

City of Bloomfield
March 2, 2009
Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Bloomfield, Nebraska, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jim Cripe at the City Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Jim Cripe and Council Members Brad Eckmann, Joe Hunhoff, Joe Skrivan, and Barb Wilson.

Motion by Eckmann to adopt the agenda, second by Hunhoff. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Mayor publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room.

The Mayor asked if anyone not on the agenda would like to address the Council. Kevin O'Brien, local manager for Nebraska Public Power District, addressed the council to request input regarding NPPD's services. General consensus was that the community's needs are being met.

Motion by Skrivan to adopt the pre-approved agenda items, second by Wilson: 2/2/09 regular meeting minutes; February claims in the amount of \$55,866.23; and January Treasurer's report. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Cripe opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. for consideration of a Class D liquor license application from Darci and Carsten Barger for Broadway Billie's. Carsten and Darci Barger were present and participated in general discussion about the licensing process. There was no other input from the public. Motion by Hunhoff to recommend approval of Liquor License application from Darci and Carsten Barger for Broadway Billie's, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Hearing opened for Ordinance 09-1, an ordinance relating to the acquisition of real estate for purposes of a medical clinic building and providing compensation thereof. Ordinance 09-1, initially introduced at the February 2nd meeting, provides for the purchase Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Block 6 in Original Town of Bloomfield, Knox County, Nebraska, from the Bloomfield Community Foundation. Council moved on to other business in order to leave the hearing open for public comment.

Administrator provided an update on Mark Bargman's efforts to start a recycling center. At this point, no assistance is needed, but Mr. Bargman and NorthStar Services will keep the city updated.

Administrator updated the Council on fundraising efforts for the medical clinic including a letter to BHS alumni.

The Council discussed a plan for collecting on delinquent utility accounts. Options such as turning over to a collection agency and filing liens were discussed. Motion by Skrivan to pursue debts older than three months up to four years, second by Hunhoff. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Council discussed proposed street improvements for the coming year and agreed that Southeast Broadway and South Crown Point need work. City employees will work with Randy True and Street Superintendent Terry Mead of JEO to move forward on this process.

The meeting returned to the public hearing for Ordinance 09-1 with no one from the public offering comment. Motion by Eckmann that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried as at least three-fourths of the Council voted for suspension of the three-reading requirement.

Ordinance 09-1 was read by title. Motion by Hunhoff for final passage of Ordinance 09-1, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jerry Nipp of the Knox County Agricultural Society approached the council about topics relating to the Knox County Fair and fairgrounds. He asked about removal of the evergreen trees north of the rodeo arena. Mr. Nipp will consult with the rodeo club and those associated with the 4-H horse show to get their opinions before coming back to the city council.

Mr. Nipp also informed the Council that the Ag Society has been considering holding a beer garden each night of the fair to keep gate admission increases to a minimum. A liquor license application will be submitted for city council recommendation if the Ag Society moves forward with this.

The Council was also informed that the Ag Society is hoping to replace the midway-area restroom at the fairgrounds. The proposal would also include the addition of showers. The Ag Society has \$27,000 to put toward the project and will do what it can with the funds available.

The Ag Society is also working on acquiring a new set of bleachers at an estimated cost of \$20,000. He proposed that the cost be split evenly between the Ag Society, Bloomfield Community Schools, and the City of Bloomfield. The Council will be provided more information as these projects are pursued.

Public Works Superintendent and Administrator updated the Council on a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Nebraska

Department of Environmental Quality for operation of the city's wastewater lagoons. The draft permit shows tighter regulations for e-coli and ammonia. Roger Protzman of JEO has indicated that the city may be able to change its discharge schedule and be in compliance without treatment. Staff recommended a study be done to back up this decision. Motion by Hunhoff to authorize up to \$4000 for a study of the city's lagoons, second by Eckmann. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed price quotes for the purchase of a new mower for the parks department. The Council was informed that the Airport Authority had some interest in the current mower but that the current mower has needed several repairs. Discussion was to trade the mower at a value of \$6000 rather than have the Airport Authority purchase the mower directly from the city. Cost of a new John Deere 1435 24HP diesel front mower and 72" mow deck would be \$9857.40 after trade in. Motion by Hunhoff to trade the current mower for a new John Deere mower at Northeast Equipment, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Council was informed that holiday decorations can be purchased for 50% off from Wayne Manufacturing. Motion by Skrivan to purchase up to \$1200 worth of holiday decorations, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Administrator told the Council that the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be available for public comment in the next month and that it can be adopted at the next council meeting.

Administrative reports were presented. Public Works Superintendent reported on recent department activities, noting that underwear and other items continue to be put into the sanitary sewer system, leading to costly repairs. The Council reviewed a written report submitted by Police Chief Bryan Ruhr. Administrator Lyndsy Jenness provided a report including the following: calendar of events and administrator's activities.

Motion by Hunhoff to adjourn, second by Eckmann. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Lyndsy Jenness
City Administrator

Jim Cripe
Mayor