

January 19, 2021

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, January 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Alliance Learning Center Community Meeting Room, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on January 13, 2021. 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 19, 2021 regular meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Dafney, Council Members Mischnick, Jones, Bentley and McGhehey. Also present were Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Hoelsing and City Clerk Johnson.

- Mayor Dafney read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The first action for Council was to proclaim the week of January 24 through January 30, 2021 as Lutheran Schools Week. Councilman Bentley read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Teaching the young in full-time Lutheran schools has been an integral part of the heritage and the life of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from its 1847 beginning; and,

WHEREAS, Congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod maintain the largest protestant school system in the United States, enrolling more than 190,000 students in 1,910 preschools, elementary schools, secondary schools, and colleges, served by over 21,000 teachers and professors with a support system of over 6,000 congregations; and,

WHEREAS, The purpose and mission of Lutheran schools is to equip children, young adults, and their parents to prepare for service and leadership in Lutheran congregations; and,

WHEREAS, Graduates of Lutheran schools have gone on to distinguish themselves through service and leadership in community, government, and the church; and

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WHEREAS, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran School has been in existence since 2014 and is located at 1312 E. 10th St. with an enrollment of approximately 125 students; and

WHEREAS, During the week of January 24 – 30, 2021 there will be several activities with student involvement in recognition of National Lutheran Schools Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Dafney, Mayor of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, do hereby recognize January 24 – 30, 2021 as:

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

In Alliance, Nebraska, and urge all citizens to recognize Lutheran schools for their commitment to proclaim the Gospel to children, young people, and their parents, and for their commitment to excellence in quality Christian education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 19th day of January in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

Council also proclaimed the week of January 31 through February 6, 2021 as Catholic Schools Week. Councilman McGhehey read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The week of January 31, 2021 is National Catholic Schools Week; and,

WHEREAS, The theme of which is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence, Service; 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,

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Dafney, Mayor of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, do hereby recognize January 31 – February 6, 2021 as:

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

In Alliance, Nebraska, and urge all citizens to recognize Catholic schools for their commitment to excellence in quality education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 19th day of January in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

- The Consent Calendar was next for Council. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

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CONSENT CALENDAR – JANUARY 19, 2021

1. **Approval:** Minutes of the Council Meeting from January 5, 2021.
2. **Approval:** Payroll Costs for the period December 12, 2020 through December 25, 2020: \$229,062.74.
3. **Approval:** Claims against the following funds for December 9, 2020, through January 12, 2021: 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., Kenosha, and Capital Improvement; \$1,044,246.94.
4. **Approval:** Authorizes the issuance of the following Cemetery Certificates:

Susan K. Custer for the West Half (W¹/₂) of Lot Seventeen (17), Section Ten (10), Block Twenty (20), Third Addition to the Alliance Cemetery.

Helen Flood for the Southeast Quarter (SE¹/₄) of Lot One (1), Section Five (5), Block Twenty (20), Third Addition to the Alliance Cemetery.
5. **Approval:** Resolution No. 21-04 approves the Nutrition Site Agreement with Aging Office of Western Nebraska for an additional year. This Agreement is for the Nutrition Program at the Alliance Senior Center and will expire on June 30, 2022.
6. **For your information:** Keep Alliance Beautiful has submitted their Quarterly Report (October 2020 to December 2020) for Council's information.
7. **For Your Information:** Charter Communications is making the following channel lineup change:

CHANNEL	CHANGE	CHANNEL NUMBER	Effective
Discovery en Espanol HD	Discovery en Espanol Launch: HD additions in all connected 750+ SDV systems where currently SD only	828	On or around 2/2/21
Discovery Familia HD Launch	Discovery Familia & Life HD Launch: HD additions in all connected 750+ SDV systems where currently SD only	892	On or around 2/2/21

NOTE: Interim Managers Johnson and Waggener have reviewed these expenditures and to the best of their knowledge confirms that they are within budgeted appropriations to this point in the fiscal year.

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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, Bentley, McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The first item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 21-02 which will amend the City of Alliance Employee Personnel Manual within Section 4.9 – Residency. The following information was provided:

[The Council at their January 5, 2021 meeting discussed the personnel manual section regarding residency requirements and offered suggestions for management to consider. The leadership team met on January 12 for a follow-up discussion on the policy.

A profile of current City staff shows that sixteen of the City's staff live outside of city limits. Only one employee is more than fifteen miles (16 miles) from the city limits (the new transit driver) with mileage to actual workstations ranging from 1.4 to 23 miles.

The proposed residency policy detailed below addresses the following items:

- Recognizes that limiting residency to within the city limits could be considered a detriment to the recruitment of quality leadership and workers, especially when considering that rural living may be one of the reasons an employee may consider Alliance over other municipalities.
- Places distance requirements on residency for department heads and employees whose jobs entail on-call responsibilities and increases that from five driving miles to fifteen driving miles from city limits. Note: Police and fire staff is not specified as those positions are generally "shift" positions, but the current wording would cover when they are on-call.
- Specifies that contracted positions (primarily city manager and city clerk) may include different residency limitations as negotiated by Council in the employment contracts.

The attached resolution will incorporate the changes listed below into the Employee Personnel Handbook effective January 20, 2021. A further review of the policy in regard to use of vehicles by on-call staff will occur following approval of the residency requirements.

4.9 RESIDENCY

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Residency within the City shall not be a condition of initial appointment or continued employment; provided, however, that an employee's selection of residence shall not interfere with the daily performance of their duties and responsibilities ~~or conflict with terms of any employment contract. Department heads in addition to Fire, police and~~ all employees required to be on-call because of the nature of their employment are required to live within ~~fifteen~~ driving miles of the City limits. ~~City officers and Department Heads are required to reside within the City.~~ The City Manager may make exceptions to this rule for unusual circumstances.]

A motion was made by Councilman Mischnick, seconded by Councilman Jones to approve Resolution No. 21-02 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-02

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance is revising certain Personnel Policies; and

WHEREAS, The proposed policy revisions have been reviewed by management and legal staff; and

WHEREAS, The following Policy is proposed to be revised and made part of the Personnel Policies of the City of Alliance:

➤ 4.9 Residency

WHEREAS, City Council has reviewed the proposed Policy and finds them appropriate for the needs of the Employees of the City of Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City of Alliance Personnel Policies set forth herein, are hereby approved, and adopted effective January 19, 2021, as the Policy of the City of Alliance.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Next Council conducted a Public Hearing on the Manager Application for High Plains Pizza Hut, Inc. dba Pizza Hut of Alliance and will recommend approval of the application to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. Following the public hearing, Resolution No. 21-05 was put before Council which will recommend approval of the application. The following information was provided:

[The City of Alliance is in receipt of the Manager Application of David Staab for the liquor license of High Plains Pizza Hut, Inc. dba Pizza Hut of Alliance, 1239 West Third Street, Alliance, Nebraska. Mr. Staab has completed the Responsible Beverage

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Service Training in Nebraska. Police Chief Lukens has completed a background check on Mr. Staab and has found no reason to deny the application.]

Mayor Dafney stated “now is the date, time, and place to conduct a Public Hearing to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of the taxpayers relating to the Manager Application for Pizza Hut of Alliance and opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Hearing no further testimony, the Public Hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Dafney, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve Resolution No. 21-05 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-05

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has received a notice and copy of a Manager Application for High Plains Pizza Hut, Inc. dba Pizza Hut of Alliance, 1239 West Third Street, Alliance, Nebraska submitted by David Staab; and

WHEREAS, City staff has reviewed the application and finds no reason why the proposed manager, David Staab, would be disqualified from serving as manager.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Manager’s Application of David Staab for High Plains Pizza Hut, Inc. dba Pizza Hut of Alliance, 1239 West Third Street, Alliance, Nebraska is hereby recommended for approval to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall notify the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission of this Council decision.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 21-06 which gives the City of Alliance the opportunity to participate in a Statewide RFP for the construction of a solar farm. The following information was provided:

[Council voted in December 2018 to be included in a joint RFP with other Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) communities and after reviewing the results of the RFP decided not to proceed with the construction of a solar farm in 2019. Alliance is an excellent location for a solar farm as it has an ideal climate for collecting solar power. The Federal investment tax credits have been extended two years at 26%.

Rich Andrysik from Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, of which we are a member, is preparing another Request for Proposals (RFP) for a solar project for MEAN cities.

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Based on the Alliance's recent interest he has included us in the RFP with a handful of other Nebraska cities (Pender, Stuart, West Point, Sergeant Bluff, Crete and Ansley). The following are some highlights for Alliance:

- The City of Alliance has the opportunity to purchase up to 3 Megawatts (MW) of solar electricity (5% of Alliance's electrical use) from a solar farm that would be located on City property.
- The additional cost to the City is expected to be around \$50,000 annually (an additional 1 cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) for electricity generated by the solar system at the current time).
- The solar energy would be purchased via a power purchase agreement (PPA) between the City and a private generation company.
- The costs per kWh generated from the solar system (somewhere around 4.6 to 5.0 cents) would be locked in for 25 years.
- The City will be responsible for interconnection costs to the solar generation facility. This will include a transformer, extended line for tapping the facility on to the City's electric system and possible protection equipment. These costs would approach \$150,000.
- All other associated costs (i.e. design, development, installation, operation and maintenance) would be covered by the private company.
- The DC/AC conversion costs will be covered by the private company. The City is not expected to bear these costs.
- The expected time for completing this project is 14-16 months.
- The developer will be responsible for all decommissioning expenses of the solar generation facility.

The City presently pays \$38.25/MWh for the majority of MEAN energy (87.2% of portfolio); \$43/MWh for wind energy (5.7% of portfolio) and \$15.72/MWh for LAP hydropower (7.1% of portfolio). The solar proposal for Alliance acting alone would increase the current annual energy cost by 1.1%, but would lock the rate for that 5% of the portfolio for 25 to 30 years. Transmission charges would remain unaffected by the addition of solar to the portfolio mix.

Economies of scale may be achieved (and thus lower unit charges) by cooperating with other MEAN communities to increase the size of the project or through multiple projects bid concurrently.]

A motion was made by Councilman Bentley, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve Resolution No. 21-06 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-06

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has an opportunity to participate in a Statewide Request for Proposals (RFP) for a solar project in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, of which we are a member, is preparing a Request for Proposals for a solar project in Nebraska with a handful of other Nebraska cities; and

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WHEREAS, Economies of scale may be achieved by cooperating with other Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska communities to increase the size of the project or through multiple projects bid concurrently; and

WHEREAS, The City Council believes it is in the best interest of our citizens to participate in the Statewide Request for Proposals to determine the best option for the City regarding solar power.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City of Alliance is authorized to participate in the Statewide Request for Proposals (RFP) for a solar project in Nebraska being prepared by the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will be provided the results of the Request for Proposals and determine at that time whether to proceed with the proposed solar projects or to remove Alliance from consideration.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Board appointments, resignations and announcements was the final items on the agenda for Council's consideration.

A motion was made by Councilman McGhehey, seconded by Councilman Jones to appoint Jessica Dean to serve on the Alliance Housing Authority with a term ending December 31, 2025.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman McGhehey, seconded by Councilman Bentley to reappoint David Jensen to serve on the Golf Advisory Board with a term ending December 31, 2024.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

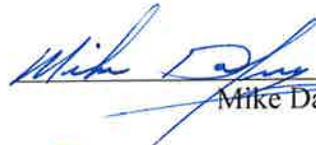
Motion carried.

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Currently there remains two vacancies on the A-2 Downtown Improvement District Board, one vacancy on the Economic Development Plan Citizen Advisory Board, one vacancy on the Economic Development Plan Application Review Board, one youth representative on the Library Board, one vacancy on the Library Board, and three vacancies on the Police Advisory Board (Retired Rep, Hispanic Rep, Religious Rep).

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.

There being no further business before Council, Mayor Dafney adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.


Mike Dafney, Mayor

(SEAL)


Tarrah S. Johnson, 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.

