

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON DECEMBER 16, 2019 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 Bill Hunter, Ethan Coatney, and Jason Jones. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2019 regular Council meeting. Council Member Hunter 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 December HWY Allocation was \$6,766.18 and that September 2019 City Sales Tax was \$6,131.08. Council member Hunter stated that he would like to see Gerald Stuckenholtz’s lease on the January 2020 regular council meeting agenda.

Council Member Hunter 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” – 3, Motion Carried.

Council Member Hunter made motion to approve the claims still needing paid. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jones. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” – 3, Motion Carried.

JEO Consulting & Engineering-\$18,722.73(swr,sts,wtr); Board of Public Works- \$15,616.90 (wtr, swr); WesTech- \$12,600.00 (wtr); Hawkins - \$1,109.33 (wtr); OPPD -\$3,169.44 (wtr,gen,sts,p&r,fr,rurfr); Windstream - \$451.88 (gen,wtr,fr,rurfr,); Verizon - \$42.20(gen); Casey’s Business Mastercard-\$290.90 (sts, fr,rurfr,res); Card Services - \$743.84 (gen); Black Hills Energy -\$106.64 (gen, fr, rurfr); J.P. Cooke Co.-\$17.75(gen); Concrete Industries Inc.- \$1,618.95 (sts); NE Public Health Enviro. Lab -\$30.00 (wtr); Burr Farms Machinery - \$175.00 (sts); Access Systems-\$301.78(gen); Emergency Medical Products-\$140.79(res); Purchase Power-\$364.03(gen); NMPP-\$2050.00(gen); American Recycling & Sanitation-\$2,189.00(gen); Auburn Newspaper-\$130.52(gen); One Call Concepts -\$3.45(gen); Brent Lottman-\$749.90(res, fr, rurfr); Decker’s Food Center-\$30.37(gen); Heather L. Pemberton CPA-\$560.00(gen); OK Tire Store-\$149.50(sts); Eggers Bros. Inc. -\$352.62(res,rurfr,fr); Interstate All Battery Center-\$345.00(res, rurfr,fr); NAPA Auto Parts-\$197.45(res,rurfr,gen); Quick Med Claims-\$63.55(res); Stutheit Implement Company-\$12.28(sts); Pitney Bowes-\$140.55(gen) Abbreviations= General(gen), Streets(sts), Water(wtr), Sewer(swr), Parks & Rec(p&r), City Fire(fr), Rural Fire(rurfr), Rescue(res), Grant(grnt)

Mayor Pease requested that stipend check needing approval with only one signature be moved to Item No. 3.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mayor Pease gave his Mayor's Report and stated that there were challenges to the system, one being a leak on the north end of town. He thanked the City Maintenance employees and Board of Public Works for being able to get the leak stopped in a reasonable time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** Mayor Pease recommended Phil Wemhoff to fill the vacancy for the West Ward council position. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" – 1: "ABSTAIN" – 2. No Action Carried. Mayor Pease then recommended Quentin Kieler to fill the vacancy for the West Ward council position. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" – 1: "ABSTAIN" – 2. No Action Carried. Mayor Pease recommended Marty Peregoy to fill the vacancy for the West Ward council position. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" – 2: "NAY" – 1.

Council moved to Agenda Item Nos. 4 and 5.

**Item 4.** Council reviewed appointments for the 2020 Mayor Committee, 2020 Council President, and 2020 Street Superintendent re-appointment. Mayor Pease stated that he will fill in the former mayor positions on the committees. Council Member Jason Jones agreed to be the council president for 2020. Evan B. Wickersham from JEO Consulting Group, inc. was re-appointed as City of Peru's Street Superintendent. Council Member Hunter made motion to approve the 2020 Mayor Committee, Council President and Street Superintendent. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote indicated: "AYE" – 3, Motion Carried.

**Item 5.** Council Member Hunter made motion to approve Resolution 2019-08 – Signing of the Year End Certification of City Street Superintendent Form. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote indicated: "AYE" – 3, Motion Carried.

Council returned to Agenda Item Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Upon review of Nebraska Law, the City Attorney requested further consideration by Council of agenda item number 1 as Council Members Hunter and Coatney did not identify reasons to abstain for voting. Further consideration was agreed to by Council. Mayor Pease recommended Phil Wemhoff to fill the vacancy for the West Ward council position. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" – 1 : "NAY" – 2. Motion Denied. Mayor Pease then recommended Quentin Kieler to fill the vacancy for the West Ward council position. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" – 1 : "NAY" – 2. Motion Denied. Mayor Pease further recommended Marty Peregoy to fill the vacancy for the West Ward council position. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" – 2 : "NAY" – 1. Motion Carried by majority on Council.

**Item 2.** Swearing in a West Ward council member, Ms. Marty Peregoy for the remainder of the unexpired term of the West Ward was conducted by City Clerk before the Council and Public.

**Item 3.** Council Member Coatney made motion to approve issuing stipend check with only one signature. Motion was seconded by Council Member Peregoy. Roll Call Vote indicated; "AYE" - Coatney & Peregoy; "ABSTAIN" - Hunter; "NAY" - Jones. Mayor Pease voted in favor of the Motion. Motion Carried.

{Council moved to the remaining agenda items}

**Item 6.** Northeast Nemaha County Long Term Recovery Group updated the Council on what they have been working on. The group stated that they are finalizing the bylaws and that they are a good contact point for grants and gap funding.

**Item 7.** Vanessa Sherman gave an updated on behalf of the Peru Community Impact Group. She stated that the Trunk or Treat event brought 200 kids into the community and that the Community Christmas brought in about 40 kids. The group will be having their annual meeting in January and are seeking new board members.

**Item 8.** Update from ImPERUving as oNE – reported to Council, they are working on how to support the needs of the City.

**Item 9.** Brent Lottman spoke to the council in regards to the bid he received from Pieters Construction for the concrete pad that is needed so the generator at the fire hall can be installed. Council Member Hunter motioned that the council reaffirm commitment based on the new cost of \$6,550.00, with the majority covered by grant with City expense up to \$2,500.00. Council Member Coatney seconded. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

**Item 10.** Council Member Hunter made motion to approve the \$.50 pay increase for Harold Hitch after reviewing his 90 day employment review. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

**Item 11.** Council reviewed the cost estimate provided by Safety-Kleen to remove excess chemical at the temporary water treatment plant. Council Member Hunter made motion that this item be tabled until the regular January 2020 Council meeting when JEO can be in attendance so the City can have more clarification. Motion was seconded by Council Member Peregoy. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

**Item 12.** Council Member Hunter made motion to offer a Christmas bonus to employees in the form of a visa gift card in the amount of \$100 for full time employees and part-time employees would receive the same amount approved in 2018. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

**Item 13.** Mayor Pease stated that after interviewing 3 candidates for the open deputy clerk position his recommendation to Council would be hiring Ms. Angela Allgood. Council Member Hunter stated that there is a potential grant that the Northeast Nemaha County Long Term Recovery Group could apply for that would pay the salary of an individual who would have the capabilities to assist with writing grants as well as the possibility to fill in as the deputy clerk. After discussion on the matter Mayor Pease said that there are a lot of unanswered questions regarding this grant and how the duties of this individual would be divided. Council Member Hunter made motion that the City hire Ms. Angela Allgood to work up to 20 hours per week at the rate of \$15.30 per hour. Motion was seconded Council Member Jones. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

**Item 14.** Council had discussion in regards to water system revenue. Council Member Hunter presented the information that he had put together that illustrated the outcome of a tiered water usage charge. Hunter stated that the different options would put a large burden on the Peru State College since It has the largest water usage. He felt that Peru State has been very helpful and shouldn't be pressed with this obligation. Mayor Pease wants to enforce conserving and to assure that the individuals that are conserving are rewarded while those that are being irresponsible pay a larger price. Council Member Jones voiced that he has an issue with raising rates when the city is providing the residents with less than quality water. Jones stated that it is time the City move forward and figure out what the permanent solution is and that water rates need to stay the same until a permanent solution is in place. Mayor Pease requested that Council consider dropping the water revenue discussion and move forward with figuring out a solution. Mayor Pease also stated that if the City looks into rebuilding its own water treatment facility there are big road blocks, one being the site location of the treatment plant and the location of a new well. The next step will be to engage the public on the permanent water options and hold a meeting with Board of Public Works. No formal action was taken by Council.

**Item 15.** Council Member Hunter motioned that Council accept the recommendation by Mayor in regard to the city employee raises. Motion was seconded by Council Member Coatney. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

**Item 16.** With there being no further business, Council Member Hunter made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote indicated; “AYE” All. Motion Carried.

---

Dave Pease, Mayor

---

Charlotte Carpenter, City Clerk - Treasurer