

City of Cambridge
City Council Meeting
Tuesday September 5, 2023
6:30 P.M.
Cambridge Community Building
722 Patterson St

Pursuant to notice published in the Valley Voice on August 31, 2023, the Cambridge City Council convened in open public meeting at 6:30 P.M. on September 5, 2023 at the Cambridge Community Building, 722 Patterson Street. Present were Mayor David Gunderson, City Council Members Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Nora McGowen and Mike Harris. City Council Member Kevin Banzhaf was absent. City Staff present were City Clerk/Treasurer Courtney Stanton and City Attorney Lisa Shifflet. Visitors present Jodi Cobb and Jessica Fisher *Tri Valley Health System*. Mayor Gunderson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Gunderson announced the open meeting law is posted on the east wall of the meeting room and available for public inspection.

Public Hearing: Budget Hearing

Mayor Gunderson opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

Courtney provided an overview of fiscal year budget for October 2, 2023 to September 30, 2024. Property Tax Request is: \$309,265.03. Previous year the property tax request was \$278,508.01. Included in the property tax request is \$15,000 for the Cambridge Airport Authority, and \$16,530 for Public Safety Bond Payments. Total operating expenses proposed are \$5,661,993.03, Capital Improvements \$3,303,776.88, Capital Improvements Other \$733,627.11, Debt Service \$407,662.68, Transfer \$1,610,882.51. Total proposed budget \$11,717,942.21.

There were no public comments and Mayor Gunderson closes the public hearing at 6:37. Vernita Saylor stated the motion, seconded by John Kutnink to adjourn the public hearing at 6:37. Voting yes were John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Mike Harris, Nora McGowen and Vernita Saylor; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

John Kutnink stated the motion, seconded by Jeff Ommert to waive three readings of Ordinance No. 819. Voting yes were Jeff Ommert, Mike Harris, Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor, and John Kutnink; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Vernita Saylor stated the motion, seconded by Jeff Ommert to approve Ordinance No. 819. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Mike Harris, and Nora McGowen; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Ordinance No. 819

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Consent Agenda: The City Council received a copy of the minutes August 21, 2023 and claims #1-#51. Mike Harris stated the motion, seconded by Nora McGowen to approve Minutes of August 21, 2023 and claims #1-#51. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Nora McGowen and Mike Harris; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present. John Kutnink stated the motion, seconded by Mike Harris to approve claim #52. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Nora McGowen and Mike Harris; abstaining from voting was Jeff Ommert; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

City of Cambridge
 Claims Report
 To Mayor and City Council
 9/5/2023
 8/22/2023 to 9/5/2023

Claim Number	Check No.	Vendor, For	Amount	Dept. Total
<u>COMBINED UTILITY AND CITY ACCOUNT</u>				
1	33732-33	Payroll	3,195.96	
2	33734-35	Void	0.00	
3	33736	AKRS, Filter and Oil Mower	172.77	
4	33737	Bethany Stritt, Employee Deductible	83.75	
5	33738	Blooms, Utility Employee Shirts	520.00	
6	33739	CAMAS Publishing, Publications	589.18	
7	33740	Cambridge General Store, Supplies	165.55	
8	33741	Cambridge Supermarket, Supplies	12.45	
9	33742	Cambridge Telephone, Phone & Internet	1,291.19	
10	33743	David Gunderson - Mileage for Conference	106.89	
11	33744	David Houthtelling - Employee Deductible	72.22	
12	33745	Eakes - Supplies	217.14	
13	33746	Faws - Oil Change #21	153.07	
14	33747	Furnas County Treasurer - Law Enforcement	5,666.67	
15	33748	Greg Howerter - Dental Benefit / Employee Deductible	401.65	
16	33749	Hometown Agency - Premium	27.00	
17	33750	Island Sprinkler Supply - Supply	194.74	
18	33751	John Kutnink - Conference & Lodging	257.54	

19	33752	Matheson Tri Gas - Oxygen	114.44	
20	33753	NLLPS, Labor Law Poster	99.50	
21	33755	PaxUSA - Supplies	595.00	
22	33756	Schaben Sanitation - R/O & Trash Service	17,118.53	
23	33757	Scotties Potties	100.00	
24	33758	Southwest Farm & Auto, Supplies	164.34	
25	33759	Southwest Nebraska Clerk	5.00	
26	33760	USA Blue Book	72.38	
27	33761	Van Diest Supply, Chemical Spray	4,500.00	
28	33762	Verizon, Phone	266.83	
29	33763	Ag Valley , Fuel Void	0.00	
30	33764	Ag Valley , Fuel	1,567.17	
31	33765	Frontier , Police Phone	42.42	
32	ACH	American Family Life	104.18	
33	ACH	Black Hill, Utility	318.29	
34	ACH	Internal Revenue Service, Payroll With holdings	3,769.26	
35	ACH	Nebraska Department of Revenue, State With holdings	627.81	
36	ACH	Internal Revenue Service, Payroll With holdings	1,298.91	
37	ACH	Nebraska Department of Revenue, State With holdings	61.55	
38	ACH	Five Points Bank, Printer Lease Library	129.47	
39	ACH	Cambridge Telephone, Phone and Internet Library	429.43	
40	ACH	Waypoint Bank, Returns	672.78	
41	ACH	Payroll	16,226.79	
42	ACH	Five Points Bank, Printer Lease L	463.64	
43	TR	Water System Extension, Transfer	1,083.37	
44	TR	Sewer Improvement, Transfer	1,000.00	
45	Tr	Fire/Ambulance Sinking Fund, Transfer	3,495.00	
46	Tr	City of Cambridge, Monthly Transfers	72,332.84	139,786.70
47		<u>LB840 Economic Development:</u>		
48	4714	Anew - Façade Grant	8,143.14	
49	4715	CAMAS- Biz of Month	882.50	
50	4716	Cambridge Telephone, Phone and Internet	71.29	
51	4717	MP Design	70.00	9,592.46
52	33754	Ommert Tech	425.53	

City Clerk/Treasurer Report – Courtney Stanton reported on Line Loss Reports and WAPA rates. WAPA review resulted in no estimated change to the Drought Adder component. WAPA will continue to monitor area water conditions through this fall and will send a final notification in October 2023. Courtney reported the City of Cambridge will have to attend the joint public hearing on proposed property tax increases due to 2023-2024 actual total property tax request being greater than the total base property tax request authority. The hearing will be held September 20, 2023 at 6:30 at the Arapahoe City Building.

Staff wages for Bethany Stritt, Courtney Stanton and Greg Howerter were discussed. Certifications, length of employment and job performance were some of the items discussed. Jeff Ommert stated the motion, seconded by John Kutnink to approve a \$2.00 an hour raise for Bethany Stritt, Courtney Stanton and Greg Howerter. Voting yes were Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, and Mike Harris; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Vernita Saylor stated the motion, seconded by Mike Harris to waive the second reading of Ordinance No. 818. Voting yes were Mike Harris, Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, and Jeff Ommert; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present. Jeff Ommert stated the motion, seconded by John Kutnink to approve Ordinance No. 818. Voting yes were Jeff Ommert, Mike Harris, Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor, and John Kutnink; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Ordinance No. 818

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, FURNAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, establishing salaries and compensation for City employees; repealing all prior conflicting ordinances; and ordering the publication and an effective date of this ordinance.

Vernita Saylor stated the motion, seconded by Mike Harris to approve a building permit for Lyle and Sara Calvert for a new build at 40202 Corn Husk Lane. Voting yes were John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Mike Harris, Nora McGowen, and Vernita Saylor; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Christmas Light Committee Chairperson Jodi Cobb was present to discuss Christmas decorations on the highway. Jodi was Chamber president in 2021 when David Gunderson approached her about Christmas decorations on the highway. Jodi did not think highway Christmas decorations were a Chamber responsibility, so a separate committee was formed. Christmas Light Committee members were Jodi Cobb, Jessica Fisher, Lizzie Cope, Mackenzie Jones and Kandra Kinne. Kandra later removed herself from the committee. The committee took no action in 2022 due to unforeseen circumstances. Cambridge Chamber did decorate main street in 2022 and just recently ordered and paid for a new swag to cross main street. Currently highway Christmas decorations are in bad shape and need to be replaced. Timers on poles also need replaced. There are 33 total poles from the park to Tri Valley Health System. There are 21 wood poles from the park to Park Ave. and then 12 metal poles from Park Ave to Tri Valley Health. There are 21 frames and 19 of them are working. The Committee will do the work to assemble new decoration on frames. Mayor Gunderson suggested looking into a grant through Ag Valley Coop. Jessica Fisher also suggested checking into grants given through Wal-Mart. Jodi will check into the grants through Wal-Mart and Ag Valley Coop on behalf of the Christmas Light Committee. The price for 21 scroll w/white deluxe lanterns 6 1/2" garland pole mounts, LED Lamps is \$12,195.86. The price for 21 white deluxe lanterns and 21 triple branch garland pole trim kits is \$11,258.50. Courtney reported that this is an expense that was not budgeted for in the general operating expense and will review the electric operating expense budget to see if it would better fit as an electric operating expense. It was also discussed that the city will have to hire someone to put the decoration up as they no longer have a

bucket truck. John Kuntink stated the motion, seconded by Mike Harris to approve moving forward with purchase of replacement lanterns and parts in the amount of \$11,258.50. Voting yes were Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert and Mike Harris; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present. Vernita Saylor also stated she would like to see the white celebrations lights on downtown buildings.

Jeff Ommert requested discussion regarding the Senior Center. Jeff Ommert and Vernita Saylor are on the Committee for the Senior Center and met last week. Jeff reported the Senior Center loses about \$20,000 per year and is mostly food costs. They serve around 15 people per day and more during special meetings. They have a year or two worth of funding for operations. The senior center currently replaced the air conditioner in the building. The city pays for utilities. The senior center questioned that if at some point the operation could be taken over by the city. The senior center is going to try to do more activities and possibly a Sunday evening meal. In the past it had been discussed to have the meal at the Heritage Plaza. Jessica Fisher was present and said the offer still stands. Vernita did state that the Senior Center would like to stay at their current location.

Courtney Stanton presented a proposal for an electric rate study from Utility Financial Solutions, LLC. Proposal was in the amount of \$17,800.00 and \$30,000 was budgeted. Council discussed and would like to look into other options for an electric rate study, possibly a company who works with municipalities. Utility Financial Solutions, LLC was recommended by Twin Valley Public Power.

Courtney reported she had been contacted by Tara Kelly with the Olson Group stating there had been updated labor laws that are required for the employee handbook within the last year. City Council reviewed updated handbook to include the updated policies. The updated sections were 3.12 Accommodating Pregnant Employees, 6.11 Military Leave (USERRA), and 6.13 Family Medical Leave Act. City Attorney Lisa Shifflet suggested having all employees sign a new handbook acknowledgment form, after they had been made aware of updated policy. Courtney will have all employees sign new acknowledgement form. John Kuntink stated the motion, seconded by Vernita Saylor to approve amended handbook to include updated labor laws that are required for the employee handbook within the last year: sections were 3.12 Accommodating Pregnant Employees, 6.11 Military Leave (USERRA), and 6.13 Family Medical Leave Act. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert, Mike Harris and Nora McGowen; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Mike Harris stated the motion, seconded by Vernita Saylor to approve Special Designated Liquor License for HoJo's on October 14, 2023. Voting yes were Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor John Kutnink, Jeff Ommert and Mike Harris; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Adjournment:

John Kutnink stated the motion, seconded by Vernita Saylor to adjourn at 7:49 P.M. Voting yes were Mike Harris, Nora McGowen, Vernita Saylor John Kutnink, and Jeff Ommert; absent and not voting was Kevin Banzhaf. Motion carried unanimously by City Council members present.

Attest: _____
Courtney Stanton, City Clerk/Treasurer

David Gunderson, Mayor

