

The Mayor and Council of the City of Fairbury met in the Council Chambers located at 612 D Street, Fairbury, Nebraska, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020, at 7:30 PM. Pursuant to Executive Order 20-03 issued by the Governor of the State of Nebraska, this meeting was also held online via Zoom. Mayor Ward called the meeting to order.

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof, and 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, Tim Polson, Phil Rogge, Brian Schmidt, Roger Bailey, Rick Carmichael, Ed Friesen, and Kelly Davis. Absent: None

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 April 21, 2020.
2. Approval of Claims.

Rogge moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 21, 2020 and the claims. Motion was seconded by Friesen. On roll call vote: Polson, Rogge, Carmichael, Bailey, Friesen, Schmidt, and Davis voting “yes.” Brown abstaining. Motion carried.

Next item of business: **Public Hearings/Presentations-**

\*Modification of Ordinance 2941 SEC 94.02- prohibited animals and fowl to permit chickens within the city limits. Linda Springer addressed Council regarding allowing chickens within the City limits. She provided documents to show other communities that allow fowl. She stated that chickens are beneficial toward pest control and they do not have an odor if they are provided with proper care and enclosures. She would be in favor of paying a permit fee to keep people accountable. She touched on several points including the education that could be provided to youth through raising chickens and the production of organic eggs. Linda would like to see 8 hens be allowed within the city.

\*Covid-19- Jefferson County Update John McKee, Jefferson County Emergency Mgt spoke regarding Covid-19. The current direct health measure for Jefferson County will expire on May 31 and is an extension of the previous DHM with a few minor changes in which certain offices could re-open. The community is still encouraged to practice social distancing and abide by the 10-person rule. NACO has created a list of ways to help direct businesses to getting their feet back on the ground upon reopening. John will provide us with this list once he receives it. The main concern from the Emergency Management standpoint is the potential of a second wave.

Mayor Ward introduced the first item of current business, “Consider the Solar Project/Project Timeline.” Resolution 1085 was signed in July 2019 to participate in the power purchase agreement for solar power. The current contract has not been executed to date and with the current environment the City is looking to decide to withdraw or sign the contract. Rich Andrysik with NMPP has stated this is not an unreasonable request and that NMPP is also looking at starting a new solar project in the next few years that the City could be a part of. Schmidt voiced that we could see a higher electric cost 20 years from now and would like to move forward. With no further questions Friesen motioned to move forward from the Solar grant project at this time. Motion was seconded by Brown. On roll call vote: Brown, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Carmichael, Bailey, and Davis voting “yes.” Schmidt voting “no.”

Mayor Ward introduced the next item of current business, “Consider public works recommendation regarding the 2020 pool season.” PW recommended postponing the decision until the June 2, 2020 Council meeting. Bailey questioned the current staffing situation and would they all be available with a delayed open date. Employment will not be guaranteed as workers may have already secured other work. Schmidt stated it is too early to decide the entirety of the summer with so many unknowns at this time. With no further questions Rogge moved to table the decision making of the pool closure to the June 2, 2020 meeting. Motion was seconded by Polson. On roll call vote: Brown, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Carmichael, Schmidt, Bailey, and Davis voting “yes.”

Mayor Ward introduced the next item of current business, “Consider public works recommendation regarding the purchase of a Grasshopper mower for the Parks Department.” Brown indicated he would like to see dollars stay local. The parks department is seeking a water-cooled mower in which the local businesses do not carry. Friesen questioned the maintenance issue of keeping the radiator cleaned out and stated that local lawn services do not utilize water cooled mowers and are efficient. Schmidt mentioned that although the hours on the trade-in mower are not as high as some of the others we own that the mower has substantial damage and would like to cycle it out of the current fleet. There was a price differential in the quoted prices and the grasshopper mower was the low bid. With no further questions Rogge moved to approve the recommendation of the public works committee to purchase the Grasshopper mower for the parks dept. in the amount of \$9092.00. Motion was seconded by Polson. On roll call vote: Polson, Rogge, Carmichael, Schmidt, and Bailey, voting “yes.” Brown, Friesen, and Davis voting “no.”

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

The next item of business, “Consider adoption of Resolution 1121 to amend Resolution 84, as amended by Resolution 9374, as amended by Resolution 960, levying and assessing various fees, bonds or deposits.” With no further questions Bailey motioned to approve resolution 1121 to levy and assess various fees, bonds or deposits as assess costs of nuisance abatement against certain properties. Motion was seconded by Polson. On roll call vote: Brown, Polson, Rogge, Friesen, Carmichael, Schmidt, Bailey, and Davis voting “yes.” Motion carried.

Reports: City Administrator- City Administrator Renn updated to Council that Crystal Springs is now open. The City is still encouraging social distancing and camping is still not allowed. There are no electrical services or water currently. There have been several out fishing already. The camp lakeside will be seeded with grass this week. She also informed Council that the LB840 Gift Card Program has been successful with 21 businesses having participated to date. Many business owners have expressed their gratitude for the program.

Mayor Ward then entertained a motion to adjourn. Carmichael moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Polson. On roll call vote: Brown, Carmichael, Polson, Rogge, Schmidt, Friesen, Bailey, and Davis voting “yes.” Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Homer L. Ward, Mayor

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Date

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Erin Reimer, City Clerk

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Date