

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 20, 2014

MAYOR: Jim Gladden

COUNCIL: Brad Berridge – President, Linda Fleming, Jim Koon, Mike McLemore,
Brian Rife, Jon Rohling

EMPLOYEES

PRESENT: Phyllis Richardson, Robin Schmitt

GUESTS: Ron Hirst, Gary Graber, Vera Graber, Dan Schmitt, Teresa Rife, Lynnette
Lewis

ATTORNEY: Stan Juhnke

ROLL CALL: Berridge, Rohling, Koon, Rife, Fleming,

ABSENT: McLemore

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gladden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2014 at Nickerson City Hall.

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

Council Member Rife questioned why the Mayor's yes vote to break the tie on the wage increase at the previous meeting was included with the Council members yes vote in the minutes. Clerk Schmitt explained that all the yes votes go on the YES line in the minutes. No changes were made to the minutes.

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Koon to approve the January 6, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rohling, Koon, Rife, Fleming, Berridge **NO:** None

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rife to approve the January 7, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Berridge, Fleming, Rife, Koon, Rohling, **NO:** None

Mayor Gladden reported that the newer police car was sold along with the cage and light bar from the older police car and a check was received in the amount of \$16,500. City Clerk Schmitt reported that she has asked Reggie Green

to prepare a quote for the Council on removing the signage from the older police car.

Mayor Gladden asked to reverse the order of the old and new business so Ron Hirst could address the Council before the old business is discussed. Council Member Rife asked to add Sales Tax discussion as #2 under new business.

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Fleming to approve the Agenda with the old and new business reversed and adding Sales Tax discussion as #2 under new business. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rife, Koon, Rohling, Fleming, **NO:** Berridge,

Council Member Rife asked to add Wage Increase discussion to the agenda after the agenda was approved.

Motion was made by Council Member Rife to rescind the previous motion to approve the agenda and to approve the agenda with the previous changes plus the addition of Wage Increase discussion under old business. There was no second; motion failed.

Mayor Gladden confirmed that the payable to Harvest Productions was half of the payment for the new Audio/Video equipment which will be installed on February 5th. Mayor Gladden asked Clerk Schmitt to explain the Pipeline payable. The Pipeline payable is for random drug screens for the City employees. Council Member Rife confirmed that the payable to Hartman Tree Service was for trimming the trees that hang over into the road ways and that the City does not own a bucket truck to do the trimming itself. Council Member Rife stated that he thinks the Mayor should be answering the questions about the payables. Council Member Fleming confirmed that the Audio/Video installation will be turnkey.

Motion to approve the January 20, 2014 payables was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rife. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Koon, Rife, Fleming, Berridge, Rohling, **NO:** None **ABSTAIN:**

CITY ATTORNEY Stan Juhnke

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Hirst – Ron Hirst with the Quest Center addressed the Council with information about the available funds in the amount of \$250,000 in the Community Fund to assist with gap financing for anyone interested in starting up or expanding a business. Ron asked the Council if they had any thoughts or discussion about signage regarding the K-96 bi-pass project in order to promote the businesses here in Nickerson. Ron stated he had heard talk about a possible

community garden in Nickerson and offered to help with that project as well. Hutchinson has rules and regulations' regarding community gardens that the City could refer to and the High School has a business entrepreneur class that may want to get involved. Ron requested contact information for the Nickerson Chamber of Commerce. Clerk Schmitt will get that information to him. Ron asked the Council if the City has ever done a strategic plan. Ron explained that it is a combination of Council, Chamber, schools, citizens and businesses to discover who and what the City wants to be and when. Ron offered to assist with that plan as well. The Council thanked Ron for the information and support.

Sales Tax Discussion – Council Member Rife reminded the Council about the 2 mills of sales tax money that was committed for property tax relief last year and would like to discuss making that transfer again for 2014 in order to meet the commitment made on the sales tax ballot. Council Member Berridge asked if the amount was set at 2 mills or if the transfer could be more. Rife stated that last year 2 mills were chosen in light of the community center project that is ongoing. Council Member Berridge suggested waiting until the status of the grant is known so they could possibly allocate more than 2 mills to tax relief. The Council agreed to wait.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Session – Personnel – Council member Rife asked if this executive session would be with or without employees and Mayor Gladden said it could be with or without unless they needed numbers then an employee may be needed. Rife stated they have all the numbers so he wants the executive session without employees.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Fleming to go to executive session for personnel for 15 minutes. Motion failed by show of hands, 2 in favor (Rife, Fleming) 3 opposed (Berridge, Rohling, Koon).

OFFICER REPORTS

Council Member Koon asked about having the road gravel continued west past Johanning's house because it helps keep the road from wash boarding.

Koon also reported complaints about odors from the lagoon. Clerk Schmitt had asked the Maintenance Department about the issue and Earl had explained that when the weather changes from cold to hot and back again, the lagoon will "turn", therefore, an odor will be noticed at that time. The variation in the weather lately has been the cause. Koon also confirmed that the cause has not been from chemicals being dumped in the sewer.

Council Member Rife voiced his disapproval of how the Council approved a \$19,386 expenditure and cited a projection report from the auditor which the Council receive in February of 2013. Rife stated that because of that report the Council voted to increase the mill levy to generate 39000 some odd dollars. Rife

said it gives the perception that \$20,000 of that mill levy increase is being spent on wages. Just because the budget lines for wages are there, doesn't mean you have to spend it, Rife said. Rife stated that if the Council does not allow a conversation about the issue he will go to Hutch news with this information. Council Member Koon mentioned how Rife hollered at the Mayor in public and Rife stated he had every right to because the Mayor is the head of this town and has an obligation to look after this city. Rife accused the Council of not knowing any numbers until he started asking questions after the fact. Mayor Gladden answered that they did have the numbers and Rife wanted to know why they weren't released to the public. Rife stated he has been an employee of a public entity for 30 years and they do not do business like this and that it is very embarrassing for him for the Council to do business like this. The bottom line is, it is our duty to pay our bills, stated Rife. Rife presented dollar amounts and the Mayor disagreed with the amounts given. Mayor Gladden explained that 40% of the wages don't even come from tax levied funds and Clerk Schmitt explained that Rife had asked for specific item numbers and what order to put them in and what to call the report but refused to tell her what he was going to speak about at the meeting so she did not want to guess at what he was wanting. Rife stated that the bottom line is that \$19,386 was expended toward raises.

Council Member Berridge discussed the \$10,000 contract with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd and asked if anyone authorized the projection report from Scot Loyd. Clerk Schmitt explained that the Council did not make an actual motion on the report but they did say they wanted to hear the projection from Scot. Berridge stated that the Council needs to reconsider contracting with SJH&L when their contract is up in 2015.

Council Member Fleming asked what could be done about Mike (Councilman McLemore) not attending the Council meetings on a regular bases because the entire Council is needed to conduct business. Clerk Schmitt reported that the code states the Council can fine him \$10 a meeting in order to compel him to attend the meetings. Clerk Schmitt will check to find out what can be done.

City Clerk Schmitt reported again that she will ask Reggie Green for a quote to present to the Council for removing the stickers from the old police car. She also reported that the Audio/Video equipment is scheduled to be installed on February 5th.

Mayor Gladden reported that the broom for the new mower is on back order but expected to be delivered by the end of January.

Mayor Gladden reported that he and June have tried to get in touch with Chuck Beth to find out the status of the grant for the Community Center project but has not been able to contact him.

Gladden directed Clerk Schmitt to find out what information Jessica Morton was asking for when she addressed the Council two meetings ago.

Gary Grabber addressed the Council and asked what the percentage of the wage increases are based on the budget. The percentage comes to approximately 8% which was figured by taking the \$19407 increase and dividing it by the \$244,370 which is the total salary budget.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, motion made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Berridge to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried by show of hands.

Official