

March 16, 2021

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, March 16, 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 March 11, 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 March 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Dafney, Council Members Jones, Bentley and McGhehey. Councilman Mischnick joined the meeting via telephone. Also present were Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Hoelsing and City Clerk Johnson.

- Mayor Dafney read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The first item on the agenda for Council was the ACE Presentation. Randy Waggener our ACE representative presented the Council with a Membership Distribution check from ACE in the amount of \$27,206. To date \$238,195 has been returned to the City from ACE. Councilman Jones presented the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy is a community-owned and not-for-profit natural gas supplier made up of 72 Nebraska member communities including the City of Alliance; and

WHEREAS, ACE was formed in 1998 to provide competition in the Choice Gas program in helping natural gas customers get the lowest price possible and keeping money in Nebraska; and

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WHEREAS, the mission of ACE is to offer competitive rates and work to keep the cost of natural gas as low as possible for all consumers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alliance received \$27,206 in revenue return from ACE with total revenue returns to the City of \$238,195 since the inception of ACE.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, encourages the Citizens of Alliance to consider selecting ACE as their natural gas supplier during the Choice Gas selection period which begins March 18 and runs through April 22, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 16th day of March in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Twenty-one.

● The Consent Calendar was the next matter before Council. A motion was made by Councilman Bentley and seconded by Councilman Jones to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – March 16, 2021

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 2, 2021.
2. Approval: Payroll Costs for the period February 6, 2021 through February 19, 2021: \$239,940.25.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period of February 24, 2021 through March 10, 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., Keno, and Capital Improvement; \$1,757,301.63.
4. Approval: Update to the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department by removing Daryl Craig, Christopher Heinz, and Breanna Holmes.
5. Approval: Electric Department budget transfer for the Generation Plant expansion tank replacement in the amount of \$16,000 from System Rebuild Maintenance, GL #05-51-53-53-948 to Generation NRCNTSVC-Other Machinery, Equipment GL #05-51-51-44-481.
6. Approval: Resolution No. 21-29 approves the Agency Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division to act as the airport's agent for funds received through the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program (ACRGP).

NOTE: Interim Managers Johnson and Waggener have reviewed these expenditures and to the best of their knowledge confirm 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.

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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 was Resolution No. 21-30 which will award the Big Horn Avenue Water Main Bid to Hennings Construction from Gering, Nebraska in the amount of \$132,900. The following information was provided:

[The need was identified for a water improvement project on Big Horn Avenue as a part of the 2020-21 CIP budget. There are currently two water mains serving Big Horn Avenue between 3rd Street and 8th Street. Not all residents on the east side of the street are connected to the newer 12" water main located on the west side of the street. This improvement project would connect all residents to the newer main and allow for proper abandonment of the older 4" water main.

The project was engineered and advertised in compliance with State law. Two bids were received and opened on February 17, 2021. Hennings Construction (Gering, NE) submitted a bid in the amount of \$131,700 and K.L. Wood and Co. (Alliance, NE) submitted a bid in the amount of \$193,622. After adjustment by the overseeing engineer, the Hennings Construction bid was tabulated at \$132,900, thus being the lowest bid. The corrected bid was lower than the engineer's estimate of \$158,122. A total budget of \$200,000 was included in the Water Main GL #08-52-52-55-911.]

A motion was made by Councilman Bentley, seconded by Councilman Jones to approve Resolution No. 21-30 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-30

WHEREAS, the Big Horn Avenue Water Main Improvement Project was identified as part of the Capital Improvement Plan for 2021; and

WHEREAS, Two bids were received and the lowest, responsible and responsive bid was received from Hennings Construction of Gering, NE in the amount of One Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars and NO/100th (\$132,900); and

WHEREAS, Funding for this project was included within this fiscal year budget and will be paid from GL# 08-52-52-55-911.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Mayor is authorized to sign a contract with Hennings Construction of Gering, NE. in the amount of One Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars and NO/100th (\$132,900) for Big Horn Avenue Water Main Improvement Project.

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Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 21-31 which will renew the Public Transit Grant for an additional two years, was next on the agenda for Council. The following information was provided:

[The City of Alliance has operated the Box Butte County Public Transit since July 2015. Annual budgeted City operating support over the years has ranged between \$20,000 and \$30,000 per year. Actual transfers have been \$16,000 or less in all years including funding for last year's van purchases.

Driver staffing now includes three full-time drivers which has increased benefits by approximately \$44,000 per year. Increased building rent will begin once the Public Works Annex is completed. Within the last two-year budget cycle, transit services have been eliminated in Hemingford and that support has ended resulting in a name change to Alliance Public Transit. As of this time, Box Butte County has not recommitted support and staff continues to seek additional support.

The new grant application will be for a two-year funding cycle and is due by March 31, 2021. Since the funding for the Village of Hemingford and Box Butte County are no longer included in the plan, an additional \$15,000 per year will be required from the City of Alliance. Box Butte General Hospital remains committed at \$15,000 per year for the upcoming year. The resolution includes a commitment of up to \$125,580 for the next two years of operations which would be considered the worst case scenario.]

A motion was made by Councilman McGhehey, seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 21-31 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-31

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance desires to prepare a Proposal (application) for a two-year period with the Nebraska Department of Roads for the City of Alliance Public Transit Program; and

WHEREAS, The Proposal will be in the name of the City of Alliance and under the City of Alliance tax identification; and

WHEREAS, The Transit Program requires local financial support and the City has obtained and continues to seek additional financial commitments from other entities for the program; and

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WHEREAS, The City of Alliance will commit to providing up to \$125,580 in financial support of the transit program for two years; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that continuing the public transportation services 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 prepare a Proposal for the City of Alliance Public Transit Program for a two-year period for submittal to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Alliance provide within the Proposal (application) a Financial Support Letter for \$125,580 for two years for the operation of the City of Alliance Public Transit Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to accept the grant on behalf of the City of Alliance and sign the related documentation and certifications should the City be awarded the program.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council next considered a request from Mara Andersen, Alliance Recreation Center Director, for ACE Funds for their playground equipment addition at the Center.

Mara Andersen, Alliance Recreation Center Director, was in attendance and presented to Council the recreation center's proposal for new playground equipment. Mrs. Andersen reported a total amount of \$37,745 funds raised to date and requested \$19,051.27 of ACE funds in order to finalize the project.

Councilman Bentley asked Director Andersen if an ARC membership would be required to utilize the playground and the proposed location.

Director Andersen reported the location will be on the north side of the facility where the old hockey rink currently is and no membership is required; the playground will be open to the public.

Councilman Bentley noted she would like this project included in the upcoming Capital Improvement Planning session.

Councilman Jones replied that he would like to make a commitment to this project now. He stated that money isn't an issue as we have budgeted funds for large projects that remain unused and we originally had a city lot that was designated for a playground in the Meadowlark Addition that the city sold. In addition, it is a one-time investment that requires no additional

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maintenance from the City, the City doesn't provide insurance, and it is a community playground for everyone.

Mayor Dafney asked Finance Director Waggener the current budget in the ACE Funds. Director Waggener reported there is approximately \$123,000 in ACE funds available.

Councilman Mischnick stated he agrees this to be worthy project and would like to see it included in the Capital Improvement Planning session.

Councilman McGhehey stated he is in favor of the project and would like to move forward. He would like invoices to be submitted to the Finance Department prior to payment.

With no further discussion, Mayor Dafney requested a motion be made on the matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones to authorize up to \$19,060 of ACE funds be issued to the Alliance Recreation Center with supported invoices, for the recreation center's playground equipment project. The motion was seconded by Councilman McGhehey.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Director Andersen thanked Council for their partnership and time.

● Alliance Police Department Chief, Phil Lukens, next presented a draft Strategic Plan for Council's review. This plan includes specific and measurable goals of execution in policing the City of Alliance. The three main goals in this plan are:

1. Community Partnership
2. Crime and Disorder Prevention
3. Police Effectivity, Efficiency and Euphoria Enhancement

With these goals in mind, multiple objectives have been identified to include the following major points:

- Community Partnership Beat Organization
- Employee Retention
- Staffing Level Enhancement
- Vehicle Fleet Strategies
- Dispatch Upgrade and Consolidation
- Five-Year Master Plan Development
- Drug Enforcement
- Code Enforcement

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Council thanked Chief Lukens for his presentation and are excited to see the new development in the Police Department.

- The next agenda item was Resolution No. 21-32 which will authorize the purchase of vehicles for the Police Department. The following information was provided:

[The Police Department has authored a draft strategic plan for 2021 which includes proposed capital expenditures to increase the number of vehicles in the patrol fleet. The police department has six marked patrol units which appears to inadequately address the needs of the community as proposed in the plan. The department has been “hot seating” vehicles (a vehicle that never rests and is in use 24 hours a day). For example, there is one sergeant’s vehicle (the pickup) which is constantly in use from shift to shift and day to day. Officers are assigned to share a vehicle which is ineffective when vehicles are down for maintenance and there are no spare vehicles. When major incidents occur, officers are left to double up or respond in their personal vehicles, especially at shift change.

Proposed in the strategic plan is a take-home car (or car per officer) which has multiple studies showing the following advantages:

- Reduces the vehicle “hot-seating” expenses. Annual maintenance of hot-seated cars averaged about \$7,000 per year while a take-home car averaged \$3,500. Regular maintenance can be scheduled during the officer’s time off eliminating down time.
- Assigned cars have a 30% lower operating cost and longer life expectancy as officers care for assigned vehicles better. The vehicles generally have less down time and increased productivity.
- Makes, models and styles of vehicles owned by the department are constantly changing. Rotating different vehicles tends to increase risk of accidents due to unfamiliarity and it is proven there are less accidents with assigned cars.
- Take-home vehicles are viewed as an added benefit for officers and can aid in officer retention.
- Creates the perception of more officers in the City which is a visual deterrent ultimately reducing costs and crime.
- Eliminates use of employees’ personal cars for official business.
- Benefits of take-home cars far outweigh the cost of program implementation (i.e. additional insurance, internet jetpacks, etc.).

Implementation first steps would be to retain two vehicles which were scheduled to be rotated out (Units 107 and 105). A former patrol vehicle used by Building and Zoning could be converted back into a patrol car. Three used vehicles in good condition already outfitted with equipment owned by the University of Nebraska will be available for purchase and have approximately 70,000 miles each. In lieu of purchasing the two new vehicles approved in the 2021 budget, these three vehicles could be purchased and provide savings for vehicle maintenance expenses. Currently the University of Nebraska has two vehicles available:

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2013 Ford Interceptor	\$25,800	71,123 miles, fully equipped
2013 Ford Interceptor	\$25,800	71,284 miles, fully equipped

Installed equipment includes emergency lighting and controls, siren and PA, Watchguard 4RE wireless in-car camera system, one body camera, Stalker dual mobile radar, prisoner cage, dual gun rack and mobile computer dock. To outfit a new car with this equipment is approximately \$10,000 thus saving the City a substantial amount of money.

The proposed resolution would authorize the purchase two (2) 2013 Ford Interceptors from the University of Nebraska for a total of \$51,600. There is no need for new equipment and installation. The approved authority in the police operations budget (Capital Outlay-Vehicles G/L 01-31-32-59-960) was \$82,000. There will remain a balance of unused funds whereby approval will be sought when the third Ford Interceptor is available from the University.]

A motion was made by Councilman Bentley, seconded by Councilman Jones to approve Resolution No. 21-32 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-32

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance Police Department has a need to add to the current patrol fleet;

WHEREAS, Police Chief Lukens is recommending the purchase of two 2013 Ford Utility Explorer Interceptors in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and NO/100ths (\$25,800) per vehicle from the University of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The two 2013 Ford Utility Explorer Interceptors are fully equipped with the required safety and emergency equipment and are sold "as is"; and

WHEREAS, Budget Authority is available in Capital Outlay-Vehicles GL# 01-31-32-59-960 to complete the purchase.

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 two Vehicle Purchase Agreements with the University of Nebraska for the purchase of two 2013 Ford Utility Explorer Interceptors in the total amount of Fifty-one Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and NO/100ths (\$51,600).

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 two police vehicles.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

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Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council's review was Resolution No. 21-33 which approves a dispatch console upgrade. The following information was provided:

[Staff has negotiated a dispatch center console upgrade with Motorola Solutions, who is the preferred vendor for the State of Nebraska State Radio System (SRS). The present dispatch center is out-of-warranty and beginning to fail. There presently is not sufficient interoperability with outside agencies and inadequate sources of redundancy in crisis.

The project will include the installation of four Motorola MCC7500E dispatch consoles and connection to the SRS via IP network with several connections possible. The pricing is based on State of Nebraska bids with an additional incentive discount of \$70,682.55 if contracted prior to March 25, 2021. Additional associated operating costs include post-warranty services beginning in the second year and starting at \$35,261.74 with annual increases and a total of seven years committed.

Equipment and Services Summary	Price
Console and Logging Equipment	\$415,614.93*
Systems Integration	\$350,067.62
Total Equipment, Systems Integration and 1st Year Warranty	\$765,682.55
Additional Incentive with Contract Signature on or before March 25, 2021	\$70,682.55
Grand Total after Additional Incentive	\$695,000.00
*Pricing is per State of NE Contract # 14534_C	

A total of \$1,525,000 was included in the 2020-21 budget (Emergency Management Capital Outlay-Machinery and Equipment GL #01-37-35-59-950) for the purchase of P25 radios, console and other associated equipment with the amount expected for the console upgrade estimated at \$700,000. The City received almost \$424,000 in CARES Act reimbursement which can be supplemented with Public Safety, E911 and general reserve funds to complete the initial purchase. Some funds can be recovered through interlocal agreements as dispatch consolidations occur.]

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 21-33 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-33

WHEREAS, The Law Enforcement Communication Center has a need to upgrade the current dispatch center console system; and

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WHEREAS, Motorola Solutions is the preferred vendor for the State of Nebraska State Radio Systems; and

WHEREAS, The upgrade includes four (4) Motorola MCC7500E dispatch consoles and connections to the State Radio System IP Network with several connections possible; and

WHEREAS, The complete upgrade includes, the console and lodging equipment, system integration, and year one warranty in a total amount of \$765,682.55; and

WHEREAS, If purchased prior to March 25, 2021 an additional incentive of \$70,682.55 will be reduced from the total price making the total project cost \$695,000; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City to purchase four (4) Motorola MCC7500E dispatch consoles; and

WHEREAS, Funds were budgeted in the 2020-21 budget for this purchase; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance received \$424,000 in CARES Act reimbursement which can be supplemental with Public Safety, E911 and general reserves to complete the initial purchase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, authorize the purchase of (4) Motorola MCC7500E dispatch consoles in the amount of \$695,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, budgeted funds from Emergency Management Capital Outlay – Machinery and Equipment GL#01-37-35-59-950 will go towards this purchase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Mayor is authorized to sign the documents associated with this purchase.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 21-34 which approves the purchase of a Viper Next Generation E911 system, was next on the agenda for Council. The following information was provided:

[The Alliance Police Department currently utilizes a Viper answering system for the 911 answering point hardware. It was purchased in 2014 and is no longer supported. This is also a stand-alone answering point with no opportunities for redundancy. There are only two left in the state and this system will be phased out. There is an upgrade system which is essential for handling 911 overflow as well as a redundancy system should a communications center go down for some reason. This NextGen911 will allow for adequate 911 answering and works in tandem with other hardware and software in the communications center.

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The purchase price from Lumen (formerly CenturyLink) is \$73,111.32 for the equipment (discounted \$15,000) and \$16,796.94 for an annual maintenance and support until the new Viper is installed and for the first year. Annual maintenance for the next four years will be \$10,471.61. The E911 board approved the use of E911 Funds for the City of Alliance to purchase this system with no cost to the general funds of the City. The installation will most likely not occur until October 2021.]

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bentley to approve Resolution No. 21-34 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-34

WHEREAS, The Alliance Police Department currently utilizes a Viper answering system for 911 answering point hardware; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to upgrade the system due to the aging of the current system and inadequacies; and

WHEREAS, Lumen supplies a current system, NextGen911 that allows for adequate 911 answering; and

WHEREAS, The complete system purchase price is \$89,908.26 which includes the equipment and maintenance and support for the first year; and

WHEREAS, The E911 Board approved the use of E911 Funds for the City of Alliance to purchase this system with no cost to the general fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, authorize the purchase of the Lumen NextGen911 System in the total amount of \$89,908.26.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Next, Council held a discussion to establish a date and time to conduct a Capital Improvement planning session. By consensus, Council set April 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Alliance Learning Center Community Meeting Rooms to conduct the session.
- Board appointments and announcements were the final items on the agenda for Council's consideration.

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A motion was made by Councilman McGhehey, seconded by Councilman Bentley to reappoint Robert Cerv to serve on the Park and Tree Board with a term set to expire February 28, 2024.

Roll call vote with the following results:

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

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

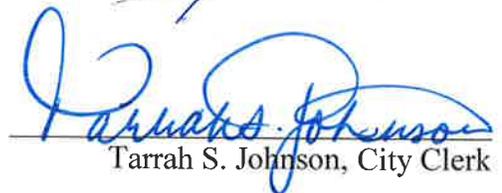
Currently there remains one vacancy on the Community Redevelopment Authority, four vacancies on the A-2 Downtown Improvement District Board, one vacancy on the A-1 Downtown Improvement District Board, one vacancy on the Economic Development Plan Citizen Advisory Board, one youth representative on the Library Board, one vacancy on the Museum Board, and two vacancies on the 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.

There being no further business before Council, Mayor Dafney adjourned the meeting at 7:58 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.