CITY OF BENKELMAN

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting. Present: Mayor Tammy Buffington; Council Members Nicholas Baney, JoAnn Decker, Barbara Pinkerton, Deb Stamm; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt; City Superintendent James Summers; Acting Police Chief/Sheriff Smith. Others Present: Sharon Rhoades, Tim Smith; City Street Superintendent and Tawna Holmstedt; Attorney O’Donnell & Holmstedt, P.C., L.L.O. was present by phone.

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.

Tawna Holmstedt Attorney at O’Donnell & Holmstedt, P.C., L.L.O. was on the phone, we all introduced ourselves. We will try to set up a time for Tawna to come to town and set down with all of us and go over things that we need an Attorney to address. Council member JoAnn Decker commented that we are looking forward to having her represent us. Council member Nick Baney made the motion to approve the City Attorney Agreement with Tawna Holmstedt, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Baney, Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to award the General Administrator for the DTR Program to WCNDD, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm, Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to award the Construction Management for the DTR Program to WCNDD and approve the original guidelines for the 2022 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program (DTR) Application, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Pinkerton, Stamm, Baney, Decker; nays: none. Motion passed.

Tim Smith City Street Superintendent was present to discuss primary snow routes in town. Some of them are posted and some are not, waiting to receive new signs. Tim has a snow plan put together for the city that we have been following. This lets people know what to expect from us and what we expect from them. We will put this map and article in the paper and on social media; so people are aware of the plan we are using.

The Mayor and City Council along with Rural Board Members from the Benkelman Volunteer Fire Department have been working on changes to the Interlocal Agreement with Benkelman Rural Fire Protection District. This agreement will be on the agenda for February. Council member JoAnn Decker made the motion to allow the Sheriff and Deputies to wash their vehicles in the Rural Fire Barn, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Stamm, Baney, Decker, Pinkerton; nays: none. Motion passed.

Trevor Horner was not present at the meeting but had left folders for the Mayor and City Council. Trevor along with the CRA Board is still seeking funding for cleaning up the Furman Properties. The City Council has always said they were going to wait until the money is divided from Dundy County Treasurer and we have an Attorney to discuss this with. The main concern of the Council is that we must get a road to the new city shop, and this will be expensive.

CRA minutes from the January 11th meeting were in the packets.

Acting Police Chief/Sheriff Smith gave the monthly Police Report.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

* Approve Minutes of December 19, 2022, Regular Meeting and December 19, 2022, Reorganization Meeting.
* Approve Treasurers Report.
* Approve Bills.
* Approve Miller & Associates Invoice No. 22 1186 in the amount of $1,750.00.
* Approve and sign Contract Renewal with Five Rule Planning in the amount of $750.00 for the Vacant Property Registry.
* Approve Shelby Baney to the Benkelman Housing Authority to replace Jodi Schneider until April 2027.
* Approve to reappoint Randy Raile to the CRA Board until January 2028.
* Approve to appoint Greg Taylor to the Planning Commission 2022-2024 to replace Justin Schorzman.
* Approve to reappoint Frank Merklin to the Planning Commission 2023-2026.
* Approve to reappoint Jean Marie Jones to the Planning Commission 2023-2026.
* Planning Commissions Minutes: Approved Beth Bolio/1322 B Street Demo; Dan Derbes/Dundy County Hospital/321 9th Ave West; Construction of a deck/No action taken as deck is already built.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to approve the Cathodic Protection with Corrpro for $9,550.00, seconded by Nick Baney. Ayes: Decker, Pinkerton, Stamm, Baney; nays: none. Motion passed.

The City Council would like to have our Attorney investigate an Ordinance for electrical work to be inspected by the State Electrical Division.

Council member JoAnn Decker made a motion to go back to having our meetings on the 3rd Monday of every month regardless of whether there is a holiday or not, seconded by Deb Stamm. Ayes: Pinkerton, Stamm, Baney, Decker; nays: none. Motion passed.

Mayor and City Council discussed the COVID Policy which is included in the City of Benkelman Personnel Policy.

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

Enclosed in the packets was a Garbage Report that was submitted by Bobbie Behlke (attached to these minutes).

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

City Superintendent James Summers gave his monthly report (attached to these minutes).

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

 Tammy Buffington, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk