



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

December 17th, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Crete City Hall, 243 East 13th Street

MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was given by posting, the appointed method for giving notice as shown by the attached notice, at the following locations:

City Hall, 243 East 13th Street
Post Office, 1242 Linden Avenue
City Bank and Trust, 1135 Main Avenue

Advance notice of the meeting was also given to committee members. Pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the City has posted a current copy of the Open meetings Act, Laws of the State of Nebraska, in the back of the council chambers. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Open Meeting

2. Roll Call

Dale Strehle:	Absent
Tom Crisman:	Present
Anthony Fitzgerald:	Present
Kyle Frans:	Present
Ashley Newmyer:	Present
Dan Papik:	Present

Present: 5, Absent: 1.

3. Consent Agenda

Approved Consent Agenda Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

3.A.1. December 3rd, 2024 City Council Minutes

3.A.2. December 3rd, 2024 Finance Committee Minutes

3.A.3. December 3rd, 2024 Public Safety Committee Minutes

3.A.4. December 3rd, 2024 Public Works Committee Minutes

3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report

3.C. Approve the Payment of Claims Against the City

3.D. Mayor's appointment of Jennifer Robison to the Historic Preservation Commission.

3.E. Mayor's appointment of Blaine Spanjer to the Airport Advisory Board

3.F. Mayor's appointment of Howard Nitzel to the Airport Advisory Board

3.G. Mayor's appointment of Greg Hier to the Airport Advisory Board

3.H. Mayor's appointment of Pam Wendelin to the Civil Service Commission

3.I. Mayor's appointment of Ken Marvin to the Economic Development Advisory Committee

3.J. Mayor's appointment of Tod Allen as the Fire Chief.

4. Items of Business

4.A. Consider authorizing the Crete Police Department to apply for the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office Improving Data Mini-Grant.

Police Captain Jon Pucket explained that this grant is through the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office. The purpose of this mini-grant contract is to provide funding assistance to law enforcement agencies to acquire equipment for eCitations and eCrash. The NDOT-HSO will provide funding assistance for either 75% of the equipment total.

Approved to authorize the Crete Police Department to apply for the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office Improving Data Mini-Grant. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.B. Consider approving the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$1,374.73.

Approved the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$1,374.73. Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Tom Crisman.

Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye

Aye: 4, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

4.C. Consider Ordinance 2227 amending the Historic Preservation Commission

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that as part of the process to become a Certified Local Government. Kelli Bacon Certified Local Government Coordinator with the Nebraska State Historical Society, asked for some changes to our existing ordinance. Ourada and City Attorney Anna Burge worked with Bacon on the changes that were needed to be made to the ordinance.

Introduce Ordinance 2227 and move that the statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2227 amending the Historic Preservation Commission Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.D. City Engineer Appointment

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the city engineer appointment is for one year. Ourada stated that JEO has been doing a fair job.

Approved the Mayor's appointment of JEO as City Engineer for one year. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.E. Consider Ordinance 2228 amending parking fees

Introduce Ordinance 2228 and move that the statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2228 amending parking fees Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.F. Consider Ordinance 2229 amending Utility Rates to be passed by ordinance

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that would amend the utility rates being passed by ordinance.

Introduce Ordinance 2229 and move that the statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2229 amending Utility Rates to be passed by ordinance Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan

Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.G. Consider the Master Fee Schedule amendments

Approved the Master Fee Schedule amendments Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

The amendment to the Master Fee Schedule was to add the \$20.00 Mobile Food Vendor Permit fee

5. Petitions - Communications - Citizen Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

Police Captain Jon Pucket stated the following:

- Chief of Police Gary Young is out due to surgery.
- Police Officer Jaden Acevedo has been working with his field training officer.
- The department continues to work with document share software and everything is on track.

Library Director Jessica Wilkinson stated the following:

- Provided the City Administrator, Mayor and City Council a spread sheet of programing numbers for the Crete Library and how it compares to other similar and larger communities.
- Wilkinson also provided the November's Director's Report and mentioned that \$36,983 is the total amount patrons saved by having materials in the library.
- There were 29 on site programs and 5551 people attended those programs.
- Monthly highlights included Erica Bauermeister visiting Crete and the musical instruments are up and ready to use.
- The winter book sale has made over \$1,000.
- Teen night library after dark will be on Monday, December 23rd from 7pm to 11pm.

Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated that they have been working on inventory and the Food Bank of Lincoln food distribution is back to the fourth Thursday of the month at Tuxedo Park.

Councilmember Tom Crisman wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:

- Received a proposal for park design in the mid \$30,000 range.
- Had a meeting on electric rate review.
- Provided details about the solar farm; years ago the City of Crete started looking at partnering with Sand Hills Energy and 13 other MEAN- Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska communities. Some communities decided not to do it and some did. Crete is the second largest community participating with Sand Hills Energy with 1.6 megawatts.
- Ourada explained that there are 40,000 panels in the solar farm and about 50 kilowatts will run one block and that solar farm will serve about 32 blocks of people. The solar farm is on land that the City of Crete already own. The land was purchased for a water well.

- The location is really good at the depth we are doing the water wells. Water can be provided without a water treatment plant because it's right between a nitrate layer and an iron layer. This works really well with our transmission line system and you can have the long-term occupation of the solar farm.
- The solar farm will go live in 2024 and there will be a ribbon cutting with Sand Hills Energy and MEAN in January 2025 and elected officials will participate in that.
- We have a 25-year long term purchase power agreement less than 6 cents per kilowatt hour with a ½ % a year escalator in energy. It is one of the cheapest power supply contracts we have. There is no transmission associated with it.
- The solar farm has tile laminates and monitor the weather and go vertical to protect themselves.
- There will be some tours to see the solar farm.
- Councilmember Anthony Fitzgerald asked Ourada about the insurance on the solar farm. Ourada stated that Sand Hills owns and operates it.

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that he asked City Administrator Tom Ourada to provide some information on the solar farm since people were asking questions about it.

- Bauer wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

7. Adjournment

6:34 p.m.

Mayor

(SEAL)

City Clerk

I, Nancy Tellez, City Clerk for the City of Crete, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council. I hereby certify that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the back of the Council Chambers. I certify that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk. I certify that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting and that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public. I certify that the minutes were in written form and

available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of the City Council. I certify that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of the City Council were provided with advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed.

City Clerk

(S E A L)