**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON MAY 17, 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, and Quentin Kieler. Absent was Council Member Jason Jones. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the April 19, 2021, regular Council meeting. Council Member Vogt made motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember J. Jones: ABSENT. Motion Carried 3-0, 1 absent.

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; Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember J. Jones: ABSENT. Motion Carried 3-0, 1 absent.

Council Member Coatney made motion to approve the claims still needing paid. Motion was seconded by Council Member Vogt; Discussion, Roll Call Vote Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember J. Jones: ABSENT. Motion Carried 3-0, 1 absent.

NMC Rental - $1,101.28 (wtr); WesTech - $15,750.00 (wtr); JEO-$75,138.00 (wtr,swr); OPPD-$3,118.34 (gen,sts,p&r,wtr,fr,res,rurfr); Windstream-$616.37 (gen,wtr,fr,rurfr,res); Verizon-$40.01(wtr); Casey’s -$628.80 (sts); Card Services-$823.73 (gen,sts); Black Hills Energy-$148.61 (gen,wtr,fr,rurfr,res); Access Systems-$170.16 (gen); Brent Lottman-$33.96(fr,rurfr); Koch’s Auto Service, Inc-$962.94(res); Bound Tree-$17.49(res); Quick Med Claims-$243.45(res); Auburn Newspaper-$186.90(gen); Midwest Laboratories-$150.00(swr); Heather L. Pemberton-$485.00(gen); The Cleaners-$24.00(gen); AKRS Equipment-$34.16(sts); Board of Public Works-$4742.14(wtr,swr); One Call Concepts-$13.08(wtr,swr); Purchase Power-$100.76(gen); Eakes Office Solution-$30.69; Xpress Bill Pay-$325.50(wtr,swr); The Flower Shoppe-$210.00(gen); Burr Farms Machinery-$125.00(sts); Ok Tire Store-$15.00(p&R); Mellage Truck & Tractor-$35.00(sts); International Inst. Of Municipal Clrk-$200.00(gen); Hawkins-$712.85(wtr); Hawkins-$712.85(wtr); NE Public Health Enviro Lab-$29.00(wtr); Gilbert Services-$22.50(sts); Amerian Recycling & Sanitation-$2,167.00(gen); Miller Monroe Farrell Ins.-$70.00(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 May 2021 Hwy Allocation totaled $6,341.31 and the February 2021 City Sales Tax was $2,655.26.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Pease stated the water report can be found in the Clerk’s office.

Mayor Pease informed everyone that the Busting Barriers meeting went well. Multiple representatives attended from federal and state entities. They are all aware of what is taking place in Peru and have not forgotten.

**Item 1.** Council discussed how to handle being able to approve large change amounts for the permanent water solution in a timely manner. The Mayor would feel comfortable approving amounts between $10,000 to $15,000 as long as other members of the water committee have reviewed the information as well. City Attorney Ligouri will draft a resolution that will go before council for possible approval in June.

 **NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** Council considered the resignation of Council Member Jason Jones. Council member Vogt made a motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Jones and to publish vacancy of the open council position as well as consider appointment of a new council member at a special meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 2.** Mayor Pease opened public hearing on the City’s revision to the One Year Street Plan at 6:11 p.m. Mayor Pease informed the Public and Council that him and Harold had met with the Street Superintendent and that the biggest area that needs replaced is Oregon Street and Neal Street. He then asked for public opinion. No statements were offered from the public. Public hearing closed at 6:14 p.m.

**Item 3.** Council Member Kieler made motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 Revision to the One Year Plan for Street Improvement Program for the City of Peru. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Vogt. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 4.** Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Deborah Solie gave updates as to what has been taking place with grant projects. Solie is submitting A & E Services to FEMA for final distribution of funds. A follow up has taken place with NEMA to change the scope of work that will continue potential funding to help cover the cost of the temporary water treatment plant. The Busting Barriers meeting was met with willingness to help, and officials would like to return to Peru to see what else can be done. Solie noted that CDBGR Funds had been released to the State so once guidelines are published the City will pursue funding that will assist in multiple projects. The Grocery Committee continues to meet and still has interest from a sole proprietor.

**Item 5.** Nemaha County Leadership (NCL) reported the results of the survey they did in Peru. There were 47 surveys returned and the vast majority of those surveys were completed by citizens. The number 1 result was to have the ballfield restored. People would like to see it contain a dog park, picnic area with grills and a walking trail. NCL will focus on the top 2 desires for the ballfield which are the dog park and picnic area. Councilmember Coatney asked about the dug outs and possible liabilities at the ballfield. Solie noted that NCL would work on leaving the field as it is and do more toward the south end. Liability issues could also be removed, and the group would like to see more of a community build to help save on cost.

**Item 6.** Peru Community Impact Group requested to use the City Lot south of Decker’s Food Center and 8 tables and chairs. Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve the use of the City Lot south of Decker’s Food Center and the use of 8 tables and chairs from the City Hall. Councilmember Kieler seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 7.** Brent Melvin would like to step down from the Rescue Captain position and the Rescue Department would like to see Miranda Decker fill that role. Councilmember Coatney made motion to approve Miranda Decker as the Rescue Captain. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kieler. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 8.** Brent Lottman requested to potentially use $17,000 of the Rescue MMA Account funds to assist in the cost match for USDA funds. He stated this would not be additional funds they are requesting just use of the funds that are already budgeted. Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve the use of funds from the Rescue MMA account to cost match the funds from the USDA. Councilmember Coatney seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 9.** Brent Lottman requested that council approve for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign any needed documents related to the USDA funds for the Power load stretcher and Lifepak. With this approved there would be no delay in funds if something were to require a signature from the City. Councilmember Kieler made motion to approve the Mayor and City Clerk to sign any needed documents related to the USDA funds for the Power load stretcher and Lifepak. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Vogt. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 10.** It was requested for Council to consider reopening the splash pad for limited hours throughout the summertime. After discussion Councilmember Kieler made motion to open the splash pad on Saturdays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm pending needed maintenance and the installation of a meter. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Vogt. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 11.** Councilmember Coatney made motion to approve Kerns Excavating Pay Application #3 for the 2020 Park Street Water Main Extension Project in the amount of $5,615.40. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kieler. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 12.** Zach Schulz with JEO presented Task Order #191141.07 – 2021 Water System Improvements, Right of Way and Archaeological Services. Schulz stated that this is supplemental professional services for the 2021 Water System Improvements Project (Task Order No. 191141.06) for Right of Way (ROW) acquisition services, additional engineering survey, and an archeological resources investigation. After brief discussion Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve Task Order #191141.07 – 2021 Water System Improvements, Right of Way and Archaeological Services. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kieler. Discussion had, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 13.** Council reviewed the interested individuals that would like to sit on the Planning Commission. Mayor Pease appointed Angela Allgood and Ray Girard for 1 year, Kirsten Reeves and Cindy DeLaCruz for 2 years and Penny Coatney for 3 years, with Brent Lottman serving as the alternate. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 14.** Council reviewed the proposal presented from SUEZ (Utility Service Co.) for the annual maintenance of Well #81-1. Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve the proposal from SUEZ for the annual maintenance of Well #81-1. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 15.** Discussion was had about water loss in the system. Councilmember Kieler would like to see the 40% deficit decrease before we connect with Auburn BPW as expenses will likely rise due to unknown loss of water within the City of Peru water system. Kieler stated that if we can lower the deficit then the citizens water rates may not have to increase. Zach Schulz with JEO thinks that sending out a letter asking for known water loss by the citizens would be a good start and that industry goal for a water system of Peru’s size should be roughly 15%. Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve the draft of the letter that will be sent out to all City of Peru water connection customers. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 16.** Brief discussion took place on the maintenance of Olive Street headed east toward the levee. City Clerk will call the County Commissioner to see if they are willing to grade the road. No Council action requested or taken.

**Item 17.** Councilmember Coatney made motion to approve Drawdown #2 Admin Expenses for Purchase – Rehab – Resale Program 19-TFDR-16093. Councilmember Vogt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

**Item 18.** Mayor spoke on behalf of temporary remote working arrangements. He stated that sometimes there is a case where we need to work from home. The City Clerk noted that during the summer months she is requesting to work from home on Monday’s and that the Deputy Clerk will still be in the office so City Hall will be open to the Public. Councilmember Vogt asked what would happen if the Deputy Clerk was unable to come in on a Monday? The City Clerk stated that a sign would be put on the door with her phone number to allow for immediate contact. Councilmember Coatney made motion to approve temporary remote working arrangements. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Vogt. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: NAY; Mayor Pease: “AYE” Motion Carried 3-1.

With there being no further business, Council Member Coatney made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Kieler seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-0.

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 Dave Pease, Mayor

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Charlotte Carpenter, City Clerk &Treasurer