

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
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 COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE) §
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 CITY OF ALLIANCE)

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room, 1604 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on December 13, 2017. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, and that an agenda of the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk in City Hall; provided the Council could modify the agenda at the meeting if it determined an emergency so required. A similar notice, together with a copy of the agenda, also had been delivered to each of the City Council Members. An agenda, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours from the publication of the notice to the time of the meeting.

Vice Mayor Korber-Gonzalez opened the December 19, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council Members, Korber-Gonzalez, Jones, Mischnick and Reynolds. Also present were City Manager Kuckkahn, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Olsen and City Clerk Jines.

- Vice Mayor Korber-Gonzalez announced the Open Meetings Act was available for the public and posted on the north wall of the audience area.
- Vice Mayor Korber-Gonzalez made a motion to excuse Mayor Yeager from the meeting due to being out of town. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Korber-Gonzalez, Mischnick, Reynolds, Jones.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The first agenda item was the announcement of new employees; Brian Markowski, Electric Journey Line Worker; Codi Lashley and Ashley Mack, Public Safety Dispatchers.

- The Consent Calendar was the next matter for Council’s consideration. A motion was made by Councilman Mischnick, seconded by Councilman Reynolds to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – DECEMBER 19, 2017

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 5, 2017.
2. Approval: Payroll Costs for the period November 18, 2017 through December 1, 2017: \$351,263.83.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period November 30, 2017 through December 13, 2017: General, General Debt Service, Trust and Agency, Street, Electric, Refuse Collection and Disposal, Sanitary Sewer, Water, Golf Course, Downtown Improvement Districts, R.S.V.P., Keno, and Capital Improvement; \$1,020,022.56.
4. Approval: The issuance of the following Contractor licenses:

Limited and Specialty	Larry Haeffner dba Innovative Construction Services
	Kip Williams dba R & C Welding, Inc.
5. Approval: Resolution No. 17-117 authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding “MOU” to our Tank Maintenance Contracts with Utility Service Co., Inc. (Suez). The MOU is being used to clarify the timing of the payments which are based on an annual fee over ten years.
6. Approval: Resolution No. 17-118 granting a Special Designated (Liquor) License to the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department Inc. for the Bosses’ Night Fundraising Event. The event will be held at the Alliance Area Fire/Emergency Center, 315 Cheyenne Avenue, the evening of Friday, February 2, 2018 between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
7. For Your Information: An Official Notice of Amended Electrical Resources Pooling Agreement “ERPA” Policies and Procedures has been received from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska.
8. For Your Information: The City has received notice of the following residential channel lineup changes and price adjustments from Charter Communications:

CHANNEL	CHANGE	CHANNEL NUMBER
FXX	Remove from SPP Tier 1	33 & 848
PRODUCT/SERVICE	PRICE FROM	PRICE TO
TV Select	\$62.99	\$64.99
Expanded TV Service	\$39.10	\$41.10
Broadcast TV Surcharge	\$ 7.50	\$ 8.85
Single DVR Service	\$11.99	\$12.99

NOTE: City Manager Kuckkahn has reviewed these expenditures and to the best of his knowledge confirms that they are within budgeted appropriations to this point in the fiscal year.

Any item listed on the Consent Calendar may, by the request of any single Council Member, be considered as a separate item in the Regular Agenda.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Mischnick, Korber-Gonzalez, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 17-119 approving the request of the Alliance Disc Golf Committee to have the expansion and renovation to the disc golf course at Laing Lake included on the City's improvement listing, was the next item on the agenda. Council was provided with the following information:

[The Alliance Disc Golf Committee is proposing a project to expand the existing disc golf course at Laing Lake Park. This group includes avid disc golfers as well as individuals who have course development and installation experience. They are requesting permission to fund raise in the community to pay for the expansion and re-design of the disc golf course at Laing Lake Park.

The proposal packet includes a sample fund raising letter, a budget estimate for the project and a map of Laing Lake which identifies the areas where the expansion will take place. As part of their proposal they are requesting that donors be identified in some way after the course is completed. (Note: When the course was originally built, each marker included a donor's name as the sponsor of that hole.) Staff suggests that including donor's names on markers is the best (and most tasteful) way to identify large donors to the project, should Council choose to allow.

The Rolling Prairie Disc Golf Course is a heavily used amenity within our parks system. The City has continued to see its use grow and the improvement and expansion of this course would encourage continued growth. The expansion of this course is a great way to encourage additional use of this rustic and wide open park.

It is staff's recommendation that the project move forward and that committee members be allowed to begin fundraising and design activities. Committee members have worked closely with City staff on this project to date, and we remain confident that cooperation will continue through the further development of the course. Staff has explained to the group that construction of this project will be required to follow state statutes regarding competitive bidding.]

The following members of the Alliance Disc Golf Committee appeared before Council describing the history of disc golf, surrounding courses, projected costs of the upgrade and fundraising needs:

Kalen Krohe, 512 Grand Avenue
Eric Anderson, 650 Newberry Avenue
Robbie Cerv, 904 Colorado Avenue

Evan Mehne, 1251 West 14th Street, Apt. 3
Omar Escamilla, 1448 Countryside Lane

A motion was by Councilman Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 17-119. Councilman Jones seconded the motion. Resolution No. 17-119 follows in its entirety.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-119

WHEREAS, The Alliance City Council has been approached to authorize the expansion and renovation of the disc golf course located at Laing Lake; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance Park and Tree Board at their September 20, 2017 Regular Meeting recommended to Council that the renovation and expansion of the disc golf course at Laing Lake be included in upcoming park improvements; and

WHEREAS, In anticipation for funding this project, the Alliance Disc Golf Committee has requested a fundraising campaign be initiated in support of the renovation and expansion of the disc golf course located at Laing Lake; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance Disc Golf Committee has met with the Alliance Park Foundation and they have agreed to match the funding they raise for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the renovation and expansion of the disc golf course at Laing Lake will be included in upcoming park improvements and a plan will be developed to have the project incorporated within the Capital Improvements Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alliance Disc Golf Committee working through the Alliance Parks Foundation, if they agree will be granted authority to fundraise on the City's behalf for the renovations and expansion of the disc golf course at Laing Lake, with the fundraising methods and activities obtaining pre-approval from the City Council.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Mischnick, Korber-Gonzalez, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next agenda item was Resolution No. 17-120 authorizing the revision to the City's drug testing policy and Employee Personnel Manual. The following background information was provided to Council:

[The U.S. Department of Transportation revised the drug and alcohol testing regulations in 49 CFR part 40. For DOT covered employees, this means in addition to the DOT 5 panel of drugs, semi-synthetic opioids will be added to the testing panel. This change requires an update to our Federal Motor Carrier Safety

Administration (FMCSA) and Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) policies and well as the non-DOT regulated policy of the City to reflect the same panel of tests. The new regulation will be effective on January 1, 2018. In addition to this update, the City is also updating contact information in the FMCSA and FTA policies.]

A motion was made by Councilman Mischnick, seconded by Councilman Jones to approve Resolution No. 17-120 which follows in its entirety.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-120

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Transportation has revised the drug and alcohol testing regulations in 49 CFR Part 40; and

WHEREAS, The revision adds semi-synthetic opioids to the testing panel of the DOT 5 panel of drugs currently being tested; and

WHEREAS, The addition of the new drugs to the testing panel requires amendments to our Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Misuse of Alcohol and Use of Controlled Substances Policy, and our Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) policies for our Department of Transportation (DOT) classified employees;

WHEREAS, The City also needs to update contact information for our Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Misuse of Alcohol and Use of Controlled Substances Policy, and our Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) policies; and

WHEREAS, The City's Personnel Manual needs to be amended to include the U.S. Department of Transportation's drug panel revisions for our non-DOT employees; and

WHEREAS, The new U.S. Department of Transportation revisions are effective January 1, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the new testing regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation will be included in the City of Alliance's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Misuse of Alcohol and Use of Controlled Substances Policy, Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Policy and the City of Alliance's Employee Personnel Manual as of January 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the contact information for the City's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Misuse of Alcohol and Use of Controlled Substances Policy, and our Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) policies will be updated.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Mischnick, Korber-Gonzalez, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council next reviewed Resolution No. 17-121, which changes the deductible amount to the City employee health insurance plans. Council was provided with the following information:

[Regional Care Inc., our Third Party Administrator, has informed the City the IRS has increased the minimum medical deductibles for qualified high- deductible health plans. This is significant as the City offers employee participation in a Health Savings Account as a pre-tax contribution. This is only available if the City's deductibles meet this IRS requirement. As a result, staff recommends the minimal increase in deductibles to allow the continuing benefits of the HSA plans as a significant asset to employees in managing the cost of health care.

The family deductible will increase by \$200 from \$5,200 to \$5,400 and \$100 for single deductibles from \$2,600 to \$2,700. Employees can make a total HSA contribution per year of up to \$6,150 for family and \$2,800 for single plans with pre-tax dollars. The City contributes \$600 per year (\$50.00 per month) to an employee's HSA as long as the employee does the same amount or more. Premiums remain unchanged.

2018 Health Insurance 4-Tier Plan				
Employee	Emp + Child	Emp + Sp	Family	
Total Monthly Premium	\$1,114	\$1,972	\$2,122	\$3,102
Employee Monthly Premium	\$60	\$105	\$115	\$170
Annual Employee Premium	\$720	\$1,260	\$1,380	\$2,040
Annual Medical Deductible	\$2,700	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,400
Annual Medical OOP (90/10)	\$750	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Maximum Cost to Employee Within PPO	\$4,170	\$8,160	\$8,280	\$8,940
City's HSA Contribution	-\$50	-\$50	-\$50	-\$50
Annual Contribution	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
Annual Max. Cost to Employee Within PPO (with City's HSA)	\$3,570	\$7,560	\$7,680	\$8,340
Employee Percentage of Prem.	5.39%	5.32%	5.42%	5.48%

Motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve Resolution No. 17-121 which follows in its entirety.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-121

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance offers health insurance to our employees; and

WHEREAS, Our current health insurance program is a qualified high deductible plan which allows employees to have an IRS approved health savings account as a pre-tax contribution; and

WHEREAS, In order to maintain this qualification are deductibles must meet the IRS minimum level; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance recommends raising the deductible of a family plan from \$5,200 to \$5,400 annually, and the deductible for a single plan from \$2,600 to \$2,700 annually; and

WHEREAS, The proposed increase will allow employees to keep utilizing a health savings account on a pre-tax basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, that the health insurance deductibles on the City's employee health insurance plan will increase to \$5,400 for family coverage and \$2,700 for single coverage annually, effective January 1, 2018.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Mischnick, Korber-Gonzalez, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item before Council was Resolution No. 17-122 which will award the engineering services to Olsson Associates, Inc. for an electric line rebuild in the vicinity of the Alliance Municipal Airport. Council was provided with the following background information:

[The City of Alliance needs to rebuild approximately 3 miles of 7.7/12.47 KV overhead pole line in the vicinity of the Alliance Municipal Airport. Olsson and Associates, Inc. has submitted a proposal in the amount of \$38,800 to perform engineering services, including surveying and field data gathering, design development, contract administration, and construction services for this project. Legal Counsel has reviewed the proposed agreement and recommended changes within the General Provisions portion which have been agreed to by Olsson and Associates, Inc.]

Motion by Councilman Mischnick, seconded by Councilman Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 17-122 which follows in its entirety.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-122

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance owns and operates our electric utility; and

WHEREAS, Electric line upgrades need to be made to approximately 3.0 miles of 7.7/12.47 KV overhead pole line in the vicinity of the Alliance Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance is seeking engineering services for the design of the proposed rebuild; and

WHEREAS, Olsson and Associates, Inc. has submitted a proposal in the amount of Thirty-eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and no/100ths (\$38,800) to perform engineering services, including surveying and field data gathering, design development, contract administration, and construction services for up to 3.0 miles of 7.7/12.47 KV overhead pole line in the vicinity of the Alliance Municipal Airport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Mayor is authorized to sign the documents associated with the Proposal from Olsson and Associates, Inc. for engineering services, including surveying and field data gathering, design development, contract administration, and construction services for up to 3.0 miles of 7.7/12.47 KV overhead pole line in the vicinity of the Alliance Municipal Airport in the amount of Thirty-eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and no/100ths (\$38,800).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that payment for this service will be made from Account No. 05-51-54-53-948, Rural Rebuilds.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Mischnick, Korber-Gonzalez, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda was a conflict claim in the amount of \$1,118.00 for sidewalk replacements completed by Reza and G's Construction.

A motion was made by Councilman Reynolds, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve the Conflict Claim.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Mischnick, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstaining: Korber-Gonzalez.

Motion carried.

- The final item before Council were Board appointments and announcements.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to appoint Sue Williams to the Golf Advisory Board, with a term expiring December 31, 2020.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Mischnick, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to reappoint Rachel Lewis to the Alliance Housing Authority, with a term expiring December 31, 2022.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Mischnick, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to reappoint Gideon N. Achi to the Police Advisory Board as the religious representative with a term expiring December 31, 2020.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting Aye: Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Mischnick, Reynolds.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

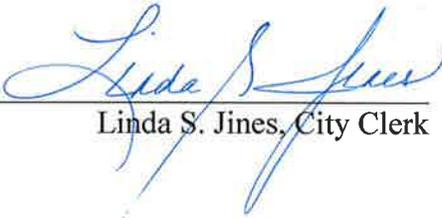
It was announced the City currently is seeking members for the Board of Adjustment, Downtown Improvement Districts A-1 and A-2, Economic Development Plan Citizen Advisory Board, two junior ex-officio members of the Library Board and the Planning Commission. Anyone interest in serving on these Boards should contact the City Clerk's Office. Information on all of the City Boards is available on the web site, www.cityofalliance.net.

- Vice Mayor Korber-Gonzalez stated, “there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 7:38 p.m.”

(SEAL)



Ralph Yeager, Mayor



Linda S. Jines, City Clerk