

July 21, 2011

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, July 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Education Meeting Room, 1604 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on July 14, 2011. 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 Feldges opened the July 21, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Feldges, Council Members Yeager, Kusek, Benzel, and Gonzalez. Also present were City Manager Cox, City Attorney Miller and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Feldges read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The first item for Council's review was the Consent Calendar.

Motion by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Kusek to approve the Consent Calendar which follows in its entirety:

CONSENT CALENDAR – JULY 21, 2011

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 7, 2011.
2. Approval: Payroll and Employer Taxes for the period June 25, 2011 through July 8, 2011 inclusive: \$186,984.48 and \$13,339.38 respectively.

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3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period July 1, 2011 through July 15, 2011: 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; \$200,073.85.

Notice of correction from Finance Director Waggener informing Council that approval was granted twice for the ambulance purchase; however only one check was issued.

4. Approval: The issuance of a Cemetery Certificate to Edward Heilman for the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Lot Fourteen (14), Section Five (5), Block Two (2), Original Plat to the Alliance Cemetery.
5. Approval: The issuance of a Repair and Maintenance Contractor License to John Powers dba Rhino Lining.
6. FYI: Status Report for the City Council's Contingency Fund. We are currently reviewing all contingency fund activities to ensure proper authority to expend funds has been granted.

NOTE: City Manager Cox 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.

Councilmen Feldges and Kusek questioned the additional ammunition purchase for the Police Department. City Manager Cox reported this is the last bulk purchase for this fiscal year and apologized that staff had misstated that fact with the last purchase. Mayor Feldges inquired if the ambulance repairs were for the newly purchased ambulance. City Manager Cox stated they were not for the new ambulance they were repairs to an older ambulance (Unit No. 311).

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Yeager, Kusek, Benzel, Gonzalez.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The City's new Tourism Director, Kevin Howard was introduced to the City Council.
- The next agenda item was the City Manager's report by J.D. Cox which follows in outline form:
 - Council Questions Followup
 - No Parking Around Fountain
 - Congestion on Sweetwater (10th to 12th)
 - No legislation required – 15 min to 2 hour time limit
 - Received a request for UTV's

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- Electric Department
 - Electric Rates increase on next agenda
 - New Transformer is in route with connection scheduled for the first week of August
- Sewer Department
 - Passed Sanitary Sewer Survey with Flying Colors
- West Plains Grain
 - Joint City/County Meeting – West Plains
 - Outcome: Eric Lenz & Barb Keegan work together
 - Proposed: City crush and supply more concrete (line item in budget)
 - Proposed: County lay the crushed concrete
 - Sent email (6/7/11)-
 - Asking status of LB840 Application
 - Asking if TIF or LB840 funds go toward public road improvements
 - Clarification of use of TIF funding request
 - Updated financial statements
- Intermodal Transportation
 - Met with NDED and Nebraska Trucking Association President
 - Accompanied by Chelsie Herian (BBDC)
 - Dixie Nelson (Chamber)
 - Eric Lenz, Lynn Placek (Airport)
 - Toured:
 - Highway 385
 - BNSF Yards & Operations
 - Alliance Airport
- Airport
 - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspection was completed and no discrepancies were noted
- Streets & Roads
 - Emerson – Not this year.
 - Instead focus on completion of Cemetery & Road for West Plains Grain
 - Major Street Projects

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| • Emerson (2011) | Status: Waiting for Notice to Proceed |
| • Potash (2012) | Status: Design Stage |
| • 10 th Street (2013) | Status: Program Agreement (6/21/11) |
| • Sidewalk/Trail 10 th Street (2013) | Status: Invited to Apply |
| • Sweetwater | Status: Proposed for 2012 |
- Museum
 - New sign has been installed

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- Grant -
 - \$16,000 - Nebraska State Records Board Grant – Awarded
 - Recodification of City Code
 - Shari Lund wrote grant
- UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS
 - 8/4 @ 7:00 pm -
 - Electric Rates
 - Fireworks
 - Budget – First Reading
- The next item for Council’s consideration was Resolution No. 11-87 awarding the Property & Casualty insurance bid. City Manager Cox provided the following background information:

[As previously discussed, the City’s current Property & Casualty insurance with Wells Fargo was set to automatically renew on August 1, 2011 unless we went out for bids. Bids were solicited and four entities made contact with the City: Wells Fargo, Gregory’s, Bank of the West and League Association of Risk Management (commonly referred to as “LARM,” and is an operation of the League of Nebraska Municipalities).

However, of these four entities, only two submitted bids: Wells Fargo utilizing Berkshire Hathaway, and Gregory’s Insurance utilizing Travelers. The bids were as follows:

Wells Fargo: \$391,729.00

Gregory’s: \$360,676.00

There are some differences in the bids, but both were consistent with the Request for Proposal as issued by the City’s Risk Manager/City Attorney. The proposed resolution will approve the selection of Gregory’s as the City’s Property and Casualty insurance provider. Risk Manager Larry Miller will further discuss the bids and recommendation.]

Motion by Councilman Kusek, seconded by Councilman Benzel to approve Resolution No. 11-87 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-87

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance recognizes the importance of purchasing insurance to protect against significant loss which affect the budget and would impact the operation of the City of Alliance; and

WHEREAS, The City desires to provide the best protection at the lowest cost to give the taxpayers the most insurance for their taxpayer dollar; and

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WHEREAS, The City of Alliance published bids for insurance companies to offer proposals to provide insurance for the City of Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Four entities contacted the City and two bids were received; and

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed the proposals and made a recommendation to the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, This Council desires to provide the highest quality insurance at the lowest cost.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Alliance that the Mayor is authorized to sign a contract for insurance with Gregory's Insurance, Inc. in the amount of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Six dollars and NO/100ths (\$360,676.00).

Representatives from both bidding insurance carriers along with the brokers were present at the meeting and provided clarifying information regarding their respective bids. Both the agents and the brokers thanked staff for their assistance. In addition, they also expressed the difficulty in bidding the services each year and would prefer a three or five year schedule.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Yeager, Kusek, Benzel, Gonzalez.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 11-89 authorizing the establishment of a temporary Ad-hoc Advisory Group for airport related matters was the next item for Council's review. City Manager Cox provided the following background information:

[As a follow-up to the last meeting conversation, I would like to form an ad-hoc group to provide ideas and suggestions for the airport. Initially, the group will be informal in nature and later when and if we believe that we are ready to move forward with a more formal group that makes recommendations to the City on improved utilization of our facility, we will propose an ordinance that will officially recognize the group. Several years ago as I believe everyone knows, the City had a formal Airport Authority, which was disbanded once the airport bonds were paid off.]

Motion by Councilman Yeager, seconded by Mayor Feldges to approve Resolution No. 11-89 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-89

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance operates the Alliance Municipal Airport; and

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WHEREAS, The City Manager desires to establish a temporary ad hoc group to consider actions that could be taken to enhance the operation and ensure the continuation of the Alliance Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, The City Manager is requesting permission to schedule and publish notice of meetings to see if there are people who are interested in possibly forming an advisory committee for the City of Alliance Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, The City Manager is requesting permission to investigate options and alternatives to enhance the operations and ensure the continuation of the Alliance Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, The City Manager will report to the City Council the comments, suggestions and interest in forming an Airport Advisory Committee after the ad hoc group has reached a consensus on how the City should proceed to achieve the goals for the Alliance Municipal Airport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City Manager is authorized to establish a temporary ad hoc group to consider actions that could be taken to enhance the operation and ensure the continuation of the Alliance Municipal Airport.

Gaylene Jensen as a representative of the City's Fixed Base Operation (FBO) addressed Council stating she believed this would be a wonderful opportunity and was in favor of an advisory group for airport services.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Yeager, Kusek, Benzel, Gonzalez.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item to be discussed by Council was changing the date for the second City Council meeting in August. The proposed resolution would change the second meeting in August from Thursday the 18th to Tuesday the 16th to accommodate a conflict.

Motion by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez to approve Resolution No. 11-90 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-90

WHEREAS, The City Council, pursuant to Nebraska Statute and 1-101 of the Alliance Municipal Code, has the authority to establish a calendar of regular meeting dates; and

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WHEREAS, The City Council has the authority, by resolution adopted not less than one week prior thereto, to change its regular date; and

WHEREAS, Due to a scheduling conflict the Council desires to change the dates for their normal meeting on August 18, 2011 to August 16, 2011 with said meeting to commence at 7:00 p.m.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the regular meeting of the Alliance City Council scheduled for August 18, 2011 is rescheduled to August 16, 2011 and the meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Yeager, Kusek, Benzel, Gonzalez.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Mayor Feldges stated, “there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 8:04 p.m.”

Fred Feldges, Mayor

(SEAL)

Linda S. Jines, City Clerk