CITY OF BENKELMAN

SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m. for a Special Meeting. Present: Mayor Tammy Buffington; Council Members JoAnn Decker and Barbara Pinkerton; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt; City Superintendent Tim Smith. Absent: Council Members Nicholas Baney and Deb Stamm, City Attorney Tawna Holmstedt and Acting Police Chief/Sheriff Smith. Others Present: Paul Castillo, Richard Eymann; Electrical Distribution O&M Specialist from Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Energy, Shawn Prochaska, PE; Chief Electrical Engineer from RVW along with Craig Topil of RVW.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor, Tammy Buffington called the meeting to order and stated that we follow the open meetings law, which is posted on the south wall by the main entrance.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the fee schedule for the swimming pool. The Council left the daily and season passes the same as last year. Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to raise the private party fee from $50 per hour to $100 per hour with one adult (21) or older present for each (8) eight kids at the party, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to accept Lynette Behlke’s resignation from Nuisance Officer and thanked her for her time spent, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

Council member Barb Pinkerton made a motion to approve Deb Stamm as Temporary Volunteer Nuisance Officer and advertise for the position in the newspaper, seconded by JoAnn Decker. Ayes: Pinkerton, Decker; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve the Variance Permit for Jeff Preston for 16’ sidewalls on his shop/garage, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

There was discussion on the pending lawsuit with Acadia Insurance Company for The Sis Empire LLC dba Seize the Daisy that has been turned over to our Insurance Company LARM.

Council member Barb Pinkerton made a motion to hire Madelynn Hanes as a Lifeguard at $14.50 per hour, seconded by JoAnn Decker. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

Council member Barb Pinkerton made a motion to hire Amber Havel as Pool Manager and Lifeguard at $16.50 per hour and $14.00 per hour, seconded by JoAnn Decker. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve to pay NDEE for #C318002 in the amount of $28,402.10, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Pinkerton, Decker; nays: none; absent: Baney, Stamm. Motion passed.

The council discussed the walking trail as presented by the CRA along with the Nebraska Game & Parks Application. The council wants the information along with the Resolution sent to the City Attorney for review and recommends that all council members look over all the information and list their pros and cons for the project for next month’s meeting.

Richard Eymann from NMPP discussed the updates being done on the City of Benkelman’s electrical system and repairs that have been made out to Gavilon. Things have been running smoothly. Richard and NMPP have been working with other small communities around our area to get a program together where we can help each other out, because of the lack of lineman in a lot of areas around here they are trying to figure out a way to help of all.

Shawn Prochaska from RVW was present and gave an update to the council on the Electrical Project. Phase 1 which was approved is close to 50% complete. Recloser Installation is complete. The next step is cleaning up the triple circuits that run through the business district. This will eliminate one of the three and include rebuilding the existing line as a double circuit with all the latest 15KV standards. The triple circuit that runs west from the substation will be converted to double circuit. This includes moving the hospital circuit to underground. As far as Phase II that has been approved; Jim Herchenbach is still working through the potential grant details surrounding the generation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

 Tammy Buffington, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk