

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

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 6, 2012**

MAYOR: Jim Gladden

COUNCIL: Brad Berridge – President, Linda Fleming, Dale Brown, Jim Koon, Skip Russell,
Mike McLemore

EMPLOYEES

PRESENT: Robin Schmitt, Phyllis Richardson, Rick Sims, Mark Gomes, Mike Kelsey

GUESTS: Lee Gleason

ATTORNEY: Stan Juhnke

ROLL CALL: Berridge, Russell, Koon, Fleming, McLemore

ABSENT: Brown

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gladden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2012 at Nickerson City Hall.

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

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Russell to approve the January 16th, 2012 Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** McLemore, Russell, Koon, Fleming, Berridge **NO:** None

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Fleming to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Berridge, Fleming, Koon, Russell, McLemore **NO:** None

Mayor Gladden confirmed the payables total of \$41517.83

Motion to approve the February 6th payables was made and seconded by Council Member McLemore and Council Member Berridge. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Koon, Russell, McLemore, Berridge, Fleming, **NO:** None

CITY ATTORNEY Stan Juhnke – Absent

Mayor Gladden reported receiving a complaint by telephone on January 18th about City equipment working on a private property driveway. Mayor Gladden investigated the complaint on site and spoke with the parties involved and determined that a lack of clear communication within the Maintenance Department resulted in City equipment doing work on private property. Mayor Gladden issued a written reprimand on January 19th that was placed in the individuals file. Mayor Gladden considers this complaint to be closed.

Mayor Gladden reminded the Council and all persons present that they need to be aware that comments made during the public comments section of the meeting concerning specific employees are covered by the same rules that cover any and all employees concerning discussion of personnel. This also pertains to the public while speaking during the Public Comments section of the meeting. Mayor Gladden reminded the Council they are liable for comments made about specific individuals during a meeting by the Council or the public. Complaints about specific individuals can be made privately with the Mayor, a Council Member or a Supervisor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of the new Librarian: Mayor Gladden introduced Amy Boyae who is the new Nickerson Librarian. Amy reported She started training in December and took over the Library in January. Amy has done some rearranging of shelves and is starting some new programs such as children's reading time and book clubs to promote involvement with the community. The Library now serves coffee, tea and hot chocolate every day. Council Member Koon confirmed Amy's awareness of the quarterly transfers to the Library.

Insurance Discussion: The City's insurance agent Lee Gleason with KSFA Insurance addressed the Council to inform them that Continental Western who is the City's current insurance carrier in non-renewing the insurance contract due to the loss history. KSFA has sent the insurance request out to other carriers for quotes. KSFA will bring two other options in March for the Council to review. City Clerk Robin Schmitt will provide a copy of the employment manual and the current ordinances pertaining any processed that may affect insurance quotes.

OFFICERS REPORT

Council Member Koon reported hearing a rumor that the Chamber of Commerce would not be doing an Easter Egg Hunt this year. The City will check into doing the Easter egg hunt if it is confirmed that the Chamber with not be doing it this year.

Council Member Berridge thanked the Maintenance Department for the excellent work in the alleys.

Council Member Fleming inquired about the large trash dumpsters being available in the spring. Maintenance Supervisor Mark Gomes stated that the City may still have a couple of large dumpsters available at no extra charge if the City wanted to utilize them for cleanup. Gomes also reminded the Council of past experiences with having the dumpsters brought in for longer periods of time and stated how well the dumpsters were utilized during organized cleanup as opposed to just bringing them in and leaving them for several days or weeks. Discussion ensued. Fleming asked about a hazmat cleanup for items such as paint. Gomes stated that hazmat cleanup can be done; it will require county notification to be scheduled.

Council Member Koon inquired about the City code book which is printed by the League of Municipalities and how does the City go about getting the old Council members names replaced with the new Council members names. City Clerk Schmitt and Utility Clerk Sims confirmed that the codification of the ordinances should be done in a couple of months and the current Council members names will be listed in the new code book.

Council Member McLemore reported that due to busy and conflicting schedules the Community Center group has not had an opportunity to meet as of yet.

Maintenance Supervisor Mark Gomes reported the City passed the Public Water Supply – Sanitary Survey Inspection with flying colors. Gomes reported how the City is having to call in plumbers with a jetter truck to clean the sewer mains at a substantial cost due to the City's jetter truck being outdated and leaking severely. Gomes asked the Council to keep the need for a jetter truck in mind so once the grant money from the sewer project is available for use the Council can move on the purchase of a jetter vac truck. Gomes presented a used jetter vac truck and other options for the Council to keep in mind. Discussion ensued.

Council Member Koon asked and received confirmation that the City's backhoe is getting a new rebuilt engine and also the grapple has been purchased and installed.

Maintenance Supervisor Mark Gomes informed the Council about a donation from the Farmers Coop and Land O'Lakes for tree replacement along the railroad right-of-way. Farmers Coop and Land O'Lakes each donated \$650 for a total of \$1300. City Clerk Schmitt will send each one an official thank you letter.

Maintenance Supervisor Mark Gomes let the Council know about the maintenance department assisting an 80 year old couple with a flat tire at the

Kwik Shop. The Council showed approval for the maintenance department's actions.

Council Member Koon inquired if the Rowex Rodent Eliminator has been used at the Cemetery yet and Gomes informed the Council the Rowex Rodent Eliminator has not come in yet due to the company it was ordered from was in the process of being sold so it is being provided by another company and it is on its way.

Chief Kelsey reported that a police car he wants to purchase is not going to be available for three or four more months. Kelsey wants to wait until the second production run so the manufacturer can get the bugs out of the first run.

Kelsey also wants to encourage anyone who has a crime to call 9-11 since the Police department is receiving too many messages on the answering machine. Kelsey informed the Council that he has hired a new part-time officer who is a full time deputy from Rice County.

Kelsey has had several people show interest in shooting out at the brush-site and the ordinance only allows for dumping brush at the brush-site and suggested the Council consider looking into building a proper shooting range at the brush-site.

City Clerk Robin Schmitt reported that fiscal years 2002 through 2010 are now closed. Schmitt has also reduced the amount of account line items for the budget to a reasonable number; all of which has been overseen and approved by the auditor.

Schmitt also presented a thank you letter to the Council from Nickerson High School for the 2012 After Prom Party donation.

Council Member Koon recognized City Clerk Schmitt, Utility Clerk Sims and Maintenance Supervisor Gomes for the hard work put into the closing of the sewer plant project.

Mayor Gladden reported the Zoning Commission met last Monday and he and Council Member Fleming attended. There will be a hearing for the zoning commission on February 27th to consider whether a recommendation should be made to allow apartments in the rear portion of the ground floor buildings located in the Central Business District zone.

Mayor Gladden reported that a person from Langdon will be picking up the donated storm siren on Friday.

Mayor Gladden reminded the Council that the auditors will be in the City Office next week conducting the 2011 audit.

Mayor Gladden attended the KanCap meeting in Sterling on February 2nd and learned quite a lot including how the new water meter technology works as well as the cost of each being \$250 a meter which is out of Nickerson's price range. Gladden received compliments on our Maintenance Supervisor Mark Gomes and how well he is handling our water system. Gomes explained how the water loss is difficult to track and that a portion of the loss is contributed to the old

meters that need to be replaced. The City has meters with 4 million gallons through them and they are registering less than actual water usage. Discussion ensued. Gomes stated they are working to get the water loss under control.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, motion made and seconded by Council Member Fleming and Council Member Berridge to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. A Motion was carried by a show of hands.

Official