

January 7, 2020

## ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, January 7, 2020, 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 January 1, 2020. 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 January 7, 2020 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, City Attorney Selzer, Finance Director Waggener and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Dafney read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The first action for Council was to proclaim the week of January 26, 2020 as Catholic Schools Week. Councilman Mischnick read and presented to St. Agnes Student Council Members: Macy Brooks, Jerry Hampton, Garrett Myers, Alexis Libsack, Josie Sanders, Olin Drain, Jozlin Dexter, Morgan LeMunyan, and Abigail LeMunyan, the following proclamation:

### PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS*, The Week of January 26, 2020 is National Catholic Schools Week; and

*WHEREAS*, The theme of which is “Catholic Schools: Where Students Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed; and

*WHEREAS*, St. Agnes Academy has been part of Alliance, Nebraska since September 1908, and therefore, has been part of our community for over 112 years, and St. Agnes Academy has helped to make our town a loving community; and

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*WHEREAS*, St. Agnes prepares its students not only with fine academic training, but also with spiritual values that will make them good citizens able to contribute to their community and become the leaders of the future.

*NOW, THEREFORE*, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, does hereby proclaim the week of January 26, 2019 through February 2, 2020 as:

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 7th day of January in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Twenty.

● Next on Council's agenda was the Consent Calendar. A motion made by Councilman Bentley and seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – JANUARY 7, 2020

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 17, 2019.
2. Approval: Payroll Costs for the period November 30 through December 13, 2019: \$230,041.29 and for the period December 14 through 27, 2019: \$325,463.01.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period of December 11 through 31, 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; \$494,377.00.
4. Approval: Issuance of a Cemetery Certificate to Donald E. Banks for the West One Half (W½) Lot Twenty (20), Section One (1), Block Twenty-three (23) Fourth Addition to the Alliance Cemetery.
5. Approval: Resolution No. 20-01 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 7, 2020 between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

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.

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Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 20-02 was the next item on the agenda for Council's consideration. This resolution will authorize the purchase of a TV40RE Turf Vac with attachments in the amount of \$25,141.00. The following information was provided:

[There is \$35,000 included in the 2020 Parks Division budget for replacement of the turf vac. The proposed piece of equipment will replace an existing turf vac that is over twenty years old and has been having mechanical issues. Repairs are challenging because parts are getting more difficult to find. Staff is recommending the purchase of a new turf vac with a curb brush and hose, which are optional attachments.

An Invitation to Bid 0171-12/2019 was made on November 20, 2019 and three bid packets were issued. This is a specialized piece of equipment, so staff anticipated limited responses to this request for proposals. A bid opening was conducted on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center with one bid being received.

Our existing turf vac is used heavily in the spring and fall of each year. In the spring it is used to collect grass clippings. Clippings are longer during this period because mowing schedules are tight and seasonal staff has not started. The clippings must be collected to improve the aesthetics of the parks. The hose attachment will be invaluable when doing clean up at the Cemetery. Part of our preparation for Memorial Day requires staff to rake and sweep the headstone foundations to remove clippings and dirt which have built up during the year. Currently this is manually done with the material pulled away from the headstone and then mowed. The hose attachment will simplify this task allowing staff to suck the debris directly into the hopper for disposal. The broom attachment will be used to remove debris in gutters along public parks. During the fall the unit will be used to collect leaves on public grounds.

I recommend the purchase of the following from Swanston Equipment of Fargo, North Dakota.

TV40 RE Turf Vac	\$20,461.00
Optional Attachment 1 (Curb Brush)	\$ 1,950.00
Optional Attachment 2 (Hose Attachment)	<u>\$ 2,730.00</u>
 TOTAL	 \$25,141.00

The City's current piece of equipment will continue to be utilized until such time it is no longer usable, which is anticipated to be short term.]

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A motion was made by Councilman Reynolds seconded by Councilman Jones to approve Resolution No. 20-02 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-02

*WHEREAS*, The City of Alliance Parks Division has a need to purchase a turf vac; and

*WHEREAS*, Funding is available within the Parks Fund from the Capital Outlay-Machinery and Equipment Account No. 01-71-71-59-950; and

*WHEREAS*, The City of Alliance received one bid for this equipment from Swanston Equipment of Fargo, ND in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand One Hundred Forty-one Dollars and no/100ths (\$25,141.00); and

*WHEREAS*, The bid includes two attachments: (1) curb brush - \$1,950.00 and (2) hose attachment - \$2,730.00; and

*WHEREAS*, The Council believes that it is in the best interest of the City to approve this purchase.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, by the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized to enter into a contract for the purchase of a TV40 RE Turf Vac with two attachments in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand One Hundred Forty-one Dollars and no/100ths (\$25,141.00) from Swanston Equipment of Fargo, ND.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the purchase will be funded from Parks Account No. 01-71-71-59-950.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Next for Council were Resolution Nos. 20-03, 20-04, and 20-05. These resolutions will allow the City to take possession of the Pillars for the Parks donations, authorize the City to send a letter of intent to the DED for a CCCFF Construction Grant and authorize an agreement with Al Vacanti to write a CCCFF Construction Grant on behalf of the City. The following information was provided:

[The Parks Foundation has received \$231,038.79 in donations (which includes \$80,000 from the pledged match up to \$250,000 from the anonymous donor) for the rebuilding of the pillars and the renovation of the sunken garden complex in Central Park. It is our understanding the anonymous donor will be releasing an additional \$90,000 in the near future. Baker and Associates is close to completing

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the concept design and project cost estimate for the planning portion of this project. Therefore, the City has arrived at a point where it can take major steps towards moving the project closer to construction. These steps include transferring the Pillars for the Parks donations into the City's possession, sending a Letter of Intent to the Department of Economic Development for a Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCFF) Construction Grant, and hiring a grant writer to complete the CCCCCFF grant application.

As stated in the attached letter from the Parks Foundation, the group would like the donations from the Pillars for the Park campaign turned over to the City. The Foundation is confident that the funding and the design are advanced to a point that this project will take place. Consequently, the City should now manage the funds for the renovation project.

If the Council approves transfer of the funds to a City account, staff is requesting the following provisions. First, all donations for the Sunken Garden Renovation Project, from this point forward, will be submitted to the City. Second, the City will provide future donors with receipts that comply with IRS regulations for tax credits. Third, all fundraising efforts, from this point on, will be organized by the City. Fourth, all financial records of donations kept by the Foundation and the Pillars Group will be turned over to the City and will be kept by the City going forward. Finally, the City will be responsible for providing updates to the community on the status of the project (e.g., status of project funds, construction updates, results of the grant application).

In addition to the money raised by the Pillar's Group, additional funds need to be obtained to pay for project construction. In 2019 the City received a \$15,000 CCCCCFF Planning Grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to generate a design concept and cost estimate for the project. In 2020 staff would like to pursue a CCCCCFF Capital Construction Grant. If the City is successful in obtaining this grant, it could pay for half of the construction costs up to \$562,000. Attached is a Letter of Intent which provides support for the forthcoming application.

If the Letter of Intent is approved by Council, the City will need to submit a grant application to the DED by February 15<sup>th</sup>. A CCCCCFF Capital Construction Grant application takes significantly more work to complete than a Planning Grant, subsequently staff would like to hire a grant writer to complete the application for the City. Staff has met with Al Vacanti who has successfully obtained a CCCCCFF Capital Construction Grant. Vacanti is willing to write the grant application for the City at the cost of \$7,000 (\$70 dollars an hour @ 100 hours). This proposition was discussed with the Pillar's Group and they are comfortable with the process.

The Pillar's Group and the Foundation have worked hard to get a significant amount of money collected for this project. The City acknowledges this effort and feels

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like the time is right for the City to take over fundraising so this project can be completed in the near future.]

A motion was made by Councilman Reynolds seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 20-03 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-03

*WHEREAS*, In May of 2017 the City authorized a fundraising campaign for the renovation of the Central Park Sunken Gardens; and

*WHEREAS*, Tami Swearingen, as an individual created the Pillars for the Parks Committee to raise funds to support the Central Park Sunken Garden renovation with the Alliance Park Foundation overseeing the funds collected; and

*WHEREAS*, Fundraising efforts have been very successful and it is now appropriate for the City of Alliance to accept the donations received to date and assume responsibility for the completion of the project; and

*WHEREAS*, On behalf of the citizens of Alliance, the Alliance City Council would like to thank the Pillars for the Parks Committee led by Tami Swearingen, Alliance Park Foundation and the many individuals contributing to this project.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City of Alliance accept the funds which have been raised to-date by the Pillars for the Parks Committee and held by the Alliance Park Foundation.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* said funds will be placed in the City's Capital Project Fund and held in reserve for the Central Park Sunken Garden Renovation Project.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the City Council by accepting these funds will be assuming full responsibility for the receipt of any future donations and any fundraising efforts towards this project, including and moving forward with the bidding process for the renovation of the Central Park Sunken Garden Project once sufficient funds have been received.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* the City Council extends their sincere appreciation to the Pillars for the Parks Committee, Alliance Park Foundation and the many donors for starting this project, making the progress that has been made, and making this project possible for the benefit of the citizens of Alliance and our visitors.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Bentley seconded by Councilman Mischnick to

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approve Resolution No. 20-04 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-04

*WHEREAS*, The City of Alliance has an opportunity to submit a grant through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the development of public spaces and civic, community, and recreation centers; and

*WHEREAS*, It is proposed that a grant be submitted for the Central Park Sunken Garden Renovation project; and

*WHEREAS*, The City has accepted the funding raised by the Pillar for the Parks Committee and the Alliance Park Foundation for this project; and

*WHEREAS*, The successful fundraising efforts for the project have put the City in a positive position to move forward with this project; and

*WHEREAS*, City Council believes the submittal of a grant application to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development is in the best interest of the citizens of Alliance.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City of Alliance is hereby authorized to submit a Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant Application through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the development of public spaces and civic, community, and recreation centers for the Central Park Sunken Garden Renovation Project.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that should the grant be awarded, the Mayor is hereby authorized to accept the grant and execute the associated documents of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 20-05 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-05

*WHEREAS*, The City of Alliance desires to submit a grant application through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the development of public spaces and civic, community, and recreation centers for our Central Park Sunken Garden Renovation Project; and

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*WHEREAS*, In order to complete and submit a grant application the City would like to obtain the services of a grant writer familiar with this particular process; and

*WHEREAS*, Al Vacanti has offered to provide his services to complete the grant application process in the amount of Seven Thousand and no/100ths Dollars (\$7,000.00) and he has demonstrated previous success for another community; and

*WHEREAS*, City Council believes the submittal of a grant application to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for this purpose is in the best interest of the citizens of Alliance.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Mayor is authorized to sign an Agreement with Al Vacanti to provide grant writing services for submittal of an application through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the development of public spaces and civic, community, and recreation centers for our Central Park Sunken Garden Renovation Project.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that payment for Mr. Vacanti's services will be made from the Capital Project Fund for the Central Park Sunken Garden Renovation Project.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 20-06 was now before Council for consideration. This resolution will change the bid award previously approved by Council to Cover Jones Motor Co. in the amount of \$34,558.00. The following information was provided:

[The Alliance City Council at their November 19th meeting, approved the purchase of a new pickup for the Police Department. When staff proceeded to complete the purchase we found that the State vendor had increased their pricing, which made Cover Jones Motor Company of Alliance, NE the low bidder. As such, staff is seeking a new resolution to reauthorize the purchase utilizing Cover Jones Motor Company. The new pricing for a 2020 F-150 Crew Cab will be \$34,558, which is \$1,928 more than previously approved but still within budgeted allotment.

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Cover-Jones Motor Co, Alliance	2020 Ford F-150 "Police Responder"	\$35,937.00
Nebraska State Bid	2020 Ford F-150 "Crew Cab" SSV	\$32,630.00 *
Cover-Jones Motor Co, Alliance	2020 Ford F-150 "Crew Cab"	\$34,558.00
Sid Dillon Ford, Lincoln	2020 Ford F-150 "XL" SSV	\$36,133.00
Nebraska State Bid	2019 Dodge Pickup SSV	\$30,134.00
Estimated 2020 Equivalent	2020 Dodge Pickup plus estimated 10%	\$32,277.00

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\*Initial State bid cost without additions matching Cover-Jones.

Staff is recommending that the 2020 Ford F-150 Crew Cab be purchased from Cover-Jones Motor Company of Alliance, Nebraska for \$34,558. Along with the purchase of the vehicle there will be approximately \$7,000 of additional safety equipment which will need to be installed. The fiscal year budget included \$50,000 for this purchase. The Ford is preferred over the Dodge due to the local dealership availability for warranty work and repairs.]

A motion was made by Councilman Mischnick seconded by Councilman Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 20-06 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-06

*WHEREAS*, The City of Alliance Police Department has a need to replace a patrol vehicle which is a 2013 Ford Taurus with 135,000 miles; and

*WHEREAS*, Police Chief Kiss is recommending the purchase of one 2020 Ford F-150 Crew Cab in the amount of \$34,558 from Cover Jones Motor Company, Alliance, NE; and

*WHEREAS*, The 2020 Ford F-150 Crew Cab will require the purchase and installation of the required safety and emergency equipment at the cost of \$7,000 and installed through Action Communications of Scottsbluff, NE; and

*WHEREAS*, Staff is recommending that the purchase be made from Cover Jones Motor Company of Alliance, NE.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that Mayor Dafney be and hereby is authorized to enter into a contract with Cover Jones Motor Company, Alliance, NE for the purchase of one 2020 Ford F-150 Crew Cab in the amount of Thirty-four Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-eight Dollars and no/100ths (\$34,558.00).

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the purchase of the required safety and emergency equipment and installed through Action Communications of Scottsbluff, NE at an approximate cost of \$7,000 is also approved.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the City Council is authorizing the purchase from the Police Department's Capital Outlay – Vehicle Account No. 01-31-32-59-960 to allow for the purchase of one police vehicle and accessories.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

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- Board appointments and announcements were the next item on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Reynolds to appoint Kelsey Turman to the Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Reynolds to appoint Rick Turman to the Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2022.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bentley to appoint Makayla Ritterhouse to the Park and Tree Board with a term expiring December 31, 2022.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

City Manager Sprock recommended to Council Jess Wimmer be reappointed to the Community Redevelopment Authority. A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to confirm the appointment of Jess Wimmer to the Community Redevelopment Authority Board with a term expiring January 31, 2025.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

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Motion carried.

Currently there are vacancies on the Board of Adjustment, A-1 and A-2 Downtown Improvement Boards, Economic Development Plan Citizen Advisory Board, Housing Authority, youth representatives on the Library Board, Museum Board, Planning Commission and Police Citizen Advisory Board (Senior/Retired, School and Police representatives). There are also upcoming vacancies on the Park and Tree Board and Senior Facility Advisory Board. 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](http://www.cityofalliance.net).

- The last matter before Council was the retirement announcement of City Clerk Jines and a discussion on the selection process for a replacement. City Clerk Jines submitted the following letter to Council:

“Dear Honorable Mayor Dafney and Members of City Council:

I want to inform the City Council of my intention to retire effective March 20, 2020. It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Alliance over the past 41 plus years. I appreciate the confidence that Council has afforded me to perform my duties. During my tenure with the City I have worked with 11 city managers and for sixteen groups of Council, of which seven years were under the leadership of Mayor Dafney. I have learned so much from these dedicated public service minded individuals.

I receive a great deal of personal gratification knowing that I was a part of making the lives of my neighbors, friends, family and visitors to Alliance better. The leadership team and employees of Alliance are a devoted group of individuals and I am proud that I was a part of this team. I will miss being part of this organization.

I believe I will be leaving my office in good standing and in a good position for my successor.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your City Clerk, it has been a privilege.

Respectfully,

/s/ Linda S. Jines  
City Clerk”

A motion was made by Mayor Dafney, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to accept the resignation of City Clerk Jines with regret.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

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Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Dafney to pursue a contract with Tarrah Johnson to serve as the City Clerk following the retirement of City Clerk Jines. The motion was seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Roll call with the following results:

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

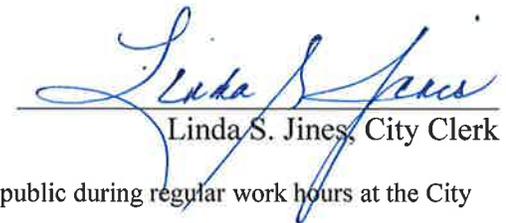
Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

There being no further business before Council, Mayor Dafney adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

  
Mike Dafney, Mayor

(SEAL)

  
Linda S. Jines, City Clerk

Complete minutes of the Alliance City Council may be viewed by the public during regular work hours at the City Clerk's Office, 324 Laramie Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska.