REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, YORK, NEBRASKA
JUNE 3, 2021
7:00 o'clock P.M.

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of York, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Council Chambers

The Mayor announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the Council Chambers and the City Clerk has a copy at this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Mayor Redfern. Councilmembers: Wagner, North Wilkinson, Hubbard, Pieper, VanEsch and Hoffman. Absent: Lones.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the York News Times on May 29, 2021, the City's designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these Minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment and receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to these Minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and City Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hubbard moved and Councilmember Wilkinson seconded that the Minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting be approved.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, North, Wilkinson, Hubbard, Pieper, VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: None. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

CLAIMS OF ELECTED OFFICIAL

Councilmember VanEsch moved and Councilmember Wilkinson seconded that the claim of Tony North for North Printing and Office Supply Co. in the amount of $1,250.43 be approved and paid.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Wilkinson, Hubbard, Pieper, VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: None. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Councilmember North declared a conflict of interest inasmuch as he is the owner of North Printing and Office Supply and abstained from voting. Motion Carried.

CLAIMS

Councilmember VanEsch moved and Councilmember North seconded that the claims for the period April 16, 2021 through May 6, 2021 be approved and paid.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: VanEsch, Wagner, North, Hubbard and Pieper. Nays; None. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman, Wilkinson and Lones. Motion Carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The City Administrator discussed a possible planning grant to plan for an educational trunk program for York Public Schools for the 21-22 school year – the planning grant recipient will be expected to apply for the Trunk Program Grant in October of 2021 – the proposal calls for the development of a proposal for identifying educational programming that uses the Anna Palmer artifact in a manner that fits with York Public School education curriculum needs and that can fit with the Kilgore Library programming and should outline the community conversations that will be held and the research that will be done to develop an effective trunk program for the 2021-2022 school year. The City Administrator also stated that she is waiting for a change order for structural issues at the Community Center. She also stated that she and the Mayor will be meeting with Department Heads this week and the next budget workshop will be held June 17 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR

The Mayor announced his appointment of Denise Pfeifer as Humans Relations Director and City Administrator introduced Mrs. Pfeifer and stated that Mrs. Pfeifer has 20 years of experience as a HR person in the private sector. Denise addressed the Council stating that she is looking forward to working for the City

Councilmember North moved and Councilmember Hubbard seconded to approve said appointment.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, North, Wilkinson, Hubbard, Pieper, VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: None. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

REPORTS FROM YORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
AND GREATER YORK AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lisa Hurley, YCDC Director, addressed the Council. She advised that the last time the Council increased their investment was in 2006. She is asking that the City partner in increasing the amount in this coming year and to develop a plan that would consistently increases its contributions. She noted that YCDC is at the end of the $25,000 NIFA grant and advised that York County's contribution has increased from $50,000 (2013) to $82,000 (2021). She outlined a new Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 and the goals therefor. She outlined the benefits for the City of York including housing, business development, talent etc.

Madonna Mogul, Executive Director of the Greater York Area Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council stating that the Chamber is dedicated to building a strong vibrant business community in the York area. She states the funding from the City has not increased since 2009 and is asking for an increase from $20,000 to $30,000 annual support. She outlined the various program of the Chamber.

PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION REGARDING ANNA BEMIS PALMER MUSEM

The Mayor announced that at this time the community center is closed due to the $1.6 million dollar remodeling project and there are serious roof problems at the center. The propose resolution would appoint a group to study a suitable site for the museum. Councilmember Hubbard stated that she had asked David Crawford to look at the sites with her. She stated that the auditorium is not a good fit and the community center is not ready and advised that the fire escapes come right into the museum area. Stephen Postier advised that he likes the idea of a Board to study the issue and develop a plan so that the museum can grow. Nancy Beach addressed the Council stating that there has been no money in the budget for the past three years and she likes the idea of the museum having a budget – that she used her own funds for paper etc. She spoke on her ideas for the museum – stating that there needs to be policies and procedures in place. She is asking that the museum remain in the Community Center and give here three years to increase usage at the community center site. Boyd Tietmeyer spoke in support of keeping the museum at the community center – stating that his father helped solicit funds for the community center with the museum being located therein. Mark Miller advised that Nancy Beach needs to serve on the committee and spoke on his desires to see a great museum. Ann Kirkpatrick spoke in support of retaining the museum in the center and the museum needs to honor the pioneers who settled this area. Roger Wolfe addressed the Council stating that this area was settled by Civil War Veterans of both the Union and Confederacy working together and the museum needs to remain housed in the center. Vicki Northrop advised the Council that Wessels Living History Farm had never agreed to have the museum at that site – that the only suggestion for that was made by former Mayor Orval Stahr - that the City would have to purchase ground from Wessels and construct a building and staff the building. She also advised that her father had helped solicit funds.

The Mayor closed comments from the public and asked the Council for comments. The Mayor advised that the museum was placed in the center over 50 years and things change. The Mayor advised that action needs to be taken at this time due to the urgency of the construction at the community center.

Following discussion by the Council, Councilmember North moved and Councilmember Pieper seconded that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION 2021 - 15

WHEREAS, the Anna Palmer Museum has provided access to the historic collections of Anna Palmer that she granted to the city to improve access to historical and citizenship education, particularly for children; and

WHEREAS, the museum has been sustained for years due to the dedicated work of Ken Bedient and the extensive volunteer hours and contributions of Nancy Beach without substantial city or private funding support; and

WHEREAS, Anna Palmer's vision for the collection was to share history and citizenship lessons with future generations;

THEREFORE, the City of York gratefully acknowledges the work of the volunteers who have maintained Anna Palmer's artifacts and her legacy and seeks to engage an advisory board that will identify a sustainable strategy for the artifacts to continue to enhance the education of York children and visitors to the city.

NOW

THEREFORE, the governing body of the City of York, Nebraska, does herewith adopt the Anna Palmer Collection Advisory Committee to develop a plan for the future of the Anna Palmer collection that will be more sustainable and more integrated into educational experiences for children than the current funding and staffing structure and the previous Community Center location. Said committee will also advise the city on the appropriate management of the other artifacts currently in the Anna Palmer museum collection.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: North, Hubbard, Pieper VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: Wagner and Wilkinson. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF PART OF LOTS 5 AND 6, BLOCK 2 EAST LAWN PLAZA ADDITION

The Mayor announced that the seller and purchaser have asked to have this item removed from the agenda inasmuch as they will not be using the SENDD buy/rehab/resell program.

APPROVE CONTRACT WITH WYAD ENTERPRISES

The City Administrator advised that the City had a prior verbal hourly rate agreement with Wyad for the demolition of the old wastewater treatment plant. She is recommending approval of a work agreement for the demolition area of east of brick buildings – (break and pull 4 tank floors, fill in holes behind office with rubble, grade and slope area from the north fence towards the creek) and brick building southeast of office (demo building and surrounding attached tank, demo and break floor) in the amount of $47,500 in demolition occurs by August 1, 2021 plus $5,000 if the city is unable to haul rubble. Any work not completed by August 1 will require a new price agreement.

Councilmember VanEsch moved and Councilmember Pieper seconded to approve said contract.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: North, Hubbard, Pieper VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: Wagner and Wilkinson. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

APPROVE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor announced his appointments to the Personnel Board as follows:

1. Paulette (Pete) Cordes for a four year term terminating June 1, 2025

Councilmember VanEsch moved and Councilmember North seconded to approve said appointment

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: North, Hubbard, Pieper VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: Wagner and Wilkinson. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

2. Mark Way for a three year term terminating June 1, 2024

Councilmember North moved and Councilmember Pieper seconded to approve said appointment.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: North, Hubbard, Pieper VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: Wagner and Wilkinson. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

3. Marilyn Jackman for a two year term terminating June 1, 2023.

Councilmember Wilkinson moved and Councilmember Hubbard seconded that the appointment be approved.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: North, Hubbard, Pieper VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: Wagner and Wilkinson. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

4. Bre Ronne for a one year term terminating June 1, 2022.

Councilmember Wilkinson moved and Councilmember Hubbard seconded that the appointment be approved.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: North, Hubbard, Pieper VanEsch and Hoffman. Nays: Wagner and Wilkinson. Absent & Not Voting: Lones. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting, the time being 8:30 o'clock p.m.

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C. Jean Thiele, City Clerk Barry Redfern, Mayor