**Minute Record**

**HOLDREGE CITY COUNCIL February 21, 2023**

Holdrege City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 502 East Avenue in Holdrege, Nebraska, with Council President Ben Johnson presiding. Councilmembers Corey Wiese, Lola Tiller, Staci Wolfe, Larry Gibbons, Dale Herrington, Trent Fuecker, Ben Johnson and Nicholas Smith were present. City staff in attendance were Natalie Nelsen-Pacey, Kim Parsons, Mary Magill, Martin McIntire, Dane Jensen and Chris Rector. Media was represented by Tunney Price of the Holdrege Daily Citizen.

Reasonable advance notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Daily Citizen, the City's designated method for giving notice, broadcast by radio station KUVR and posted on the City's bulletin Board and the Holdrege TownCloud web page. The Mayor and Council received advanced notification of the agenda by personal and electronic delivery.

Council President Ben Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Clerk Dane Jensen announced, "State Law requires this body to announce at this time that a copy of the current Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the room where it is accessible to the public" and took roll. President Johnson began the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Johnson introduced, and Councilmember Wiese motioned to **approve the Consent Agenda, including:**

* 1. **this agenda,**
  2. **the payment of claims as submitted,**
  3. **the Treasurer's Report for January 2023 and**
  4. **the minutes of the February 7th, 2023, regular meeting of the Council.**

Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. Roll call aye: Tiller, Wolfe, Gibbons, Herrington, Fuecker, Johnson, Smith and Wiese. Nay: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

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| **Claims: February 21, 2023** | | | |
| **Acct** | **Fund** |  | **$ Claim** |
| 11.01 | General Administration |  | 113,867.06 |
| 11.02 | Fire |  | 420.48 |
| 11.03 | Health & Sanitation |  | 1,760.37 |
| 11.04 | Community Development & Promotion |  | 0 |
| 11.05 | Public Buildings |  | 2,210.66 |
| 11.06 | Auditorium |  | 1,561.88 |
| 11.07 | Park |  | 18,403.85 |
| 11.08 | Pool |  | 185.00 |
| 11.09 | Library |  | 0 |
| 11.10 | Emergency Communications |  | 595.77 |
| 11.11 | Police |  | 6,271.31 |
| 11.12 | Street |  | 5,952.62 |
| 11.13 | Bond Fund |  | 0 |
| 11.14 | Equipment Maintenance  & Replacement |  | 14,839.43 |
|  | Total: |  | **\*166,068.43** |
| 13.16 | Special Assessments  Department 16 |  | **\*0** |
| 31.15 | Prairie Hill Landfill |  | **\*6,127.05** |
| 41.17 | Electric |  | 607,865.81 |
| 42.18 | Water |  | 12,943.73 |
| 42.19 | Sewer |  | 3,627.61 |
|  | Total: |  | **\*624,437.15** |
| 44.20 | Keno |  | **\*0** |
| 53.27 | Economic Dev. Revolving |  | **\*0** |
| 71.40 | ARPA Funds |  | **\*0** |
| 72.41 | Community Redevelopment Authority |  | **\*0** |
|  | **Complete Total:** |  | **\*\*796,632.63** |

No one appeared to speak during Public Forum.

At 6:02 p.m. President Johnson opened the public hearing to receive comments on the City of Holdrege One-and-Six-Year Plan for Street Improvement Projects. Municipal Services Director Kim Parsons explained that the small portion of East Street currently on the map had been constructed and would be removed from the map revision, which is currently in process. Director Parsons highlighted the current Street Improvement Project of the City. He explained that they could be changed anytime by submitting a Form 10 to the Nebraska Department of Transportation. With no further discussion to be heard, President Johnson closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

Councilmember Fuecker motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-03 approving the City of Holdrege One-and-Six-Year Plan for Street Improvements with a second by Councilmember Herrington. Roll call aye: Johnson, Smith, Wiese, Tiller, Wolfe, Gibbons, Herrington and Fuecker. Nay: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Director Parsons also explained the need to increase the City's water rate and that it was expected to raise a residential utility bill by ten to fifteen dollars per month, depending on the household size. Councilmember Tiller told members she had calculated the increase to her house to be two hundred and thirty-five dollars per year and suggested that the City encourage residents to consider Zeroscaping. **Councilmember Smith motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-04, setting the City of Holdrege Water Rate at $0.0203 per cubic foot.** Councilmember Tiller seconded the motion. Roll call aye: Wiese, Tiller, Wolfe, Gibbons, Herrington, Fuecker, Johnson and Smith. Nay: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Director Parsons also told members that the City would raise the base rate for wastewater from five to ten dollars while the per cubic foot charge would remain the same. Members discussed the effect of the increases on the department's revenues. Administrator Rector explained that, ideally, the City should have about five hundred thousand dollars of cash available in each account in case of expensive repairs, etc. Councilmember Herrington motioned to **adopt Resolution 2023-05, setting the Wastewater Rate for the City of Holdrege,** with a second by Councilmember Smith. Roll call aye: Fuecker, Johnson, Smith, Wiese, Tiller, Wolfe, Gibbons and Herrington. Nay: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Chief Operating Officer Kelsey Williams and Chamber Board Member Patty Freburg described events planned for Swedish Days and requested the use of City properties, snow fence, street blockades, police presence and free swimming during the event. Councilmembers discussed VIP parade seating and agreed that it was not an issue when provided on a limited basis. Councilmember Tiller motioned to **approve the Chamber of Commerce's requests for Swedish Days** with a second by Councilmember Wolfe. Roll call aye: Wolfe, Gibbons, Herrington, Johnson, Smith, Wiese and Tiller. Nay: none. Abstaining: Fuecker. Absent: none. Motion carried.

In Open Discussion:

* Chief McIntire told members there were four applicants for the open police officer position.
* Clerk Jensen inquired about the Council's preference for iPads or Chromebooks for electronic meeting packets, introduced a website provided by TownCloud, which currently handles the City's agendas and informed members of public hearings concerning the advancement of Redevelopment Area No. 6.
* Administrator Rector told members they could check into the League Conference between four and six on Sunday if they preferred and that he would talk with Brad Slaughter about funding a new well for the City while he was there. He also explained that integrating Redevelopment Area No. 6 would include removing an area in the southwest portion of Holdrege to stay within the allowed thirty-five percent of blighted and substandard acres.
* Councilmember Herrington explained that the Downtown Sculpture Committee was hosting a fundraising event on Friday at 7:00 p.m.
* Councilmember Fuecker gave the City workers kudos on their excellent job of snow removal.

With no other comment to be heard, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Regular meetings of the Council are held at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 502 East Avenue unless otherwise advertised. Agendas, as well as any ordinance, resolution or Agreement of the City, are kept on file, constantly current and available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk, 502 East Avenue in Holdrege.

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James P. Liffrig, Mayor

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Dane C. Jensen, City Clerk