

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

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday, March 4, 2013**

**MAYOR:** Jim Gladden

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

**EMPLOYEES**

**PRESENT:** Mark Gomes, Robin Schmitt, Phyllis Richardson

**GUESTS:** Scot Loyd, Christina Henson, Dan Schmitt, Joyce Beam, Aryn Hedrick

**ATTORNEY:** Stan Juhnke

**ROLL CALL:** Berridge, Brown, Fleming, McLemore

**ABSENT:** Russell, Koon,

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gladden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2013 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 Fleming to approve the February 18, 2013 Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** McLemore, Brown, Fleming, Berridge, **NO:** None

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

Mayor Gladden confirmed that the housekeeping payable was for two cleaning sessions.

Motion to approve the March 4, 2013 payables was made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Brown. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Brown, McLemore, Berridge, Fleming, **NO:** None **ABSTAIN:**

**CITY ATTORNEY** Stan Juhnke – Absent

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Advisory Election Information** – City Clerk Schmitt reported that she and Mayor Gladden had met with County Counselor, Joe O'Sullivan, and the County Clerk on Thursday, February 28 to discuss the advisory election pertaining to the Police Department question. The County Clerk has agreed to conduct the advisory election by mail. The ballots will be mailed to the registered voters of Nickerson on April 19 and will be due back to the County Clerk by noon on April 30, 2013. They will count the ballots around 1 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup>, downstairs in the Veteran's room of the Court house. The ballot counting will be open to the public.

Joe O'Sullivan provided the legal wording for the ballot for the Council's approval and recommended that the City place an actual ad in the paper instead of just in the legal section so the citizens that do not read the legal section will have an opportunity to see the information about the election.

The ballot wording will be written as:

*This question submitted election on the issue of establishing and maintaining a full time paid police department in the City of Nickerson is being conducted by the Reno County Clerk at the request of the Nickerson City Council. This is an advisory election. Although the Nickerson City Council will give due consideration to the election results, the election has no legal effect and is not binding on the currently seated or future members of the City Council.*

*The question presented to the registered and qualified electors of the City of Nickerson is as follows:*

*“Shall the Nickerson City Council establish and maintain a paid Police Department consisting of at least two officers and all necessary law enforcement equipment at an annual budgeted expense estimated at not less than \$160,000.00?”*

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member McLemore and Council Member Fleming to approve the ballot wording as recommended by County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Brown, Fleming, Berridge, McLemore, **NO:** None

Mayor Gladden recommended publishing the information in the Hutchinson paper as well as the Sterling Bulletin.

City Clerk Schmitt will put the ad wording together for Council's approval at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**SJHL Audit Discussion** – Auditor Scot Loyd with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd presented the Audit results to the Council. Scot was pleased to report that the City records were well organized and in order so the audit went quite smoothly. Scot then went point by point through the audit report with the Council.

**SJHL Financial Discussion** – Scot Loyd presented a Summary of Mill Levy & Cash Flow Impact report to the council. The report shows the recommended mill levy needed in order to continue conducting City business out to the year 2020.

**Council Meeting Time Change Discussion** – Council Member Brown stated that he felt he had made a mistake by voting against holding the Council Meetings during the day when the vote came up at a previous meeting. Council Member Brown would like to have the Council again consider holding the Council Meetings during the day because it would benefit the citizens and the employees. Discussion ensued. Mayor Gladden recommended waiting until after the election in April so any new Council members would have a say on the decision. Council member Brown and the other Council members agreed to wait until after the election.

## **OFFICERS REPORT**

Council Member Berridge thanked the Maintenance Department for an excellent job of clearing the snow from the streets.

Council Member Fleming also thanked the City crew for their work in clearing the snow. Fleming asked Superintendent Gomes how far along the City was with replacing the old water meters and Gomes reported we have about 1/3 of the meters replaced. Fleming reported that this is Severe Weather Awareness Week and asked if the Tornado siren will be ready to participate in the state wide Tornado Drill tomorrow on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Gladden stated that Kenny Burgess should be aware of the test and is in charge of operating the siren during the test.

City Clerk Schmitt reminded the Council that she will be in Wichita for Certification training from March 13 through 15. Schmitt reported that she and Superintendent Gomes and the Mayor will be attending the Reno County Emergency Management Mitigation Plan meeting in Hutchinson at the Ramada in Hutchinson on March 21.

Mayor Gladden stated he had talked to Superintendent Gomes about occasionally driving the police vehicles in order to keep them in running condition. Mayor Gladden also asked Gomes to remove the plywood from the front window of the Police Station and suggested building a petition wall if the window should need to be blocked again in the future.

Mayor Gladden reported that Cory Henderson will check with the Chamber about the City using the bulletin board that is on the front of the City building. Mayor Gladden reported that he received a letter from a citizen, requesting the City consider having a dog park. The issue will be on the next agenda and Clerk Schmitt will check with the insurance company about the risks and cost of insuring a dog park.

Mayor Gladden reported receiving a request for the Christmas decorations to be taken down and when he asked Superintendent Gomes about it, Gomes stated the Maintenance Department does not handle the Christmas decorations. Gomes will unplug the lights though because there is a minimal charge from Westar for the electricity the decorations use. Mayor Gladden thanked the Maintenance Crew for the snow removal.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS,** motion made and seconded by Council Member Brown and Council Member Berridge to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. A Motion was carried by a show of hands.

Official