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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14TH, 2017

Members of the City Council of the City of Crawford, Nebraska, met in regular session in the City Hall Council Chambers, 135 Elm Street, Crawford, Nebraska on the 14th day of November, 2017, at 6:30 o'clock p.m. The following individuals were present: Mayor David Nixon, Attorney Adam Edmund, Council Member Ed Kuhnel, Council Member Roy Norgard and Council Member Larry Olson. Absent: Council Member Connie Shell.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publishing in The Crawford Clipper/Harrison Sun as shown by the affidavit of publication filed in the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice of the Mayor and City Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Nixon called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 6:30 p.m. and announced to the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall in the Council Chambers. It is also available in pamphlet form.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norgard. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Norgard and Olson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Ponderosa Villa: meet 11-29-17.

SWANN: meet 11-16-17.

NNDC: meet 11-17-17.

Chamber of Commerce: decorate Memorial Park from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Dec. 1st.

Sub-Committee for use of Cultural Center: John Jones and the Industrial Arts class are preparing for some demolition, tearing out lath and plaster; Fisher Roofing will be in on Wednesday 15th; progress is slow, but moving.

Golf, Park, Hospital, Fire and Rodeo: no report.

Don Edelman explained some complications with replacing the sidewalk around D&S Market, including needing to fill the tunnel with dirt, the curb-stop, steel beams that support the sidewalk and the City will likely need to replace some curb and gutter. Council Member Ed Kuhnel will work with Don on the matter.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve a fence for Waldo and Lori Goff at 715 Annin Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norgard. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Norgard and Olson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve a fence for Richard Erixson at 1108 Hospital Drive. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norgard. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Norgard and Olson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Diana Hutchison presented a short video on the “Main Street Approach” to revitalizing downtown, bringing leaders together, helping to create a positive environment. It is a comprehensive community-lead, market-based approach; recommends studying similar markets and their successes; some emphasis on downtown, historic buildings; Crawford should take advantage of its niche. Diana suggested improvements in “wayfinding” (signage). Planning is required by funders. The current Comprehensive Development Plan is good, but very basic. More detail for recreational, revitalization and historical grant funding would need a Master Recreation Plan and a Downtown Revitalization Plan to include infrastructure and blighted areas. Input would be sought from the stake-holders, for example the community, school, rodeo board, etc. Marketing strategies were mentioned, along with a new enticing “brand” for the community, enticing Omaha, Lincoln and Denver. Crawford is encouraged to seek the status of a Certified Local Government (through NPS and Historical Society). Specific ideas mentioned were grandstands and restrooms at the rodeo grounds, the huge potential of shooting parks, and an irrigation system for the golf course. Grant-writer costs are \$45 per hour, a retainer (that applies to the fee), 10-15% commission of secured grants, and administration fees that are written into a grant, if available, can compensate against the costs. The \$45 per hour would apply to working on the plan and rough drawing, the estimates, community input, etc. The actual grant-writing process would involve the retainer and fee. There is only commission and fees on grants actually received. Diana suggested starting with a pilot project.

Zane Limbach and Mike Vogl presented some financial reports for the golf course. Term payments of the clubhouse and course bond result in a negative cash flow, but debt is being paid down; principal payments are equity; capital assets and purchases are normally amortized in private business, but here it is all expensed in one year; 2013 had high contractor fees due to the winter storm; FEMA money then reimbursed in 2014; the golf board had proposed restructuring debt in the past. Using the reserve CD to make the final bond payment this December, a positive year is projected. Without principal payments, the golf course makes money – after the last bond payment is made, it should have a positive result.

Regarding where Seventh Street runs north of Westco, Irene Hughes stated that people are still driving on her property, her half of the street. She would like the curb-stop and meter moved so it is by her Dairy Sweet building and then she will sign over her half of the street to the City. The surveyor said he could do her property easily. The City will look at Westco’s survey.

Discussion was tabled on the ordinances regarding loading and unloading in alleys.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the amendment to the Employee Manual 4.30 regarding “Holiday Leave”, clarifying some language (but leaving the observed holidays the same). The motion was seconded by Council Member Norgard. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Norgard and Olson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

No action was taken on any changes to the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan for employee health insurance coverage for 2018.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve placement of the Christmas tree at the intersection of Second Street and Elm Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Olson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Olson and Norgard. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Olson made a motion to approve the hire of Ronnie Thompson for snow removal. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Olson, Kuhnel and Norgard. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

No action was taken at this time on the placement of manhole markers.

Council Member Kuhnel made a motion to approve the attendance of Gene Anderson at the backflow training on December 5, 2017 in Mitchell, NE and the Snowball Conference on January 24-25, 2018 in Kearney, NE. The motion was seconded by Council Member Olson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Kuhnel, Olson and Norgard. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Council Member Norgard made a motion to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Tuning from the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Norgard, Kuhnel and Olson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

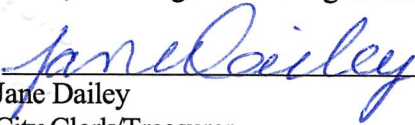
Council Member Olson made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-11 for adoption of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Crawford. The motion was seconded by Council Member Norgard. The following Council Members voted AYE: Olson, Norgard and Kuhnel. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Bills and claims received approval of three Council Members as indicated by their signatures.

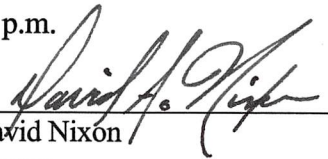
Council Member Olson made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kuhnel. The following Council Members voted AYE: Olson, Kuhnel and Norgard. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The November 14, 2017 regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes by:


Jane Dailey
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by:


David Nixon
Mayor