PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
July 5, 2023

A regular meeting of the mayor and city council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on July 5, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on June 28, 2023, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the city clerk. Notice of this meeting was given simultaneously to the mayor and members of the city council, with a copy of the acknowledgment of receipt of notice being on file in the office of the city clerk. 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 public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND ROLL CALL:** Mayor Bulkley announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were Mayor James Bulkley and Council Members Beth Augustine-Schulte, Charlie Bahr, Hope Freshour, Troy Hiemer, Rich Jablonski, Kat Lopez, Prent Roth, and Ron Schilling. City staff members included City Attorney Neal Valorz, City Administrator Tara Vasicek, City Clerk Janelle Kline, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Police Chief Chuck Sherer, Public Works Director Chuck Sliva, Finance Director Heather Lindsley, Public Property Director Doug Moore, Communications Manager Matt Lindberg, Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Jones, Firefighters Derek Salak and Ryan Sabata, and Park and Recreation Manager Betsy Eckhardt.

2. **PRAYER:** Augustine-Schulte led in prayer.

3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The National Anthem was sung and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Vasicek stated that the following items are considered routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion. She pointed out there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a city council member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from consent status and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The items on the consent agenda were approved as presented with a motion by Augustine-Schulte and a second by Bahr. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

4.A. **Minutes of June 19, 2023, City Council meeting.**

4.B. Minutes of June 20, 2023, Civil Service Commission meeting certifying Fernando Marino Ramirez as police officer candidate.

4.C. Resolution No. R23-89 authorizing payment of various improvement projects. Resolution No. R23-89 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THAT A CHECK BE ISSUED AND MADE PAYABLE TO THE RESPECTIVE CONTRACTOR(S) FOR LABOR, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIALS FURNISHED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATED DISTRICTS AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, ALL AS SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATES OF PROGRESS PREPARED BY THE RESPECTIVE SPECIAL ENGINEER TO WIT GEHRING CONSTRUCTION AND READY MIX CO. INC., SID NO. 189 48 AVENUE FROM 23 STREET TO SOUTH OF BRADSHAW PARK ENTRANCE & CONCRETE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS 2023, $322,365; NEMAHA LANDSCAPE CONST., INC., COLUMBUS PAWNEE PARK, $83,160; RUTJENS CONSTRUCTION, LOST CREEK PARKWAY SEWER, $688,524.30.

4.D. Payroll and bills on file. B=Bond Payments; CP=Capital Projects; E=Expenses; G=Grants; I=Insurance; L=License; M=Membership; P=Payment; R=Refund; S=Service & Supplies; T=Training; 7/7/23 Payroll $799,935.78; 911 Custom 3,267.00 S; A&D Tech Sup 164.24 S; Ace Hrdwr 989.57 S; Ace Oversize Storage 566.54 B; Advance Auto 424.62 S; Ag Spray Eq 222.10 S; AKRS Eq 2,288.45 S; All Makes Office Eq 59,101.52 CP; M D Alonso-Carrera 89.33 R; J Anderson 4.72 S; AOI 3,715.38 CP; Applied Conn Tech 8,065.20 S; Aqua-Chem 4,544.60 S; Aqua-Pure 13,391.51 S; Arnold Motor 817.13 S; Baird Holm LLP 377.00 S; Barcel Mill 240.00 S; M&A Becker 44.52 R; Best Version Media 152.00 S; Black Hills Energy 88.74 S; Blackstone Pub 135.97 S; Bomgaars 2,212.41 S; Bound Tree Med 1,503.45 S; B&I Brown 2.74 R; Capital 1–Walmart 2,868.68 S; C&J Carskadon 24.18 R; Casey's Mail Serv 4,810.35 S; CBS 18.40 S; Center for Municipal Sol 2,250.00 S; Cntr Pnt LP 123.59 S; CCC 595.00 T; Chrome N' Steel 1,620.97 S; R Closson 300.00 S; Col Chamber 940.00 S; CCH 706.75 S; Col Music 850.00 S; Col Plumbing 43.70 S; Col Telegram 76.65 S; Col Tire 1,445.28 S; CYSA 188.00 S; Comfort Specialists 336.80 S; Commonwlth Elec 448.75 S; Core & Main 16,427.48 S; M Cox 1000.00 S; Creighton Para Ed 8,845.00 T; Culligan 50.00 S; A Curry 30.54 R; Dakota Pump 885.43 S; DAS St Acc 1,471.99 S; M Dominguez 240.00 S; Eakes 1,465.01 S; Electric Pump 52,825.58 CP; Electrical Eng 113.91 S; Electronic Eng 485.55 S; Enterprise Electric 62.31 S; Ernst Auto 1,357.02 S; Fastenal 86.86 S; Fifth Season 334.36 S; B French 151.99 T; Frontier 271.74 S; A Fuchs 68.41 R; Full Throttle 1,524.99 S; M&S Funkhouser 10.47 R; Gale 442.67 S; Galls 71.59 S; Gehring Const 324,105.88 S, CP; General Traffic Cntrls 1,412.00 S; Grnt Writing 2,225.00 T; R Gray 99.69 S; Grt Plains Bldg Sup 1,233.08 Cp; Grt Plains Comm 1,412.91 S; Grt Plains Uniforms 2,569.50 S; Gunslingers 174.00 S; J Gutierrez 300.00 S; H&M Electric 151.20 S; Hach

Co 445.00 S; Hadley-Braithwait 1,262.50 S; Havana Stone 13,525.16 CP; Hawkins 14,851.81 S; J Herchenbach 22.99 R; Hmtwn Leasing 175.00 S; IMS Alliance 306.92 S; Ingram Libry 207.24 S; IA Pump Wrks 3,197.00 S; J&B Event Drapes 279.00 S; Jackson Serv 2,822.99 S; N Jones 95.10 T; Kelly Sup 56.89 S; C Kennedy 1.00 R; K Keyes 100.87 T; Kidwell 1,055.00 CP; Kirkham Michael & Assoc 1,346.67 CP; Koch Excavating 309.74 S; D Kosch 68.92 R; E Kubicek 3.32 R; Lkvw Sm Eng 130.00 S; LARM 19,195.42 S; Lawson 689.38 S; Leica Geosystems 1,021.20 CP; Lincoln Winwater 4,335.99 S; JD Londono 2.32 R; Loseke Lake Stop 44.28 S; J Lutjen 240.00 S; M&L 13,118.70 S; MacQueen Eq 1,797.22 S; C&K Magill 5.67 R; Mahaska 230.00 S; MD Sol 422.41 S; Menards 872.55 S; Mid-American Rsrch 1,511.50 S; Mid-Iowa Waste 7,067.71 S; MidW Petro Eq 1,400.25 S; MidW Tape 12.74 S; MidW Turf 3,833.79 S; Moms & Mops 320.00 S; Motion Ind 330.79 S; C Mroczek 2,030.00 S; Municipal Pipe Tool 3,273.09 S; MW Mini Melts 2,305.12 S; NAPA 140.72 S; NE Golf 813.58 S; NE Harveststore 284.02 S; NE Pub Health 692.00 S; B Neemeyer 200.00 S; D Nelson 147.60 T; Nemaha Landscape Construct 83,160.00 CP; Newman Signs 267.91 S; C Nielsen 33.67 R; NE NE Econ 1,812.25 S; Noswett Fencing 62.20 S; Oberg Locksmith 85.00 S; Occup Hlth 164.00 S; OCLC 935.74 S; Oliver Packaging 5,212.22 S; Omaha Children's Museum 441.91 S; O'Reilly 188.59 S; Pete Lien & Sons 6,770.59 S; Pinnacle 2,254.74 B; Platte Valley Humane Soc 21,000.00 S; Pomp's Tire 216.00 S; N Porter 137.16 T; Prestox 57.63 S; Quadient 2,000.00 S; Quill 77.97 S; Rasmussen Mech 800.92 S; Reardon 395.95 S; M Reppert 54.80 R; F Rivera 40.16 R; E Rosekrans 22.78 R; Rutjens 688,524.30 CP; Rutt's 2,270.23 S; J Sanchez 126.17 T; Sand Crk Construct 19,045.80 CP; Security Eq 1,147.04 S; S Segura 43.47 R; Serc LLC 666.27 B; Settje Plumbing 75.00 S; Shevlin 1,411.79 S; Sirius 17,783.74 CP; Solid Waste Assoc 290.00 M; S Water Serv 610.00 S; D Spies 373.17 R; A&S Spitz 2.08 R; Stericycle 1,061.33 S; Sub-Aquatics 1,139.25 S; Super Svr 38.81 S; R Tate 561.76 R; D&N Terry 52.21 R; The Filter Shop 1,057.59; The Golf Shop 3,084.34; Tire Outlet 725.00 S; TK Elevator 457.50 S; Turfwerks 2,386.72 S; Ty's Outdoor 775.06 S; U&I 85.00 S; Van Wall Eq 983.23 S; R Vasallo-Diaz 25.50 R; T Vaughn 137.16 T; S Velasquez 178.75 R; D Vogt 20.73 R; D Waite 5,000.00 S; Weedcope 2,045.00 S; Wemhoff Refrig 5,849.74 S; W Pnt Implem 140.70 S; Wildlife Encounters 525.00 S; Wilkens 115,420.00 CP; Wilson & Co 6,075.53 CP. TOTAL $2,454,886.11.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Included in Consent Agenda

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

9. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:

9.A. **Update on Nebraska Department of Transportation 23rd Street Reconstruction Project.** Bogus reported that the first of three phases of the 23rd Street reconstruction project is on schedule and work is being done on the westbound lanes from East 12 Avenue toward East 3 Avenue. He noted that city staff, contractors, and the state have been holding weekly meetings and up-to-date information can be found at www.ndot.info/32234.

9.B. **Update on EMS Service outside of city limits.** Bulkley referred to the June 5th city council meeting where the city council voted to notify Platte County that a contribution of $600,000 per year will be required for the city to continue providing emergency medical service to the Duncan and Columbus Rural Fire Districts and that a notice of their intention must be received by July 1st, allowing time for the city to make a determination to either continue or terminate service effective October 1st. Bulkley read a response from Platte County dated June 30, 2023, stating the intent of Duncan and Columbus Rural Fire Districts to increase their respective levies in order to raise a total of $300,000 amongst the two fire protection districts to be specifically earmarked toward raising the total $600,000 that is required by the city in exchange for an agreement where the City of Columbus will not terminate emergency medical services on October 1, 2023.

10. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

10.A. **PUBLIC FINANCE, JUDICIARY, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - June 22, 2023.**

10.A.1. **Financial and Compliance Audit for year-end September 30, 2022.** The Public Finance, Judiciary, and Personnel Committee recommended approval of the Financial and Compliance Audit as presented. The report was adopted with a motion by Augustine-Schulte and a second by Jablonski. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

10.A.2. **Change to public property director and parks and recreation manager positions.** The Public Finance, Judiciary, and Personnel Committee recommends approval of the proposed changes to the Public Property Director and Park and Recreation Manager positions. The report was adopted with a motion by Augustine-Schulte and a second by Freshour. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

11. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None

12. **REPORTS ON LEGISLATION:** None

13. **NEW BUSINESS:**

13.A. **Appointment of Dustin Balesteri as police officer.** Augustine-Schulte read

a brief resume and the mayor's appointment of Dustin Balesteri was ratified with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Bahr. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Balesteri thanked the mayor and council for the appointment and said he looks forward to serving the citizens of Columbus.

13.B. Quote from Rosenbauer in the amount of $136,835 for ladder truck repairs for fire department plus additional allowance of $23,165 for unforeseen findings for a total of $160,000. Salak explained that the repairs are a budgeted item supplemented with a $60,000 donation from Forsberg Trust. The quote from Rosenbauer for ladder truck repairs was accepted with a motion by Lopez and a second by Augustine-Schulte. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

13.C. Quote from Busch Equipment Company, LLC in the amount of $15,000 for grain vacuum for agricultural rescue grain bin facility. The quote from Busch Equipment Company, LLC for a grain vacuum was accepted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Schilling. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

13.D. Plans, specifications, and estimate of cost in the amount of $500,000 for Storm Water Drainage and Sidewalk Improvements 2023 and authorization to advertise for bids (Plans and specifications are on file in the engineering office). The plans, specifications, estimate of cost, and authorization to advertise for bids for Storm Water Drainage and Sidewalk Improvements 2023 were approved with a motion by Bahr and a second by Lopez. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

13.E. Comments from mayor and city council members. Bulkley announced that a ribbon cutting will be held at the new community building at 9 a.m. on Saturday with an open house to follow until noon.

14. RESOLUTIONS:

14.A. Resolution No. R23-90 approving agreement with Sand Creek Construction Company in the amount of $41,500 for design phase services for Centennial Park Splash Pad using design-build policy. Resolution No. R23-90 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING THE DESIGN BUILD AGREEMENT WITH SAND CREEK CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF $41,500 FOR DESIGN PHASE SERVICES FOR CENTENNIAL PARK SPLASH PAD, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED

HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Bahr. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

14.B. **Resolution No. R23-91 approving agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $224,900 for Water System Hydraulic Model and Master Plan.** Resolution No. R23-91 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND ENGINEER WITH HDR ENGINEERING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $224,900 FOR WATER SYSTEM HYDRAULIC MODEL AND MASTER PLAN, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Roth and a second by Bahr. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

14.C. **Resolution No. R23-92 accepting Rural Business Development Grant from United States Department of Agriculture in an amount not to exceed $99,999 for expansion of public parking from former city hall to former Columbus Rescue Mission.** Resolution No. R23-92 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, ACCEPTING A RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $99,999, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Schilling and a second by Hiemer. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

14.D. **Resolution No. R23-93 supporting the concept of Highway 30 to Highway 64 connector road project.** Resolution No. R23-93 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, SUPPORTING THE HIGHWAY 30 TO HIGHWAY 64 CONNECTOR ROAD PROJECT AT THIS TIME was adopted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Hiemer. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

14.E. **Resolution No. R23-94 adopting city council rules.** Resolution No. R23-94 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN ACCORD WITH SECTION 30.20 OF CHAPTER 30 OF TITLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 05-47 (COLUMBUS CITY CODE) AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Lopez and a second by Freshour. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

15. ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

15.A. Ordinance No. 23-08 amending pay plan by changing grade for public property director and adding position of park & recreation director. The rules were suspended and Ordinance No. 23-08 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AMENDING THE PAY PLAN FOR ALL CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN THE CITY BY MOVING PUBLIC PROPERTY DIRECTOR FROM GRADE C6 TO GRADE C4 AND ADDING PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR TO GRADE C4 was read by number only with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Ordinance No. 23-08 was adopted with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Augustine-Schulte, Bahr, Freshour, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

16. ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING:

16.A. Ordinance No. 23-07 amending city code to change City Council and Planning Commission meeting times to 6 p.m. On its second reading, Ordinance No. 23-07 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SECTION 30.17 OF CHAPTER 30 OF TITLE III AND SECTION 32.038 OF CHAPTER 30 OF TITLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 05-47 (COLUMBUS CITY CODE) TO CHANGE THE STARTING TIME OF CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS TO 6 P.M.; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM was read by number only.

17. ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING: None

18. CONSIDERATION OF PAYROLL AND BILLS ON FILE: Included in Consent Agenda.

19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

20. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Presented and approved this 17 day of July 2023.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
:Janelle Kline