

City of Bloomfield
April 6, 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 Skrivan to adopt the agenda, second by Wilson. 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. Jo Ann Schainost addressed the Council about previous discussions of removing the trees near the outdoor horse arena at the fairgrounds. Mrs. Schainost said she was opposed to removing the trees because of the shade and wind protection the trees provide for spectators during the fair and other events. Skrivan noted that the trees are not the most attractive and asked if it would be better to replace the trees with new shade trees.

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 Eckmann to adopt the pre-approved agenda items, second by Skrivan: 3/2/09 regular meeting minutes; 3/17/09 special meeting minutes; March claims in the amount of \$92,063.37; February Treasurer's report; and March Treasurer's report. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ryan Bloomquist addressed the Council regarding proposals from architects for the medical clinic-pharmacy project. He told the Council that he had met with clinic and pharmacy representatives on a number of occasions and believes the design and floor plan need little change. He also noted that he believes we can raise the funds needed for the project. He also indicated that he has met with the Knox County Assessor. The Assessor has said that the city will pay real estate taxes on the property because the building will be used by a private entity. Mr. Bloomquist then gave his thoughts on each of the architects submitting proposals.

The Council discussed the proposals. Motion by Skrivan to invite Kurt Suhr of Architecture One to go through a formal proposal, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Administrator updated the Council on information gathered about street improvements from Randy True and Street Superintendent Terry Mead. Staff will work with Terry Mead to move forward with proposed improvements and make efforts to incorporate Mr. True's suggestions to keep costs down. Skrivan mentioned filling in the ditch on the north side of Southeast Broadway and running a culvert that would tie into the storm sewer.

Jason Hefner of the Bloomfield Community Club reported on plans for Appreciation Dayz. He noted that many new activities have been added to the weekend. The Council reviewed the tentative schedule of events and the liquor license application for June 18-20 on North Broadway. Motion by Wilson to approve the liquor license for June 18, 19, and 20; second by Skrivan. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the proposed purchase of a pickup truck for the city crew. Repairs to current vehicles, the need for a four wheel drive vehicle, and the recent availability of a 2004 Chevy Silverado V6 with 43,000 miles prompted the discussion of trading older vehicles for a 2004 pickup truck. Motion by Skrivan to purchase the 2004 Silverado from Speedway for \$10,000 with half out of the water fund and half out of the street fund, second by Hunhoff. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Jason Hefner approached the Council on behalf of the Bloomfield Community Foundation about the availability of the former NorthStar services office on South Broadway. The building could be a potential office and storage site for the city water department, and it could replace the current water department building. The Foundation is also in discussions with the daycare about use of the south side of the building. City officials are invited to look at the building to determine if it would meet the City's needs.

The Council discussed a claim for \$413.21 for a sewer backup from Roger and Merina Leader, 700 South Washington Street. The City's insurance company denied the claim, noting that its investigation found no liability or negligence on behalf of the City of Bloomfield. Motion by Eckmann to not pay the claim, second by Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Wilson. Nays: Hunhoff, Skrivan. Mayor voted aye to break tie. Motion carried.

Armor coating quotes from The Road Guy and Top Kote were reviewed. The quotes were more than 25% higher than one year ago. The Council also revisited the discussion on street work and discussed the possibility of using a hot mix on portions of the streets proposed for work. The issue will be considered again in May.

The Council considered staff's recommendation to offer Shari Doerr and Rich Kaiser summer maintenance positions. The Council discussed the amount of time that should be spent by the employee shared by the parks department and cemetery. Motion by Hunhoff to offer the positions to Shari Doerr and Rich Kaiser with a 3% increase from last year's wages, second by Eckmann. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the ambulance squad's decision to compensate Norma Ober at the rate of \$500/month for her work as bookkeeper and billing manager for the squad. Motion by Wilson to approve, second by Skrivan. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Chief of Police and Administrator reported on a COPS Grant that would cover wages and benefits for a police officer for three years if the City agrees to provide wages and benefits for the fourth year. Total cost of the City's match will be \$45,000 to \$50,000 by the time of the fourth year. The possibility of utilizing a part-time or substitute officer was also discussed. General consensus was to pursue the grant funding.

Motion by Wilson at 9:09 pm. to go into executive session for discussion of employee evaluations and merit pay, second by Skrivan. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried. Motion by Eckmann at 9:37 p.m. to come out of executive session, second by Skrivan. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried. Motion by Wilson to award merit pay based on evaluation summaries, second by Hunhoff. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Administrative reports were presented. Public Works Superintendent reported on recent department activities including the following: City Wide Cleanup scheduled for April 13-24, swimming pool drain regulations, compliance with new NPDES lagoon discharge permit and possible land application, maintenance on lift station pumps and possible purchase of catch baskets to prevent objects from plugging pumps, and staff attendance at Nebraska Rural Water Association conference. 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 Wilson. Ayes: Eckmann, Hunhoff, Skrivan, Wilson. Nays: none. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Lyndsy Jenness
City Administrator

Jim Cripe
Mayor