CITY OF BENKELMAN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 2024

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting. Present: Mayor Tammy Buffington; Council Members JoAnn Decker, Barb Pinkerton, Deb Stamm; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt; City Superintendent Tim Smith; City Attorney Tawna Holmstedt. Absent: Council Member Nicholas Baney, Chief Deputy/Interim King. Others Present: Deputy Tom Jones, Trevor Horner, Amy Frederick, Melissa Jacobitz, Gary Clark and Relgene Zimbelman.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor 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.

Mayor Tammy Buffington thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Melissa Jacobitz was present at the meeting to discuss some issues at the ballfields:

1. Porta Potties
2. Dirt Work
3. Parking Lot Gate
4. Bushes Removed
5. Speed Bump

City Superintendent Tim Smith will look at these issues. Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve the bill for the porta potty for (1) one month at the ballfield, as the water is not turned on at the ballfield, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Amy Frederick speaking for the Chamber discussed “Paintnic in the Park”. The Chamber wants to have an event at the park and would like to get the community to help paint the shelters. The goal of the Chamber is to have the town painted up looking good before alumni. The City will pay for paint to get the park structures updated.

Council member Deb Stamm made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the One-And-Six Year Road Plan at 7:14 p.m., seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

City Superintendent/Street Superintendent, Tim Smith updated those present on the projects that were completed for 2023. Proposed Armor Coating Projects for 2024: $88,593 for 45,000 square yards and $31,500 for aggregate. Proposed Concrete Projects for 2024: $175,000. Mr. Smith has Paving District Projects listed for the next 6 years, which are attached to these minutes.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the One-And-Six Year Road Plan at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Pinkerton, Stamm, Decker; absent: Baney, nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to pass Resolution No. 3-18-2024 #1, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Stamm, Decker, Pinkerton; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Fire Chief Relgene Zimbelman was present to discuss recruiting Fire Department Members outside of the City Limits, maybe 5-10 miles as it is getting harder to find new members and keeping their number at 28 members. The council gave him the go ahead to recruit new members.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to waive the (3) three readings of Ordinance Number 2024-844:

 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENKELMAN, NEBRASKA, ESTABLISHING A DELINQUENT DATE FOR PAYMENT OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE, PROVIDING FOR DISCONNECTING ELECTRICAL SERVICE AND ESTABLISHING A RECONNECT FEE FOR DISCONNECTED ELECTRICAL SERVICE.

Motion was seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member Barb Pinkerton to adopt Ordinance Number 2024-844, seconded by JoAnn Decker. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve the sale to Lee Wiese for Lots 5 & 6, Block 8, Hiddleston’s Addition to the City of Benkelman, Nebraska, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Pinkerton, Stamm, Decker; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve the Vendor Application Form, Vendor Permit & Waiver Of Liability & Indemnification for Mobile Food Vending, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Stamm, Decker, Pinkerton; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to waive the (3) three readings of Ordinance Number 2024-845:

 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENKELMAN, NEBRASKA REGULATING MOBILE FOOD TRUCKS, PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS; TO REPEAL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Motion was seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member Barb Pinkerton made a motion to adopt Ordinance Number 2024-845, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to approve the payment to West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) in the amount of $12,500 for General Administration for CDBG Agreement Number 22DTR003, seconded by Barb Pinkerton. Ayes: Pinkerton, Stamm, Decker; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member Deb Stamm made a motion to approve the request for CDBG Funds Drawdown #1, seconded by JoAnn Decker. Ayes: Stamm, Decker, Pinkerton; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

CRA minutes enclosed in the packet. Trevor Horner was present and gave his report. The next meeting of the CRA will be on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm at BWTelcom Board Meeting Room.

Deputy Jones gave the Sheriff’s Report. There was a lengthy discussion on our Dog Ordinances/Dangerous Dogs.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; absent: Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

* Approve Minutes of February 19, 2024, Regular Meeting.
* Approve Treasurers Report.
* Approve Bills.
* Approve resignation of Frank Damon from the Housing Authority Board.
* Approve Sharon O’Brien to replace Frank Damon on Housing Authority Board 2023-2027.
* Approve to pay Invoice No. 24 0130 in the amount of $12,000 to Miller & Associates for Zoning and Subdivision Municipal Code Updates.
* Planning Commission: Approved Lee Wiese New Home Permit at 410 10th Ave. E. with the stipulation the rear yard setback be 20’ instead of 15’ like on application.

Enclosed in the packets was a Water Report that was submitted by Jeremiah Unger (attached to these minutes).

Enclosed in the packets was an Electric Report submitted by Paul Castillo (attached to these minutes).

City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Rosenfelt gave her monthly report (attached to these minutes).

City Superintendent Tim Smith gave his monthly report (attached to these minutes).

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

 Tammy Buffington, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk