

CITY OF CRAWFORD

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CITY COUNCIL AND GOLF BOARD JOINT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 4TH, 2018

Members of the City Council of the City of Crawford, Nebraska, and the Golf Board met in a Special Joint session in the City Hall Council Chambers, 135 Elm Street, Crawford, Nebraska on the 4th day of April, 2018, at 5:30 o'clock p.m. The following individuals were present: Mayor David Nixon, Attorney Adam Edmund, Council Member Roy Norgard, Council Member Connie Shell, Council Member Larry Olson, Golf Board Members Dawson Moody, John Skavdahl, Zane Limbach and Mike Vogl. Absent: Council Member Ed Kuhnel and Golf Board Member Rhonda Pelton.

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 and by posting at three locations: City Hall, D & S Market and the US Post Office, as certified and 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 and Golf Board 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 5:33 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. Mayor Nixon introduced the agenda items, the need to address the deficit in the golf fund, to look at solutions and a cost-analysis of different options, to move forward with a working plan, the lack of some records and to determine what it really costs to run the golf course each year.

Dawson Moody called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 5:39 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.

Mike Vogl stated that records on income and expenses and income statements show that without the principal payments, the course makes a profit. The deficit is due to paying the debt so aggressively, being financed incorrectly; a proposal for refinancing in the past was voted down by the Council. Discussion was held on ways to help golf meet its obligations, such as refinancing the clubhouse, financing new golf carts instead of paying cash for them to allow for more cash flow – debt can always be paid off early if possible.

Auditor had mentioned if any debt was a candidate for refinancing, it would be the clubhouse, even though the interest rate is not bad currently. The State looks at water, sewer and golf as one group of enterprise funds; we should not let golf get further in the negative. If you have funding through USDA, which we will for the water and sewer extension for the new fire hall, USDA does not allow transfers out of water and sewer, so the auditor is recommending budgeting a transfer from a cd or perhaps keno money in an amount sufficient to keep the deficit from growing any larger. No transfers as of yet have been made into golf, or out of water and sewer. The pool, park and other recreational funds don't make money, but library, pool and all those other funds are grouped into governmental funds where transfers are required. Kimball and Morrill lose \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year or more on their golf courses. Options to eliminate being under USDA restrictions would be refinancing or paying the loan off early, since there's no prepayment penalty. The goal

is to achieve a great improvement and head in the right direction. There is a decline in golf membership, which is also a trend regionally and nationwide.

There was a proposal to form a committee to address these issues and do some background work, gather interest rates, come up with some recommendations. Success will have to be a combination of increased prices, junior membership drives, refinancing, cutting expenses while still planning for upgrading old infrastructure.

Job descriptions and compensation: options of 8 months on and 4 months off, whether at an hourly rate, working less hours in winter and more hours in summer - or on salary, possibly at a pro-rated 8 month's salary, but paid out over 12 months, like teacher's salaries sometimes are; some other cities have the golf groundskeeper work year-round but is responsible for other duties in the off-season such as parks, pool, fertilizing for the whole city; could possibly change the position to Superintendent of the Recreational Park Complex; need accountability of hours; consensus of needing to get time-clocks for all employees; the need for snow-removal in the winter; there are duties that could be done in the park in the off-season.

Clubhouse hours: consensus of discussion was to proceed as currently doing -closing at 10 p.m. depending on number of people there, earlier if no one is there; may be some exceptions when it is very busy such as men's night, and weekends; in full season, staff is there to open at 7:00 a.m.; early in the season, the Clubhouse is usually open at 9:00 a.m. or 10 :00 a.m.

Clubhouse rental depends on if the clubhouse has to be closed to regular golfers or not. If so, \$150 rental fee. If not, no charge.

Approach balancing the budget as a balanced approach of increasing revenue, cutting expenses, wage adjustments and a cost-analysis of the effects of discounts.

Council Member Shell made a motion to approve the following price increases, not including tax: 9-hole greens fees from \$16 to \$18, 18-hole greens fees from \$25.50 to \$28, 9-hole cart rental from \$15 to \$16 and 18-hole cart rental from \$24 to \$25. The motion was seconded by Council Member Olson. The following Council Members voted AYE: Shell, Olson and Norgard. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The committee to look into the issues discussed at this meeting: John Skavdahl, Zane Limbach, Roy Norgard and Larry Olson. They will try to have some preliminary information by the April 11, 2018 golf board meeting.

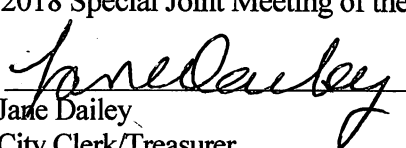
Bills and claims received approval of three Council Members as indicated by their signatures.

Council Member Norgard made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shell. The following Council Members voted AYE: Norgard, Shell and Olson. Council Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

Golf Board Member Zane Limbach made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Golf Board Member Mike Vogl. The following Golf Board Members voted AYE: Skavdahl, Vogl and Limbach. Golf Board Members voted NAY: None. Motion carried.

The April 4, 2018 Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Golf Board adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes by:


Jane Dailey
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by:


David Nixon
Mayor