

City of Cambridge
City Council Meeting
Monday January 4, 2021
6:30 P.M.
Cambridge Community Building
722 Patterson St

Pursuant to notice published in the Valley Voice, Thursday December 31, 2020, the Cambridge City Council convened in open public meeting at 6:30 P.M. January 4, 2021 at the Cambridge Community Building. Present were Mayor David Gunderson, City Council Members Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Jeff Ommert, and Derek Raburn. Absent was City Council Member Mike Harris. City Staff present were Utility Supervisor David Houghtelling, City Clerk/Treasurer Kandra Kinne, Director of Economic Development Melissa Jackson and City Attorney Lisa Shifflet. Visitors present were Genny Kubik for the Valley Voice, Jessica Fischer for Tri Valley Health, Larry Maatsch for Cambridge Rescue and Morgan Farquhar. 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. City Council Member Kevin Banzhaf entered the meeting after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda – Minutes of December 21, 2020 and the claims report. The City Council received a copy of the minutes of December 21, 2020 and the claims report prior to this meeting. Vernita Saylor stated the motion, seconded by Derek Raburn to approve the minutes of December 21, 2020 and the claims report. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Derek Raburn and Kevin Banzhaf, absent not voting was Mike Harris, Jeff Ommert voted yes except to abstain on the claims for Ommert Technology. Motion carried for the minutes of December 21, 2020 and the following claims report:

<i>City of Cambridge</i>			
<i>Claims Report</i>			
<i>To Mayor and City Council</i>			
<i>4-Jan-21</i>			
<i>Period 12/22/2020 to 01/04/2021</i>			
<i>Check No.</i>	<i>Vendor, For</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Dept. Total</i>
	<u>Combined Utility:</u>		
31848	Twin Valleys Public Power District, Purchased Power	195,150.58	
31849	Cambridge Post Office, Postage	261.00	
31850	BIC, Purchased Water	1,871.10	
31851-31857	Payroll	9,282.03	
31858	7-D Lock shop, Keys	20.00	
31859	Ag Valley, Fuel	136.32	
31860	Cambridge General Store, Supplies	103.00	
31861	Cambridge Telephone, Utility	744.10	
31862	Hometown Leasing, Copier Lease	641.74	
31863	Mousel, Brooks, Schneider, Attorney Fees	86.90	

31864	Nebraska Unemployment, Unemployment Tax	3.73	
31865	Olsson Associates, Generator Testing	8,800.00	
31866	Ommert Tech, Computer Lease	333.61	
31867	Schaben Sanitation, Trash Pickup	13,598.90	
31868	Southwest Farm & Auto, Supplies	33.71	
31869	Utilities Section, Registration	110.00	
31870	Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones	162.24	
Tr	Sewer Improvement, Budget Transfer	1,000.00	
Tr	Water System Extension, Budget Transfer	1,083.37	
ACH	City of Cambridge, Utility	2,997.40	
ACH	IRS, Federal With Holdings	3,092.68	
ACH	Nebraska Department of Revenue, State With holdings	1,595.77	
			241,108.18
	<u>City Account (General Fund):</u>		
48638	Ag Valley, Fuel	9.08	
48639	Amazon, Books, DVDs, Library Supplies	470.35	
48640	Anew Travel Center, Fuel	43.18	
48641	Baker & Taylor, Library Books	337.76	
48642	Cambridge Airport Authority, Donation Paid	20,000.00	
48643	Cambridge General Store, Ice Melt, Supplies	956.75	
48644	Cambridge General Store, Library Supplies	77.39	
48645	Cambridge Super Market, Library Supplies	7.95	
48646	Cambridge Telephone, Utility	424.10	
48647	DEMCO, Library Supplies	203.23	
48648	Eakes Office Solutions, Library Supplies	49.88	
48649	First Central Bank, Ambulance Bond Payment	212.35	
48650	Frontier, Police phone	45.37	
48651	Furnas County Treasurer, Inter-local Law Contract	4,720.83	
48652	Gale, Library Books	59.97	
48653	Good Housekeeping, Library Subscription	10.00	
48654	Employee Health Insurance Deductible	7.52	
48655	Harlequin Reader Service, Library Reader Service	29.96	
48656	Employee Health Insurance Deductible	120.96	
48657	Maria Downer, Library Supplies	23.15	
48658	Matheson Tri Gas, Ambulance Oxygen	114.44	
48659	Employee Health Insurance Deductible	129.10	
48660	Miller & Associates, Flood Plain Administration	100.00	
48661	void		
48662	National Geographic, Library Subscription	39.00	
48663	Nebraska Unemployment, Unemployment Tax	60.40	
48664	NMC Exchange, Grader Repairs	17,485.77	

48665	Ommert Tech, Computer Lease	91.92	
48666	River Valley Services, Hot Water Heater for Library	918.80	
48667	Sara Downey, Work in Flower Beds in Park	100.00	
48668	Verizon Wireless, Cell Phone, Mobile Broad Band	94.09	
48669	Women's Day, Library Subscription	19.97	
48670-48688	Payroll	4,210.40	
48689	void		
48690	Mousel, Brooks, Schneider, Attorney Fees	879.50	
Tr	City of Cambridge Budget Transfers	33,500.00	
Tr	Fire/Ambulance Sinking Fund, Budget Transfer	1,647.20	
ACH	First Central Bank, Library Computer Loan Payment	240.00	
ACH	Eakes Office Solutions, Library Copier Lease	146.84	
ACH	Payroll	554.10	
ACH	City of Cambridge, Utility	2,940.40	
ACH	Nebr. Dept. Revenue, State Withholdings	66.24	
ACH	IRS, Federal With Holdings	957.48	92,105.43
	<u>LB840/ Revolving Loan/ HTC:</u>		
4344	Andrew Benson, Workforce Housing Incentive	10,000.00	
4345	Cambridge Chamber, Meeting Lunch	8.00	
4346	Cambridge Telephone, Utility	48.88	
4347	Melissa Jackson, Contract	1,038.60	
4348	void		
4349	void		
4350	Mousel, Brooks, Schneider, Attorney Fees	40.00	
4351	CAMAS Publishing, Business of the Month Ads	529.50	11,664.98
	Total:	344,878.59	344,878.59

Appointments – Board of Adjustments. Mayor Gunderson presented the appointments of Larry Maatsch, Mark Harpst, Jason Cobb, Jason Sawyer, Jeff Lehr and Troy Westadt. Jeff Ommert stated the motion, seconded by Vernita Saylor to approve the appointments to the Board of Adjustments. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Jeff Ommert and Kevin Banzhaf, Derek Raburn Abstained, absent and not voting was Mike Harris, none voted no. Motion carried by City Council Members present.

Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees.

Economic Development Board Report – Director of Economic Development, Melissa Jackson, advised interest in building homes in Harvest Meadows have been received by her office, a recent request for an in home daycare. Wednesday January 13, 2021 the Economic Development Board will hold a short Economic Development Meeting and moved to a strategic planning session.

Planning Commission will meet Wednesday January 13, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

Utility Supervisor Report – Utility Supervisor David Houghtelling reported the City has received a bill from Olsson Associates for testing generator admissions. The Grader has been repaired by Nebraska Machinery at their North Platte Facility. Dave plans to get the grader on Wednesday January 6, 2021. Staff have taken down holiday lights. The City staff had a problem with the controls working at the water tower, causing the water tower to run over. Dave said he may have the problem fixed.

Ambulance Report – Larry Maatsch was present for the Cambridge Rescue to discuss a quote for a new monitor. The EMT's have a grant to pay \$17,000 toward the monitor. They will need an additional \$28,000 for the purchase. The monitor currently in use is no longer supported by the vendor. Larry said there is a 3 to 4 month wait after the monitor is ordered and they would like to get the process started. Tony Groshong stated the motion, seconded by Vernita, to approve the purchase of a Phillips Monitor for the Cambridge Rescue. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Jeff Ommert, Derek Raburn and Kevin Banzhaf, absent and not voting was Mike Harris, none voted no. Motion carried unanimously by City Council Members present.

City Clerk/Treasurer Report. – Kandra reported W-2s, 1099s and year end close have been completed. Kandra reported that Nebraska Department of Transportation called about the City Street Engineer and the City Street Superintendent appointments and requested separate motions in the minutes next year.

Employee Hand Book update. The City Council reviewed questions from Staff. How benefits would be paid for health insurance and retirement if the employee is ill, off work and has used up their paid time off. The City Council said they would work with the employee on benefits but it would be handled on an individual basis. Benefits are listed in the old handbook, but not the new book. The Olson group recommended not listing benefits in the hand book because if the benefits change then the handbook would have to be updated. Staff asked when an employee is vested for benefits. Currently an employee is eligible for benefits on their first day of work. City Council discussed keeping eligibility on the first day because some may need the benefit of health insurance. Staff has questions about overtime in excess of 40 hours. The new handbook has overtime after 40 hours actually worked. Pay periods will move to a calendar basis for easier calculation of overtime. Kandra asked if payroll checks could be available on Tuesday, if staff are busy preparing for a Monday City Council meeting. City Council would look at the cost to reimburse employees for vacation over the 240 hour maximum in the new handbook.

Twin Valleys Public Power District Proposed Contract. – The City council received information about employee costs in the electric department and discussed options to move forward with a contract or to hire personnel. The City Council also discussed asking Twin Valleys Public Power for a longer contract term with a longer termination notice and a fixed rate for disconnects & reconnects instead of the hourly rate. No action was taken at this meeting.

Update Utility Disconnect Policy – The City Council received information to update the City's Disconnect policy under LB632 passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 2020. The City Council

asked for updated information on disconnect fees and asked to amend the proposed policy to reflect reconnections will be made Monday through Friday during regular working hours excluding holidays. No action was taken at this meeting.

Public Records Request Resolution 2021-01-01 and Request Form. The City council reviewed the information provided and asked for corrections. No action was taken at this meeting.

Nebraska Department of Transportation – Certificate of Compliance for Maintenance Agreement and 2021 Maintenance Agreement Renewal. The City Council received copies of the Certificate of Compliance for Maintenance Agreement and 2021 Maintenance Agreement Renewal prior to this meeting. Derek Raburn stated the motion, seconded by Jeff Ommert to approve the Certification of Compliance for Maintenance Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Jeff Ommert, Derek Raburn and Kevin Banzhaf, absent and not voting was Mike Harris, none voted no. Motion carried unanimously by City Council Members present. Tony Groshong Stated the Motion, seconded by Vernita Saylor, to approve the 2021 Maintenance Agreement Renewal with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Jeff Ommert, Derek Raburn and Kevin Banzhaf, absent and not voting was Mike Harris, none voted no. Motion carried unanimously by City Council Members present.

Citizen Comments – Jessica Fischer was present for Tri Valley Health System. Jessica said that they have remodeled a room at the Plaza and it is available for rent and that they will start on three more rooms. Tri Valley Health is working with Southwest Nebraska Public Health to schedule COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Executive Session – Derek Raburn stated the motion, seconded by Kevin Banzhaf to go into executive session at 8:05 P.M. for Real Estate and Possible Litigation. Morgan Farquhar objected to the City Council going into executive session because an appeal had been filed with Furnas County District Court and is now public record. Morgan said the City Council has known since December 31st and the item is not on the agenda for discussion. Morgan said the public has a right to know the discussion. Derek Raburn withdrew his motion to go into executive session.

Adjournment – Jeff Ommert stated the motion, seconded by Kevin Banzhaf, to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Voting yes were Vernita Saylor, Tony Groshong, Jeff Ommert, Derek Raburn and Kevin Banzhaf, absent and not voting was Mike Harris, none voted no. Motion carried unanimously by City Council Members present.

Attest: _____
Kandra J. Kinne, City Clerk/Treasurer

David Gunderson, Mayor