed. Councilmember Peregoy requested that more information be gathered in order for the Council to make a better-informed decision at the regular August council meeting. No formal action was taken by council on this agenda item.

**Item 4.** City Accountant, Heather Pemberton, spoke to council about the upcoming budget workshop that needs to take place in order to put together the 2021-2022 budget. After brief discussion Council decided to have hold the public budget workshop at 5:00 PM on August 16th.

**Item 5.** Council discussed the Wellhead Protection Charge of $3.25 that is included on the monthly water bills. Mayor Pease was under the impression that this charge was required by the State so if repairs were needed for the Well the funding would be available. Councilmember Kieler noted that he felt the State only required a plan to be in place. It was discussed by the Council to keep the charge in place and use it when determined necessary. No Council Action requested or taken on this Item.

**Item 6.** Penny Coatney was present in person and requested to resign from the Peru Planning Commission due to lack of time. Councilmember Peregoy made motion to accept Penny’s resignation. Councilmember Kieler seconded the motion. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

**Item 7.** Mayor Pease appointed Julia Perry to fill the vacant Peru Planning Commission position. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

**Item 8.** Councilmember Kieler made motion to approve S64 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader Lease. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

**Item 9.** Council discussed the possibility of not replacing the shredder and just hiring out the work. Councilmember Kieler said he would present more bids of different types of shredders at the regular August council meeting before a decision is made. No formal action was taken by the Council.

**Item 10.** Councilmember Kieler discussed the possibility of removing the trees that line the east side of Park Avenue. Councilmember Vogt stated that the trees are supposedly as big as they will get. Councilmembers Coatney and Peregoy feel the City should ask the college to trim the trees back. Kieler wants to see the trees blocking streets signs to be removed completely. The City Clerk will send a letter requesting the trees be trimmed so signage can be seen clearly. No Council action was requested or taken on this item.

**Item 11.** Councilmember Kieler would like to know what still needs to be done to complete the concrete repair work to Park Avenue and Washington Street due to being dug up in repairing water lines. Mayor Pease said that a bid from Jim Smith would need to go before council for possible approval. Kieler wonders why the maintenance employees can’t just do it. Pease said they potentially could. There was discussion on the equipment needed to repair the sections of street. Kieler indicated the City would have the proper equipment and ability needed for the minor patch/repair. Mayor Pease noted that the repair cost should be within his approval limit. No formal action was taken by Council on this agenda item.

**Item 12.**  After meetings with Pinpoint Communications about the potential of running broadband lines along the water main, Pinpoint Communications informed the City that it would not be cost effective at this time.

**Item 13.** Loan Resolution 2021-09: “A resolution of the City Council of the City of Peru authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and/or extending its Peru FY 2021 streets facility to serve an area lawfully within its jurisdiction to serve.”, came on before the City Council for consideration. Deborah Solie provided an explanation of the bond question that was asked in the June Council Meeting. Solie stated that the city would not need to take out bonds but that this loan would operate through our local bank. Atty Ligouri stated that the language of the Loan Resolution does indicate bonding and the email received from Luann M. Brown on July 13, 2021, states that additional bonding would not be needed through the interim construction phase but permanent financing through the USDA would be by City bonds after the construction project is complete. Councilmember Kieler made motion to approve Loan Resolution 2021-09. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Peregoy. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 14.** Extension of the lease with WesTech went before Council. Zach Schulz with JEO noted that the only difference with this lease is that WesTech eliminated the section that covered the cost of the media replacement. Peregoy asked how much would the media replacement now cost the city. Schulz felt it could cost anywhere from $25,000 to $30,000. Mayor Pease wants to know what options they have because he feels the maintenance of the plant should be included in the lease agreement. Councilmember Peregoy made a motion to extend the WesTech lease if the terms are identical to previous years. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 15.** Zach Schulz with JEO discussed the bids that were opened on July 1st. JEO recommends the city award the contract for the 2021 Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements project to High Plains Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $183,690.00. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021. After further discussion Councilmember Peregoy made motion to award contract for the 2021 Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements project to High Plains Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $183,690.00. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: NAY; Motion Carried 3-1

**Item 16.** Councilmember Kieler made motion to approve recommendation of application for manager for Casey’s Retail Company. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Vogt. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0

With there being no further business, Council Member Kieler made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Vogt seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

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Dave Pease, Mayor

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Charlotte Carpenter, City Clerk &Treasurer