

February 4, 2025

**ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL**

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, February 4, 2025 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 29, 2025. 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 McGhehey opened the February 4, 2025 regular meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor McGhehey, Vice Mayor Mashburn and Council Members Liptack, and Turman. Also present were City Manager Sorensen, City Treasurer Baker, City Attorney Selzer and City Clerk Pitt.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR – February 4, 2025**

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 21, 2024.
2. Approval: Payroll from January 24, 2025 in the total amount of \$268,479.18.
3. 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; \$553,441.01.

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4. Approval: Resolution No. 25-15 which will authorize the purchase of new portable radios from Motorola Solutions of APX NEXT radios in the amount of \$176,236.25 from GL # 01-31-32-59-950 Capital Outlay Mach., Equip.

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.

Councilman Liptack questioned why new radios were being purchased, when radios were purchase by the previous Police Chief in 2022.

Police Chief Leavitt replied to Councilmen the radio system being purchased now is designed for Public Safety with a 10-year span and cannot answer for the previous Chief. Chief also stated that the radio currently being used do not connect with other Public Safety Responders.

Councilmen Liptack asked City Manager Sorenson if there was purchase of radios from the Public Safety Funds of \$200,000.00 in 2022 from the previous Police Chief.

City Manager Sorenson replied "yes."

Councilmen Liptack asked for those statements to be noted on the record.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Turman, Mashburn, Liptack and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was Resolution No. 25-16 which will approve the Walther Investments for Economic Development Assistance in the amount of \$200,000. The following information was provided:

**[RESOLUTION – WALTHER INVESTMENT, LLC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE LOAN**

Walther Investment, LLC has applied for an Economic Development Assistance loan from the City's Economic Development Program. The Applicant is expanding its potato storage and processing facility near Alliance, Nebraska. The proceeds of the loan will be used primarily for a scale and shipping office to support the increased outbound shipments on over-the road trucks that will be now coming to Alliance. The City Economic Development Application Review Committee has reviewed the application and recommended a loan of \$200,000.00, with interest at

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the Federal Mid-Term Rate, payable over 7 years. The Applicant is eligible for job credits to be applied to the note for up to 8 full-time employees residing within 50 miles of Alliance. The job credits are generally equal to \$2,000.00 per full time employee, per year with the maximum annual job credit of \$16,000.00 and the maximum total job credit of \$80,000.00. The Resolution approves the loan and authorizes the City Manager and Finance Director to issue and administer the loan.

**RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO WALTHER INVESTMENT, LLC.]**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mashburn, seconded by Councilman Turman to approve Resolution No. 25-16. Which follows in its entirety:

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-16**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA:**

**Recitals:**

- a. The City has adopted an Economic Development Program (the “Program”) according to the Nebraska Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act.
- b. Walther Investment, LLC (the “Applicant”) has made application for assistance from the Program (the “Application”).
- c. The Administrator of the Program and the City Economic Development Application Review Committee (the “Committee”) have reviewed the Application.
- d. The Committee recommended to the City Council that a loan (the “Loan”) be made to the Applicant from the City of Alliance Economic Development Fund as provided for in the proposed Economic Development Assistance Agreement with the Applicant (the “Agreement”).

**Resolved:**

1. The Committee’s recommendations are approved by the City Council.
2. The Agreement between the City and Applicant as presented is approved. The City Manager is authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City with any such changes and amendments to the Agreement which are consistent with the Committee’s recommendations and which the City Manager deems in the best interest of the City and the Program.

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3. The City Manager and City Finance Director are authorized to take all necessary actions and sign all necessary documents to make and administer the Loan according to the terms of the Agreement.
4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Henry Nira, 1721 South Main Street Bridgeport, Nebraska, came before the Council stating Walther Investments grow potatoes for chips and are needing to expand for demand.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Mashburn, Liptack, Turman and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item on the agenda for Council was a Board Appointment.

A motion was made by Councilman Turman, seconded by Councilman Liptack to reappoint Victor Sanchez to serve on the Alliance Housing Authority with a term ending December 31, 2029.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Turman, Liptack, Mashburn and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next item before Council was the Police Department Annual Report.

Police Chief Leavitt came before Council giving an overview of the Annual Report.

- The last item for Council was a Discussion Item of Commercial Refuse Rate.

Mayor McGhehey felt we need to wait to increase rate and don't want to drive off business.

Vice Mayor Mashburn stated we charge \$126 for twice a week pickup vs. H & H is \$120 for once-a-week pickup.

Mayor McGhehey replied with H & H offers small receptacles for \$60, need to implement different for time being, offer lower rate.

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Councilman Turman stated we need to offer something for smaller businesses.

Councilman Liptack stated look at smaller containers.

A motion was made Councilman Turman, seconded by Councilman Liptack not increase commercial refuse rates on February 1<sup>st</sup> as notification letters stated, and to wait until an interim refuse rate schedule is set by resolution at the February 18<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting, also to review and amend the Municipal Code Ordinance for Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Turman, Liptack and McGhehey.

Voting Nay: Mashburn.

Motion carried.

The Alliance City Council adjourned the February 4, 2025 City Council Meeting at 7:56 p.m.

(SEAL)

  
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John McGhehey, Mayor

  
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Shelbi C. Pitt, 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