

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2014

MAYOR: Jim Gladden

COUNCIL: Brad Berridge – President, Linda Fleming, Jim Koon, Brian Rife,
Jon Rohling, Lynnette Lewis

EMPLOYEES

PRESENT: Phyllis Richardson, Robin Schmitt

GUESTS: Michelle McCarty,

ATTORNEY: Stan Juhnke

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

ABSENT:

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gladden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2014 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 Berridge to approve the February 17, 2014 Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Lewis, Rohling, Koon, Rife, Fleming, Berridge **NO:** None

Council Member Lewis added the League of Kansas Municipalities survey discussion under New Business.

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Berridge to approve the Agenda with the addition of #5 under New Business: League of Kansas Municipalities Survey discussion. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Berridge, Fleming, Rife, Koon, Rohling, Lewis, **NO:**

Council Member Fleming confirmed that the Pitney Bowes payable is the final postage machine rental payment before switching to NeoPost. Council Member Lewis stated the W-2 and 1099 preparation used to be done in house instead of by the accountant and she would get with Clerk Schmitt about it.

Council Member Lewis also asked if the Council ever receives a report on what the Court Clerk is doing.

Motion to approve the March 3, 2014 payables was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rohling. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rife, Koon, Rohling, Lewis, Berridge, Fleming, **NO:** None
ABSTAIN:

CITY ATTORNEY Stan Juhnke

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

OLD BUSINESS

Road Grader Tire Replacement – At the last meeting Superintendent Gomes requested approval to replace the road grader tires at a cost of just over \$4000 and received no response from the Council. Mayor Gladden presented the request again. Council Member Rife and Council Member Lewis stated they wanted bids in writing at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Fair Housing Proclamation – Mayor Gladden issued a proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Fair Housing Month.

PAWS Donation - Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Fleming to approve a donation of \$100 to Reno Valley Middle School for the 8th grade T-shirts. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Koon, Rife, Fleming, Berridge, Lewis, Rohling, **NO:** None

Chicken Discussion – Michelle McCarty requested that the Council revisit the Ordinance against allowing egg laying domestic fowl. Michelle presented extensive research on the benefits of allowing chickens and other egg laying fowl including Ordinances from several large and small cities in Kansas that do allow fowl. Michelle offered to hold at least two “Chicken” workshops it help educate people on how to maintain and care for chickens as well as composting. Council Member Rife asked Michelle who authorized her to bring chickens to Nickerson. Michelle answered that no one gave permission and that she did not know that chickens were not allowed when she moved to Nickerson. Rife confirmed that Michelle is requesting that the Council revisit the City Code pertaining to chickens.

Rental Inspection Discussion – Michelle McCarty addressed the Council about the rental inspection process. Michelle stated that her landlord, who paid \$25 for a rental inspection did not get what he paid for because the person who did the inspection and signed off on the inspection is not a licensed building inspector and she also feels that several items that were marked as passed,

shouldn't have passed the inspection. The Ordinance also lacks a provision for the renter to file a complaint if they are unsatisfied with the inspection. Michelle requested that the Council revisit the inspection ordinance and consider revising the ordinance so people are protected.

League of Kansas Municipalities Survey – Council Member Lewis reported to the Council that the LKM does a survey which gathers data from all the cities in Kansas showing everything that is going on in the cities; such as personnel positions, salaries, benefits, etc. Lewis stated that the information is valuable for comparisons when making decisions and she would like to see Nickerson participate in the survey. Council Member Rife asked if the information came in book form and Lewis stated that it comes as a link to a website and there is a minimal fee. Clerk Schmitt stated she would be happy to fill out the survey.

OFFICER REPORTS

Council Member Koon mentioned how well the new broom for the mower removes snow from the sidewalks.

Koon also asked if the Council had any objections to him moving forward with forming a committee on getting money back from the lagoon project.

Council Member Fleming asked if there was any news about the Community Center Grant. Mayor Gladden confirmed that there has not been any news yet.

Council Member Lewis asked to have the website updated. Lewis also stated that a few meetings ago, Robin asked for permission to go to a training and that she would be paying for her own meals. Lewis would like the City to put a policy in place to always pay for employee meals when they go to trainings since it is customary for the City to pay for those and have the amount set at so much for breakfast, lunch and dinner or a per diem. Council Member Rife will provide information on what other cities pay at the next meeting.

Council Member Rohling thanked the Maintenance Department for doing a good job on the streets.

Council Member Rife brought discussion on selling the 2004 Crown Victoria. Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Rohling to sell the 2004 Crown Victoria on Purple Wave. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Fleming, Berridge, Lewis, Rohling, Koon, Rife, **NO:** None **ABSTAIN:**

Council Member Rife resigned from the Mayor's appointment over EMS.

Mayor Gladden appointed Council Member Lewis over EMS.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rohling to accept the Mayor's appointment of Council Member Lewis over EMS. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rohling, Berridge, Fleming, Koon, **NO:** None **ABSTAIN:** Lewis, Rife,

Council Member Lewis asked if anyone has shown interest in being on EMS or taking the classes for EMS. Council Member Rife referred her to the EMS Director, Karyl White.

Council Member Berridge said the new mower will be an asset in the summer and the new broom attachment cleans the snow very well. Berridge said he receives good comments down at the store about the sidewalks being cleaned and the side streets as well.

Mayor Gladden talked with Casey about building a portable windshield for the new mower for when the broom attachment is being used to clear snow because the driver gets covered in snow when the wind is blowing.

Mayor Gladden reminded the Council to read the letter from the City Attorney pertaining to the EMS/Council discussion.

Mayor Gladden explained that there is a house in town that the City is starting the condemnation process on and discussion started to ensue. City Clerk Schmitt explained that she is unable to answer many of their questions at this time and that bids are being solicited for removing the structure and that extensive research will be conducted in order to bring all the options and consequences to the Council for their consideration.

Gladden reported that the Maintenance crew cut paths through the snow in the middle of Main Street so people can cross without having to go all the way to the end of the street.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rohling to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried by show of hands.

Official