

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON MARCH 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, and Ethan Coatney. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was unable to be declared.

Mayor Pease informed the public that the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council would meet at a later date. The regular meeting was adjourned for lack of quorum and to seek Council for want of a quorum and to reconvene for the presentation and consideration of City business pursuant to the Agenda at a later date.

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING (RECONVENED FROM MARCH 16, 2020) OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON MARCH 21, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.

General Public Participation by Zoom Virtual Meetings pursuant to Governor's Executive Order and in consideration with CDC recommendations for social distancing for the health and safety of the Public.

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 and Ethan Coatney. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the February 21, 2020 regular Council meeting. Council Member Jones 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 the March 2020 Hwy Allocation was \$7,328.60, and that December 2019 City Sales Tax was \$3,521.95.

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

JEO Consulting & Engineering-\$8,987.50 (swr,wtr); WesTech- \$12,600.00 (wtr); Hawkins - \$635.76 (wtr); OPPD -\$3,130.33 (wtr,gen,sts,p&r,fr,rurfr); Windstream - \$643.04

(gen,wtr,fr,rurfr,); Verizon - \$41.52(gen); Casey's Business Mastercard-\$941.93 (sts, fr,rurfr,res); Card Services - \$195.58 (gen,fr,rurfr); Black Hills Energy -\$210.39 (gen, fr, rurfr); Access Systems-\$137.89(gen); Purchase Power - \$ 189.61 (gen); Board of Public Works - \$5,096.54(wtr);NAPA - \$14.99(sts); Municipal Supply - \$252.04(wtr); Midwest Laboratories - \$25.02(swr); Eakes Office Solutions -\$154.89(gen); Decker's Food Center - \$6.49(gen); American Recycling & Sanitation - \$2,150.00 (gen); Pitney Bowes - \$140.55 (gen); Interstate All Battery Center - \$61.20 (fr, rurfr)

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.

Mayor Pease reported that do to the State of Emergency Governor Ricketts issued an executive order allowing government boards availability to use virtual meetings to accommodate public participation without jeopardizing the health or welfare of others. The Mayor stated that after consulting with Nemaha County Emergency Management he signed the Local Emergency Declaration to declare an emergency to protect the residents of the City of Peru from the health threat arising out of the spread of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). On March 19th Mayor Pease witnessed 9 vehicles and a side by side at 5th Street Post and 13 vehicles at Zach's Bar and Grill. The Mayor requested a letter be sent to both businesses asking them to respond that they understand that the bars/restaurants must limit occupancy to 10 or less and that it is recommended that bars / restaurants switch to take out / delivery. Mayor Pease let the Council and public know that after a brief discussion with County Commissioner Mike Hall, the County will begin reconnecting Bluff Drive to a city street.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Council Member Coatney made motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Bill Hunter. Motion was seconded by Council Member Peregoy. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" All present. Motion Carried.

Item 2. Mayor Pease stated that discussion of reconnecting a city street with Bluff Drive was noted in the Mayor's Report. No formal action was requested or taken at this time by Council.

Item 3. President Dan Hanson updated the Council on ImPERUving as oNE and the Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG). He reported that the LTRG is working to help find funding that could potentially assist with the long term water solution. President Hanson also let the Council know that before the college dismissed due to the coronavirus the Rotaract student group launched a water conservation project. Over 100 students committed to the conservation pledge and their efforts resulted in lowering the campus's water consumption by over 20,000 gallons per week.

Item 4. Council Member Coatney made motion to approve Jacob Closner’s application for the Peru Volunteer Fire Department. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jones. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

Item 5. Council Member Coatney made motion to approve Kimberly Behrends’ application for the Peru Rescue Squad. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jones. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

Item 6. Council Member Peregoy made motion to approve Resolution 2020-01 Authorizing the City to proceed with acceptance of a grant application between the City of Peru, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and FEMA regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents related thereto. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jones. With no further discussion, Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

Item 7. Council discussed the potential permanent water system improvements. Mayor Pease read aloud the letter that the City of Peru received from Board of Public Works. Attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference is the letter to the City of Peru from the Board of Public Works (BPW) dated March 19, 2020. He stated that this changes our options significantly. Zach Schulz with JEO updated the Council on what steps are being taken to test for a new well site. Before the test hole drilling begins FEMA needs to give the City an answer as to whether it would jeopardize potential funding. If the City moves forward with building a new water treatment plant and a new well site it will take a considerable amount of time. No formal action was requested or taken at this time by Council.

Item 8. Council discussed the potential wastewater system improvements. Zach Schulz with JEO let the Council know that at this time wastewater is a lower priority than drinking water. The damages appear to be minimal. Alternatives for the lagoons are looking to cost 3.5 – 4 million on the low end. At this time contractor availability is very limited. While Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy wouldn’t force the City to provide protection of the lagoons at this time, it will lead to compliance issues in the future and requirements to correct those compliance issues would be enforced and the funding to correct those compliance issues wouldn’t be readily available like they are at this time. No formal action was requested or taken at this time by Council.

Item 9. With there being no further business, Council Member Jones made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All present. Motion Carried.

Dave Pease, Mayor

Charlotte Carpenter, City Clerk - Treasurer