

**CITY OF NICKERSON  
15 N. NICKERSON  
NICKERSON, KS 67561**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday, January 16, 2017**

**MAYOR:** Jim Gladden

**COUNCIL:** Jon Rohling – President, Brad Berridge, Trent Gilbert, Angela Richard, Jane Jenkins, Angela Cottrell

**ATTORNEY:** Stan Juhnke

**ROLL CALL:** Rohling, Gilbert, Richard, Jenkins,

**ABSENT:** Cottrell

**Tardy:** Berridge,

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gladden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2017 at Nickerson City Hall.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, AGENDA, & PAYABLES – each item limit to 15 minutes**

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Rohling and Council Member Richard to approve the December 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rohling, Gilbert, Richard, Jenkins, **NO:** None

Council Member Berridge arrived.

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Jenkins and Council Member Gilbert to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Berridge, Jenkins, Richard, Gilbert, Rohling, **NO:** None

Council Member Gilbert confirmed that the employee bonuses were paid out of the salary lines in the General, Water and Sewer Funds and the \$40 gift certificates were paid for out of the General fund.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Rohling and Council Member Berridge to approve the January 16, 2017 Payables. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Richard, Gilbert, Rohling, Berridge, Jenkins, **NO:** None

**CITY ATTORNEY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Aryn Hedrick, chair of Planning and Zoning reported that they have completed the base mapping, population, and housing sections of the zoning update. Transportation will be the next section they work on. The next training session with John Riggs will probably be in March. The surveys have come back in and there was a good turnout. Four \$25-dollar gift cards were given out in a drawing for participating in the survey. A lot of people gave heart felt feedback. They will continue to go through and organize the information from the surveys at the next Zoning meeting which will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will get the information to the Council so the Council can see what the citizens are thinking and hopefully move forward on promoting Nickerson. Information about the Zoning meetings has been placed on Channel 7 and in the City newsletter. Council Member Jenkins asked if there will be a way to get the information that is gathered from the surveys out to the public so they know their information is being recognized and Aryn said he will continue to put information on Channel 7 and in the newsletter.

Aryn asked the Council to be thinking about when the construction on the HWY 96 bypass starts up and the possibility of annexing the property north of town to the county line.

Aryn reported that some of the Zoning Commission members are frustrated with the Council and ready to walk away because the Commission is trying to do things for the City and they aren't going anywhere because they can only bring up zoning regulation and bring recommendations to the council. Council Member Jenkins asked if there is anything in particular that the Council is not doing and Aryn said no, he thinks it is just input that is lacking from the Council. Aryn stated they feel the town is not progressing and Council Member Rohling asked him to clarify what he meant by that. Aryn said the Commission needs to know what the Council wants them to work on to help better the town and that neither group can do it alone and they feel the Council doesn't have a vision for making Nickerson better. Council Member Berridge reminded them about the walking trail, water park, and community center and that it can't all be done overnight. Mayor Gladden said he thinks the frustration might also be that the Council members do not attend the Zoning meetings and Aryn agreed. Aryn said the frustration is not a personal attack on anyone and that he understands that they are not going to turn Nickerson around overnight and that they want to walk side by side with the Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Christmas Gift Certificate Discussion** – Council Member Gilbert asked if the diversion fund was still active and Clerk Schmitt stated no. Gilbert was wanting to clarify where the money was being spent from since it used to come from the diversion fund but now there is no separate line item for the gift certificates.

Clerk Schmitt explained that the gift certificates are reimbursed to Berridge's IGA as they come in out of the general fund and the employee bonuses are paid out of the salary lines in general, water and sewer funds. Gilbert stated that there used to be \$2500 set aside for a Christmas dinner and gift certificates for the Council, EMS, Police and City workers but then Council decided to stop doing the Christmas dinners and voted upon, before his time, to give the 6 main employees the \$300 bonus and the Council, Mayor, EMS and 6 main employees a \$25 gift certificate which was later moved up to \$40. Gilbert is wondering how it is that the 6 main employees are getting two bonuses for one position (the \$300 bonus and the \$40 gift certificate), and he is on Nickerson EMS and the City Council, which are two separate entities, and gets one bonus (the \$40 gift certificate) for two separate positions. Council Member Berridge stated that the 6 main employees are full time and Gilbert said it doesn't matter. Berridge said he donates his and is sure that a couple of the full-time employees donate theirs as well and if anyone needs an extra one that they can have those. Gilbert is not saying he needs an extra one and pointed out that it stated in the minutes of the December 2016 meeting that it was decided last year that everyone gets one gift certificate no matter how many positions they hold and it was never talked about last year. Mayor Gladden said he thought it was talked about several years ago, and Gilbert said it is not in the minutes. Berridge reminded the Council that the employees did not get a bonus last year and he should have recommended a double bonus this year. Rohling also thought it was talked about or voted on to only give out one per person. Gilbert asked that since they're only getting one per person, where do they value him more; on the City Council where he make decisions for the City or on EMS where he volunteers and saves people's lives? Since they are two separate entities Gilbert doesn't see a problem with getting one \$40 gift certificate for each one. Discussion ensued about what happened in the past and Clerk Schmitt asked if the Council would consider making a motion to clarify how the issue should be handled going forward so it could be documented in the minutes and clear up any confusion in the future. Gilbert went over the minutes and revised minutes from the last meeting in December and reiterated that there was never any mention in the last year's minutes about the one gift certificate per person as stated in the last meetings minutes and that now that he knows there is no diversion fund he no longer has a concern with where the bonuses are paid from. Gilbert said he would make a motion since Clerk Schmitt asked the Council to clarify the issue going forward.

Motion was made by Council Member Gilbert to give EMS, City Council, Mayor, the 6 full time employees and the librarian a \$40 gift certificate, one for each position they hold.

Council Member Rohling asked for discussion and stated that he feels everyone deserves a certificate for all that they do and doesn't want to take away from that but in his mind, feels that City Council is donating their time and it is an honor to do what they are doing. Council Member Richard suggested they just

not give one to the Council members going forward and Council Member Berridge agreed.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Rohling and Council Member Berridge to give all full time employees a \$300 bonus and to give a \$40 gift certificate for Berridge's IGA to all the full time employees, EMS and librarian but no longer the Council members going forward in lieu of the Christmas dinner. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Richard, Berridge, Rohling, **NO:** Gilbert, Jenkins **Abstain:**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2017-01** – A resolution to waive the Statutory Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) requirement. The financial statements and financial reports will be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of the state of Kansas.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Gilbert and Council Member Richard to adopt Resolution 2017-01. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Jenkins, Berridge, Rohling, Gilbert, Richard, **NO: Abstain:**

**Kansas Rural Water Association Voting Delegates** – Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rohling to designate Casey Hartman and April Beshears as the KRWA voting delegates for 2017. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rohling, Berridge, Jenkins, Richard, Gilbert **NO: Abstain:**

**Gilmore Solutions Agreement** – Clerk Schmitt presented the agreement for Gilmore Solutions to become the City's IT department to handle computer setup, issues and security as well as nightly backups of the system. The fee for the agreement is \$395 per month, billed quarterly.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Jenkins and Council Member Rohling to accept the agreement with Gilmore Solutions. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Jenkins, Berridge, Rohling, Gilbert, Richard, **NO: Abstain:**

**Year-end Transfers approval** – Clerk Schmitt presented a copy of the budgeted transfers for 2016 that were completed.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Richard to approve the 2016 budgeted transfers. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Berridge, Rohling, Gilbert, Richard, Jenkins, **NO: Abstain:**

**Executive Session, Personnel, 10 minutes** – Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Richard and Council Member Rohling to go into executive session for personnel for 10 minutes. Motion carried by show of hands.

Council went into executive session at 7:51 p.m.

Mayor Gladden called the meeting back to order at 8:01 p.m. and reported that no decisions were made in the executive session.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

Berridge – thanked the maintenance crew for the snow removal on the sidewalks and streets and removing the downed limbs at the Cemetery before the funeral service.

Rohling – received a lot of compliments on the maintenance crew for their work on the roads before and after the ice storm and picking up limbs as well. Thanked the Planning and Zoning committee for giving the updates to the Council. Thanked the girls in the office for all the work they do.

Gilbert – also thanked the city crew for everything they do. Thanked Aryn Hedrick for all the years he's been on the Zoning Commission and taking over as chairman and making sure the Council stays informed about what they can do to help the Zoning Commission.

Jenkins – ditto to all the above.

Superintendent Gomes – reported that the culverts on Paine by the water tower will be installed from Holiday to the lift station to help with the drainage down Avenue A and Avenue G ditch. Also stated they will start cutting back the roads so there will be a lot of grass and debris shifted from one side of the road to the other and inevitably some will be missed when they go back to clean up.

Mayor – asked Superintendent Gomes when the lagoon improvements will begin and Mark stated sometime in February.

Aryn – wished to clarify earlier statements to the Council about what the Zoning Commission is wanting from the Council. Restated that the Zoning Commission is in the process of updating the Zoning and Comprehensive Planning books and named some of the things that have been done, such as the water well North of town, curb and guttering that were written into the Comprehensive plan 17 years ago, along with visionary type projects that have been accomplished. As well as the community center and the water park that weren't even on the plan. If Council has anything for the vision of Nickerson, now is the time to let the Zoning Commission know what they would like to include since the Council will have final say on the Zoning and Comprehensive plan.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,** motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rohling to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried by show of hands.

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