

The Mayor and Council of the City of Fairbury met in regular session in the Council Chambers located at 612 D Street, Fairbury, Nebraska, on the 7th day of February, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Ward called the meeting to order.

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Fairbury Journal News, Fairbury, Nebraska, and the designated method of giving notice, as shown by affidavit of publication. The Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room and pointed out by Mayor Ward as required by law.

Roll call found the following Council Members present: Doug Brown, Rick Carmichael, Tim Polson, Phil Rogge, Ed Friesen. Brad Kuzelka, and Kelly Davis. Council Member Roger Bailey was absent.

Mayor Ward called for the submittal of forms to request future agenda items. No forms were submitted during the meeting.

Mayor Ward read the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 17, 2017.
2. Approval of claims.

Rogge moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Polson. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Ward opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. to discuss the City of Fairbury’s 1 & 6 Year Street Improvement Plan for 2017 – 2022. Assistant Street Superintendent Laura Bedlan introduced the item. The City utilized the recently completed street study to identify priority road projects for 2017. It was explained that 4 to 5 blocks of roads were being recommended by staff to complete this year through the City’s annual budget allocation. Approximately another \$75,000 would be spent on chip seal projects. The plan is also heavily front-loaded in 2017 to reflect possible road projects that would be discussed as part of an upcoming capital improvement discussion. There were no further questions and Mayor Ward closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Mayor Ward invited Library Director Debbie Aden to present the 2016 Fairbury Public Library Annual Report. Ms. Aden reported that there were numerous notable achievements which include: the children’s librarian hours increasing, being awarded two separate grants to help purchase technological tools and books, purchasing and installing six new computers, and sponsoring numerous special events throughout the year.

The first Current Business item was to “Consider Recommendation from the Finance & Keno Committee for 2017 Health Insurance.” Mr. Dan Duren the City’s benefits broker explained that the City is facing a 40% rate increase from Blue Cross Blue Shield. A comparable plan from United Health Care, that conforms to Union specifications, had been identified that would actually result in a 10% savings. Councilmember Polson informed the Governing Body that the Finance/Keno committee recommends the City Council approve the United Health Care plan and he made that in the form of a motion. Motion seconded by Brown. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried.

The following business item “Consider Recommendation from Public Works Committee to block off the Downtown Square and E Street from 5th to 6th Streets for the Annual Relay for the American Cancer

Society Walk/Run on June 17, 2017” was explained by Councilmember Kuzelka. Mr. Kuzelka informed the City Council that the Public Works Committee recommends that the request be approved and he made that in the form of a motion. Motion was seconded by Davis. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried.

City Administrator Bielser explained the following business item, “Authorize Mayor Ward to Sign Contract with CivicPlus for Website Development.” At the last council meeting the Governing Body approved the proposal submitted by CivicPlus. The presented contract was crafted to reflect a three year payment plan. This would help for budgeting purposes. Rogge moved to authorize Mayor Ward to sign the contract. Motion seconded by Carmichael. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Ward introduced Resolution No. 1039 for consideration. Resolution 1039 would approve the 2017 – 2022 1 & 6 Year Street Improvement Plan as presented. Friesen moved to approve Resolution 1039. Motion seconded by Rogge. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried.

For the next item of business, “Discuss Power Plant Insurance,” Mayor Ward asked for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of protecting the public interest, and/or to protect needless injury to personal reputation to discuss power plant insurance. Friesen moved to enter into executive session. Motion seconded by Polson. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried. Mayor Ward restated the reason for executive session and invited the following members to attend; all Council members, City Attorney David Bargen, and City Administrator Collin Bielser. The Council entered into executive session at 7:55 p.m.

In open session, Rogge moved to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by Polson. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried. The Council came out of executive session at 8:11 p.m.

Within committee reports, City Administrator Bielser reported that recent nitrate results were within the acceptable range for public water supplies. Initial work for two water grants the City received has begun. Representatives from the City attended the recent Steele City village board meeting to explain the City’s meter reading and billing capabilities. Administrator Bielser also shared that Hartford Insurance had recently toured the City’s power plant; however, no further correspondence from the insurance carrier had been received.

Rogge moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Polson. On roll call, Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Kuzelka and Davis voting “yes”. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.