

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 20, 2015

MAYOR: Jim Gladden

COUNCIL: Jon Rohling – President, Brad Berridge, Trent Gilbert, Brian Rife,
Jane Jenkins, Angela Cottrell

GUESTS: Peggy Rugbke, Danny Schmitt, Katie Bredfeldt, Sid Arpin, Gordon
Roth, Gary and Vera Graber, Phyllis Richardson

ATTORNEY: Stan Juhnke

ROLL CALL: Berridge, Rohling, Gilbert, Rife, Jenkins, Cottrell

ABSENT:

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Gladden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015 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 Rife to approve the July 1, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Cottrell, Rohling, Gilbert, Rife, Jenkins, Berridge, **NO:** None

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Rohling and Council Member Rife to approve the June 15, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Berridge, Jenkins, Rife, Gilbert, Rohling, Cottrell, **NO:** None

Motion made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Cottrell to approve the Agenda with the addition of Community Center Change Order as #1 under Old Business. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rife, Gilbert, Rohling, Cottrell, Berridge, Jenkins, **NO**

Motion to approve the July 20, 2015 Payables was made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Gilbert. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Gilbert, Rife, Jenkins, Cottrell, Rohling, **NO:** None **ABSTAIN:** Berridge,

CITY ATTORNEY

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Peggy Rugbke with the Chamber of Commerce gave an update on Klear Nearly Days which is coming up on July 24th and 25th. The mud volleyball registration is closed. The tractor pull is still open to anyone wanting to register. They are adding the 3 on 3 basketball which is going to be downtown. There will also be a dunk tank, rock climbing wall, ping pong drop and a band during the day and a band in the evening from 8 to 11 p.m. The Council thanked the Chamber for their hard work on Klear Nearly.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Center Change Orders – Sid Arpin with BG Consultants asked for approval of the change orders which included \$500 to cover the additional trenching required since Westar Energy changed which pole the electrical would be ran from and \$330 for the additional cable and electrical outlet for the televisions. Discussion ensued. The Council agreed to pay for the additional trenching but will review the information at the end of the project.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Rife and Council Member Berridge to approve \$500 for the additional trenching and the \$330 for the additional cable and electrical outlets with a review of the additional trenching amount at the end of the project. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Jenkins, Berridge, Cottrell, Rohling, Gilbert, Rife, **NO: Abstain**

Community Center Furnishing Discussion – Council Member Rife brought discussion about purchasing a big screen television for the large meeting room in the community center. Rife presented pricing from Sam's Club and Hays Sight and Sound. Discussion ensued and the Council decided that they would consider purchasing a television in the future but right now they do not know if there will be any more change orders for the community center project that money will be needed for.

NEW BUSINESS

A&A Builders Payment Request – Clerk Schmitt submitted for approval invoice# 3 from A&A Builders in the amount of \$111,768.30. Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Jenkins and Council Member Rohling to approve the A&A Builders payment request in the amount of

\$111,768.30. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Rohling, Cottrell, Berridge, Jenkins, Rife, Gilbert, **NO: Abstain:**

Council Special Meeting Pay – Clerk Schmitt asked for direction on whether or not to pay the governing body for special meetings. Currently the governing body is only paid for regular meetings but since the Council voted to go to one meeting a month there has been a question of whether or not to pay for special meetings as well. Discussion ensued.

Motion was made and seconded by Council Member Gilbert and Council Member Cottrell to pay the governing body for regular and special meetings but not for workshops. Motion carried by the following vote: **YES:** Jenkins, Berridge, Cottrell, Rohling, Gilbert, Rife, **NO: Abstain:**

Code Enforcement – Clerk Beshears spoke on behalf of the City department heads about the issues they face with enforcing the City code. When a letter is sent about a code violation, the person who receives the letter then comes into the City office and complains about all the other violations in town and asks why those aren't being enforced. In the past, the Council directed the enforcement to be done on a complaint basis only. This has been a hindrance to being able to stop the blight issues from continuing to grow. Clerk Beshears shared photos of several current blight violations. Council Member Berridge said he was in support of the enforcement and that he was given pictures of some properties of his that he did not know about and that he would be taking care of. The Council as a group gave a 100% support of enforcing the codes equally for everyone. Council Members Jenkins and Cottrell made suggestions for ways to remind the public about the City code and ways for them to view the City code. Clerk Beshears asked the Council to consider changing the ordinance for enforcement procedures. Discussion ensued about how to recoup the costs of bringing people to court by changing the ordinances pertaining to the enforcement procedure. Clerk Schmitt, Superintendent Gomes and Clerk Beshears will put together a procedure for the Council to consider which will save the City money on certified letters by going to a ticket book process.

OFFICER REPORTS

Gilbert – thanked the Chamber for the work they've done for Klear Nearly Days and the City crew for their work as well such as smoothing out the area around the mud volleyball space.

Jenkins – also thanked the Chamber for the work on Klear Nearly. Is thankful that Nickerson was safe from the tornado on Monday and thanked the fire department for going out in the fire truck to help warn the citizens since the tornado sirens had a mechanical failure.

Cottrell – also thanked Trent Gilbert for going out in the fire truck during the tornado to warn the citizens. Reported that some people thought the fire truck was responding to some type of casualty due to the tornado but wanted to

thank them for the backup warning. Thanked the Chamber for the Klear Nearly work and thanked Robin and April for all the work they do as well.

Rohling – wanted to echo everyone's comments so far and added a thank you to Jim and June Gladden for water the flowers on Main Street. Thanked Brad's crew for hanging the flags on Main Street and the Chamber for everything and the advertising for Klear Nearly. Enjoyed another good 4th of July this year buying and shooting the fireworks, is glad we have the fireworks.

Rife – looking forward to Klear Nearly and all the events that are going on. Has always had the frame of mind of being progressive within the City and feels the Council should be considering getting a survey together to involve the public in looking at what could be done for another sales tax which will sunset in a year and a half in order to avoid a break in the tax since it has to be voted on. Has spoken with the Planning and Zoning Committee in the past and would like the Council to consider their ideas on annexing since the highway will be bypassing Nickerson. The blight was talked about earlier which covers the junk cars he noticed around town.

Berridge – thanked the Chamber for the long hours they have put in, the City crew for a good job on Main Street and especially the mowing coming into town, the fire department for the warning of the tornado and April for putting together the code enforcement information.

Clerk Schmitt – reported that Kenny Burgess worked with Mobile Radio who found and fixed a broken ground in the radio system so the tornado sirens are now operational. Rife reminded everyone that the maintenance and battery backup for both sirens had been done in March. Rife also reminded everyone that the sirens are only set off for an imminent threat; if the tornado is moving away the siren will not be set off and the decision is made by the fire department based on information from law enforcement and national weather service. Rohling asked who sets off the siren and it is the fire department in Nickerson. Clerk Schmitt also reminded everyone that the sirens are for outdoor warning only and everyone needs to have a storm radio in their home. The outdoor sirens are a second line of defense and should not be relied upon as the only warning system.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, motion made and seconded by Council Member Berridge and Council Member Rife to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried by show of hands.

Official