

July 2, 2019

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019

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, July 2, 2019, 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 June 26, 2019. 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.

Mayor Dafney opened the July 2, 2019 regular meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Dafney, Council Members Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds and Bentley. Also present were City Manager Sprock, Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Hoelsing and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Dafney read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- Council was introduced to new employees, Davis Becker – Refuse Collection Driver and Dirk Heilman Seidler – Landfill Baler Operator.
- The Consent Calendar was the next matter before Council. A motion was made by Councilman Bentley, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – JULY 2, 2019

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 18, 2019.
2. Approval: Payroll Costs for the period June 1, 2019 through June 15, 2019: \$244,644.25.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period of June 12, 2019 through June 25, 2019: 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; \$440,471.45.

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4. Acknowledgement: Receipt of the Annual Report of the Public Library Board Foundation of Alliance, Inc. for the period June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019.

NOTE: City Manager Sprock 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 vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 19-59 which accepts the donation of a park bench in honor of Bernard and Betty Girard for placement near the Central Park Fountain was next on the agenda. The following information was provided for Council:

[The family of Bernard (Bernie) and Betty Girard would like to donate a bench and (10" x 8") memorial plaque in memory of Bernie and Betty. Culture and Leisure Service Director Brown has discussed the donation with the family and provided the following information for Council's consideration.

The bench and plaque both match previously donated items around the fountain and will be mounted on a concrete pad. This pad will allow for mower clearance to eliminate the need for trimming around the new furnishings. In addition, the plaque will be mounted in the concrete to make it more vandal resistant and provide better protection than a surface mount.

It is proposed that the new bench, if approved, be located as shown on the map below. (Other marked existing furnishings on the map as well) For obvious reasons, there are substantially more benches in this area than in most other park areas. Despite that, placement of this bench will not overcrowd the area, and will be heavily used. On a typical evening, existing benches are often full, and there are individuals standing to watch the fountain. This is an ideal location and the family is happy with the proposed location.

The total value of the donation is as follows:

Memorial Plaque	\$269.00
Park Bench	\$900.00
Concrete Pad	\$200.00]

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A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 19-59 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-59

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance owns and operates Central Park; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has been requested to receive the donation of a memorial bench in honor of Bernard and Betty Girard for placement near the Central Park Fountain; and

WHEREAS, The proposed donation is appropriate for placement near the Central Park Fountain; and

WHEREAS, The donors intend to provide the bench, memorial plaque and concrete pad; and

WHEREAS, The City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City of Alliance to accept the donation from the Girard Family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the donation of a memorial bench in honor of Bernard and Betty Girard to be located near the Central Park Fountain be graciously accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alliance City Council on behalf of the citizens of Alliance extends our sincere appreciation for the Girard Family's generous gift.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council next considered Resolution No. 19-60 which will accept the donation of a portable radar speed sign from Panhandle Public Health. The following information was provided to Council:

[Panhandle Public Health has contacted City staff regarding the donation of a portable radar speed sign. The initial thought is to install the device on Flack Avenue north of 10th Street to assist in slowing traffic entering the City. It is believed this will improve safety concerns we have had for pedestrians crossing at this intersection.

The device proposed for donation is valued at \$3,265. It can be easily moved should a need arise at another location to assist in traffic control. This would be beneficial for special events, public works projects, and law enforcement efforts.]

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A motion was made by Councilman Mischnick, seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 19-60 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-60

WHEREAS, Panhandle Public Health has offered to donate to the City of Alliance a portable radar speed sign; and

WHEREAS, The initial purpose for the device will be at the intersection of 10th Street and Flack Avenue to assist in slowing down traffic entering the City in order to improve safety concerns for pedestrians crossing at this intersection; and

WHEREAS, The sign is portable and will be available for use for special events, public works projects and law enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, The City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City of Alliance to accept the donation from Panhandle Public Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the donation of a portable radar speed sign from Panhandle Public Health is accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alliance City Council on behalf of the citizens of Alliance extends our sincere appreciation to Panhandle Public Health for this donation.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 19-61 which will approve the Disc Golf Course upgrade process. The following information was provided for Council:

[On December 19, 2017, the Alliance Disc Golf Committee attended an Alliance Council meeting to discuss the expansion and renovation of Rolling Prairie Disc Golf Course at Laing Lake Park. The Alliance City Council passed a resolution granting permission for the Committee to begin fundraising activities to plan for redesign and expansion of this heavily used amenity in our community. The Alliance Disc Golf Committee has raised \$18,205 for the design and construction of the proposed expansion. Anticipated costs of the project are as follows:

Equipment (Baskets & Signs)	\$8,000 – \$10,000
Concrete Tee Pads	\$6,500 – \$7,500
Course Design and Specification Development	\$7,000 - \$8,000

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Staff continues to be in agreement that this is a great use of the Laing Lake area. The design of this recreational space is intentionally informal and “native”. The redesign and expansion of the course will increase and diversify use of the space with very little impact to the feel and appearance of Laing Lake. Lake improvements have significantly improved the aesthetics of the park. Staff plans to plant additional trees in the area after design of the course to ensure those trees work with the course. Couple these improvements with the expansion and improvement of the disc golf course, and staff expects the results to be a heavily used and appreciated recreational space.

The use of a professional designer will ensure the resulting course is challenging and attractive to all levels of disc golf players. Staff anticipates tournament events and activities will bring individuals to our community and increase tourism and the financial advantages that result from visitors to the community. The City of Alliance has a very active disc golf community and that base group will be a vital asset when expanding and promoting use of the course.

For all of the previously mentioned reasons and because this project has been in progress for several years, staff is recommending that we move forward on this as soon as Council allows. Budget authority of \$30,000 would be transferred from the Central Park tennis court project (which has been carried forward into the next fiscal year) with the designation as an ACE project.]

A motion was made by Councilman Reynolds, seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 19-61 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-61

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance owns and operates the Laing Lake and Park Area; and

WHEREAS, The Rolling Prairie Disc Golf Course which is currently a nine hole course is an amenity within the Laing Lake Park Area; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance Disc Golf Committee was granted permission to fundraise to provide improvements and enhancements to our current course to modify from a nine hole course to an eighteen hole course and have raised \$18,205 to date; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has received monies in the amount of \$23,540 this year from the Public Alliance for Community Energy “ACE” to be used for projects or programs for the betterment of our community to be selected by City Council; and

WHEREAS, The City Council would like to use up to \$12,000 of the ACE funds to go towards this project; and

WHEREAS, In order to obtain budget authority to move forward with this project a capital funds transfer in the amount of \$30,000 is requested; and

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WHEREAS, The City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City of Alliance to move forward with the improvements and enhancement of the Rolling Prairie Disc Golf Course from a 9 hole course to an 18 hole course.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City move forward with the improvements and enhancements to the Rolling Prairie Disc Golf Course in the Laing Lake Park Area from a nine hole to an eighteen hole course providing budget authority with the approval of a capital transfer within the Parks Department budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all funds raised (currently at \$18,205) by the Alliance Disc Golf Committee be accepted and used for said improvements and enhancements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED authorization is granted to utilize up to \$12,000 of Public Alliance for Community Energy "ACE" funding.

Councilman Jones stated he did not believe Council was treating various organizations similarly, which is not fair. Although he is not against this project, Council responded differently to the Pillars for the Parks group regarding this engineering costs, and the Dog Park group when they requested steps.

City Manager Sprock responded that although he was not here for the other two requests, that this project is ready to move forward immediately. He stated he believed this project fit well with the use of the ACE funding as it is a community betterment project that could be completed with this funding source. Future funding requirements for this amenity within Laing Park would be minimal.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: Jones.

Motion carried.

- Board resignations, appointments and announcements were the final item on the agenda for Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bentley to accept the resignation of Trish Johnston from the A-1 Downtown Improvement District. Ms. Johnston will remain on the A-2 Downtown Improvement Board.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: None.

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Motion carried.

Next, a motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to accept Tina Lulow's resignation to the A-2 Downtown Improvement Board and appoint her to serve the remainder of Ms. Johnston's term on the A-1 Downtown Improvement District Board. This term will end 10/31/21. Ms. Lulow was no longer able to serve on the A-2 Downtown Improvement Board as she has sold her business.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Councilman Jones made a motion to appoint Chris Mundt to the A-2 Downtown Improvement District for a term expiring 10/31/21. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, Jones, Reynolds, Bentley.

Voting Nay: None.

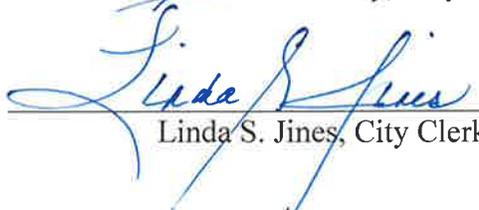
Motion carried.

Currently there remains two vacancies on the Board of Adjustment, three vacancies on the Economic Development Plan Citizen Advisory Board, one youth representative on the Library Board, one vacancy on the Museum Board and two vacancies on the Park and Tree Board and the alternate position on the Planning Commission. Anyone interested in serving on these boards should contact the City Clerk's Office. Information on all of the City Boards is also available on our web site, www.cityofalliance.net

Prior to adjourning, Mayor Dafney requested staff to consider placing trash receptacles and dog waste stations at the north and west entrances into Laing Park. There being no further business before Council, Mayor Dafney adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

(SEAL)


Mike Dafney, Mayor


Linda S. Jines, City Clerk

