

January 17, 2023

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

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, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alliance Learning Center Community Meeting Room, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on January 11, 2023. 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 provided 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 17, 2023 regular meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Dafney and Council members Mischnick, McGhehey, Andersen, and Mashburn. Also present were City Manager Sorensen, City Treasurer Baker and City Clerk Johnson. The City Attorney was not able to make the meeting due to bad weather.

- Mayor Dafney read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The Consent Calendar was the first item on the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman McGhehey and seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – January 17, 2023

1. **Approval:** Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 3, 2023.
2. **Approval:** Claims against the following funds: 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; \$1,173,550.57.
3. **Approval:** Attached is a listing of Demand Checks which were generated over the last financial quarter ending December 31, 2022. The report lists checks that have been issued

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which are not expenses within the budget. These are primarily made up of fund transfers, meter deposit refunds, utility overpayments and an occasional check which was required to be reissued.

4. Approval: AVFD Roster update by adding Nate Rau and Taylor Vogel.

NOTE: City Manager Sorensen and City Treasurer Baker 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.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, McGhehey, Andersen and Mashburn.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Next on the agenda, council held a Public Hearing on the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Community Block Grant Application. Following the Public Hearing Resolution No. 23-06 was introduced and will approve the submittal. The following information was provided:

[The City of Alliance is proposing to provide a \$491,925 Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG-CV”) for St. Agnes Academy (Holy Rosary Catholic Church) for funding to purchase and rehabilitate (non-substantial rehabilitation) to an existing community facility located at 1104 Toluca Avenue.

This project proposes to address public services and public facilities to support needed community services by expanding existing child dependent care capacity in Alliance. The expansion and improvement of the quantity of community services will primarily benefit low to moderate income individuals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was evident that the capacity of childcare in the City of Alliance was inadequate and this need was intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project includes entering a purchase agreement contingent upon grant approval. The budget for this project includes the building purchase for \$268,925, rehabilitation costs of \$198,000 which includes new appliances, and administrative fees of \$25,000 for a total request of \$491,925.]

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 Nebraska Department of Economic Development Community Block Grant Application” and opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Amy Sapp, PADD Community Planner was in attendance to summarize the grant details sharing, The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban

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communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The program was designed to reinforce several important values and principles of community development and why funding is funneled through a local government entity.

Karen Benzel, completed the application on behalf of St. Agnes Academy and discussed the need for licensed daycare facilities in Alliance. She continues that education components will be included in the services and although the target audience is low-income families, 51% must be low-income and the other 49% will not be restricted. She stated that all rates will be set by the Department of Health and Human Services the goal is to be open by August 1, 2023.

Hearing no further testimony, the Public Hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Mischnick, seconded by Councilman McGhehey to approve Resolution No. 23-06 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-06

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance, Nebraska, is an eligible unit of a general local government authorized to file an application under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, and,

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance, Nebraska, has obtained its citizens' comments on community development and housing needs and has conducted a public hearing upon the proposed application of \$491,925; and

WHEREAS, The CDBG funds will be provided to St. Agnes Academy (Holy Rosary Catholic Church) to purchase and rehabilitate an existing community facility located at 1104 Toluca Avenue, Alliance, Nebraska to respond to coronavirus by providing support to needed community services.

WHEREAS, The funds are proposed to address public services and public facilities to support needed community services by expanding existing child dependent care capacity in Alliance by focusing on the expansion and improvement of the quantity of community services will primarily benefit low to moderate income individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY The Council of the City of Alliance Nebraska, that the Mayor be authorized and directed to proceed with the formulation of any and all contracts, documents or other memoranda between City of Alliance, Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development so as to effect acceptance of the grant application.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, McGhehey, Andersen and Mashburn.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

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- Resolution No. 23-07 which will authorize the recommendation for Essential Air Service for the Alliance Municipal Airport was next for Council. The following information was provided:

[The Essential Air Service (EAS) program is provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The EAS program funds basic air service at 110 cities in the lower 48, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Alliance is eligible to participate in this program and is how the airport is able to offer commercial service to and from Denver. The Department of Transportation solicited proposals from carriers to provide Essential Air Service at Alliance and/or Chadron on November 9, 2022. The current contract with Denver Air Connection expires on May 31, 2023 and a new contract period begins June 1, 2023. The Department of Transportation received proposals from two carriers:

- Denver Air Connection
- Southern Airways Express

A small core group made up of four individuals were brought together to analyze the proposals. The four individuals were Seth Sorensen (City Manager), Lynn Placek (Airport Director), Chelsie Herian (BBDC/frequent flyer) and Lori Mazanec (BBGH/ frequent flyer). The group used the same priority list of criteria that has been used the last several bid cycles. The airport's air service consultant, Mike Mooney, reviewed a list of questions for each carrier, provided a proposal comparison and compared load factor data of both airlines. Alliance invited all airline carriers to participate in a zoom meeting. Each carrier was given one hour to make a presentation and answer questions from the group.

Southern Airways Express is based in Pompano Beach, Florida. Southern Airways Express submitted a bid with two different options for Alliance to consider. The first option would utilize a single-engine Caravan nine-seat turboprop aircraft. The second option shows a King Air Super 200 (eight-seat) or a Pilatus PC-12 (nine-seat). The carrier currently has four King Air aircraft and forty-six Caravan with an additional three King Air aircraft in the pipeline. Southern Airways has three pricing tiers that they use and each has different baggage fees associated with it. The ticket prices, without baggage are \$39, \$69, or \$99 at each tier. Southern Airways has ticket and baggage agreements with United, American, Alaska and Hawaiian Airlines.

Denver Air Connection (DAC) is based in Englewood, Colorado. Denver Air Connection submitted a bid that will continue to fly a Metroliner-23, which is a 19-seat pressurized twin-engine turboprop. DAC did configure this plane with nine seats offering first-class legroom and a cargo bay that can accommodate all of our passengers' luggage. Denver Air Connection has multiple pricing tiers but no added baggage fees. The ticket prices are \$49, \$59, \$69, \$89 and \$99. Denver Air Connection has a ticket and baggage agreement with United and American. Alliance has experienced a 99.68% completion rate each year that Denver Air Connection has operated.

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The final step was evaluating each carrier based on the priority list. The priority list was created by the airline selection committee and the airline consultant in 2015. That was the first year that Alliance actively pursued airlines to submit bids to the DOT. The priority list consisted of the following eight categories with the top of the list being the highest priority:

1. Reliability/Overnight of aircraft
2. Pricing
3. Schedule
4. Simplicity (codeshare, ticket and baggage etc)
5. Communication or responsiveness of the airline
6. Marketing/Tourism
7. Economic Impact
8. Baggage Space

Each member of the group rated each carrier on all priorities, and then the final ratings were averaged for each category. With this process completed and with reliability being the major difference, the core group unanimously voted that Denver Air Connection will be the best choice for providing air service to Alliance.]

A motion was made by Councilman Andersen, seconded by Councilman Mischnick to approve Resolution No. 23-07 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-07

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance owns and operates the Alliance Municipal Airport which provides commercial air service; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation has solicited proposals from carriers to provide Essential Air Service to Alliance, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Our current carrier's contract to provide Essential Air Service ends May 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Two carriers submitted proposals which were evaluated and rated by our Airport Director and individuals interested in the commercial air service provided to Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Based on the evaluations and interviews with the carriers, the group is recommending the selection of Denver Air Connection-Metroliner for two years to the Department of Transportation to provide Essential Air Service for Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that Denver Air Connection-Metroliner be recommended to the Department of Transportation to provide Essential Air Service to the Alliance Municipal Airport.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Dafney, Mischnick, McGhehey, Andersen and Mashburn.

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Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

There being no further business before Council, Mayor Dafney adjourned the meeting at 7:19 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.