PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
December 4, 2023

A regular meeting of the mayor and city council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on December 4, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14th Street, Columbus, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on November 29, 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 Charlie Bahr, Troy Hiemer, Rich Jablonski, Kat Lopez, Prent Roth, and Ron Schilling. Council Member Hope Freshour was absent and excused. One seat vacant. City staff members included City Attorney Neal Valorz, City Administrator Tara Vasicek, City Clerk Janelle Kline, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Fire Chief Ryan Gray, Police Captain Doug Molczyk, Communications Director Rachel Pensick, Assistant Fire Chief Nate Jones, and Communications Manager Matt Lindberg.

2. **PRAYER:** Hiemer led in prayer.

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

4. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** Bulkley called for nominations for council president. Bahr nominated Jablonski. There were no other nominations. Nominations closed with a motion by Schilling and a second by Lopez. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant. Jablonski was elected council president with a motion by Schilling and a second by Lopez. Bahr, Hiemer, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Jablonski abstained. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO PUBLIC FINANCE, JUDICIARY, AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, SAFETY, AND WORKS COMMITTEE:**

5.A. **Council Members Hope Freshour, Troy Hiemer, and Rich Jablonski to the Public Finance, Judiciary, and Personnel Committee and Council Members Charlie Bahr, Katherine Lopez, J. Prent Roth, and Ron Schilling to the Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee.** The mayor's

appointments to the Public Finance, Judiciary, and Personnel Committee and Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee were ratified with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Lopez. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following items are considered to be routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion. 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 Jablonski and a second by Lopez. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

6.A. **Minutes of November 20, 2023, City Council meeting.**

6.B. **Change date of first meeting in January 2024 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, January 2, 2024, due to New Year's Day holiday.**

6.C. **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; 12/8/23 payroll $824,597.06; AAA Garage Drs 443.00 S; Ace 859.01 S; Adv Auto 1,194.43 S; Arnold Motor 1,483.98 S; Axon 99,994.15 CP; Baird Holm 3,859.00 S; Bnk Valley 16,227.44 B; Bst Vrsn Media 304.00 S; BGNE 525.49 S; Blackstone Purch 398.52 S; Blazer Manu 250 S; Bomgaars 2,346.04 S; Bnd Tree Med 698.93 S; Capital One-Walmart 550.15 S; Casey’s Mail Srv 813.09 S; Cntr Pnt LP 92.88 S; Chrome N’ Steel 104.28 S; Ciox Hlth 20 S; Civic Plus 24,078.84 S; CN Wldg 955 S; CCF 12,908.82 B; CCH 2,722.37 S; Col Stl 1,197.20 S; Col Tire 73 S; Col Westgate 14,512.39 B; Conner Psych 780 S; Consol Mngt 449.50 S; D&K 9,485.00 S; Danko 955.01 S; DAS St Acc 1,663.99 S; Eakes 932.51 S; Electrical Eng 2,634.02 S; Enter Electric Col 525.67 S; Ernst Auto Ctr 1,019.81 S; Fastenal Co 181.02 S; Fedex 32.95 S; First Intrst Bnk 166,441.38 B; Five Pts Bnk 24,317.23 B; GI Trailer 4,396.29 S; Galls 344.91 S; Gehring Const 1,990.92 S; Gene Steffy 268.04 S; Gerhold 1,913.78 S; Grainger 1,366.92 S; Granville 55,908.57 B; Grt Plns Comm 1,413.59 S; Grt Plns Bnk 30,649.42 B; Gunslingers 148 S; Hawkins 4,118.36 S; Hmtwn Lsng 175.00 S; Htr Inc 275 S; IMS 23.65 S; Ingram Libry 3,162.77 S; J & C Ave Bar 826.54 CP; Jackson Srvc 1,865.49 S; K&S Tool 79.99 S; Keast Enter 318.47 S; Kelly Sup 353.55 S; Kirkham Michael & Assn 47,903.34 S; Koch Exc 965.86 S; A Laborde 1,450.00 S; LARM 746,319.40 S; Larson Fam 10,273.39 B; Macqueen Eq 1,280.76 S; Medline Ind 1,173.39 S; Menards 1,034.94 S; Mid-St Eng 5,439.00 CP; MidW Tape 75.72 S; Mtn Ind 905.06 S; NBC Capital 27,730.82 B; NDEE 150.00 T; NE Law Enforc 500.00 T; NE Pub Hlth 801.00 S; NE Sprts 162 S; NE ST Vol 361 S; NElnd Natl Bnk 42,500.00 B; Neighborworks 15,000.00 M; Newman Signs 1,482.52 S; Norfolk Dly 259.00 S; NW Elect 635.68 S; Noswett Fencing 300.00 S; O’Reilly 157.38 S; Pacific

Wndw Tnt 140.00 S; Pinnacle Bnk 1,547.24 S; Police Chiefs Assn 100.00 M; Pomp's Tire 145.00 S; Precision Tree Srvc 1,000.00 S; Preferred Pipeline 693.00 S; Prestox 122.04 S; Quadient 642.63 S; Rvr Valley Tire Srvc 174.00 S; Sackett Electric 1,257.15 S; Sandry Fire Sup 493.62 S; G Sealock 125.00 S; Serc 89.15 B; Shevlin 424.06 S; Sirsidynix 13,053.27 S; St Fire Mrsh 450.00 T; St of NE 370.56 R; St of NDHHS 304.19 R; Stericycle 2,279.64 S; Stryker Sls 194.70 S; Super Svr 53.86 S; The Home Dpt 99.84 S; Thomson Reuters 14,824.00 S; Tire Outlet 842.00 S; Tooley Drg 91.61 S; Trk Cntr 72.57 S; True Ag & Turf 94.52 S; USA Blue Bk 3,222.90 S; Van Diest Sup 4,000.00 S; Veridan Credit Union 47,295.66 B; Wemhoff Refrg 87.50 S; G. Wigington 176.50 R; Zoll Med 3,206.20 S; TOTAL $2,334,759.09.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Included in Consent Agenda

8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

9.A. Public hearing - Application of Barrel House LLC dba Barrel House, 1365 24 Avenue, for Class K catering license. No public testimony was heard. The public hearing closed and a recommendation was made to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission to approve the application of Barrel House for a Class K catering license with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

11. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES

11.A. Update on Nebraska Department of Transportation 23rd Street Reconstruction Project. Bogus explained phase one is nearing completion and phase two, which includes 16th Avenue through 25th Avenue, will begin in March, weather permitting.

12. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES: None

13. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

14. REPORTS ON LEGISLATION: None

15. NEW BUSINESS

15.A. Appointment of Raymond Fuller as police officer. Hiemer read a brief resume and the mayor's appointment of Raymond Fuller as police officer was ratified with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Freshour was absent. One seat vacant. Fuller thanked the council for the appointment and said he was honored for the opportunity.

15.B. Appointment of Jared Meisinger as police officer. Hiemer read a brief resume and the mayor's appointment of Jared Meisinger as police officer was

ratified with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant. Meisinger thanked the council for the appointment and said he looks forward to serving Columbus.

15.C. **Quotes from Feld Fire, Danko Emergency Equipment, and Stryker in the total amount of $457,614.63 for ambulance with equipment for fire department. CIP#24-8** Gray explained that this purchase will replace a 22-year old ambulance.. This option provides the quickest delivery time and allows a $75,000 Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services grant to be utilized if purchased by year end. The quotes from Feld Fire, Danko Emergency Equipment, and Stryker for an ambulance with equipment were accepted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Lopez. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

15.D. **Proposal from Motorola Solutions in the amount of $858,545 for state radio system with extended warranty for joint communications center. CIP#24-28** Pensick pointed out that she has been working with RFCC Communications Consulting the past few years to improve radio communications within the city and Platte County as they have experienced frequent dead spots and loss of communication when officers enter certain buildings. She explained that this is a joint effort with multiple agencies who have all agreed this is the best solution for improved coverage. It was noted that the shared cost and a $293,000 CARES grant will aid with the purchase. The proposal from Motorola Solutions for a state radio system with extended warranty was accepted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Jablonski. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

15.E. **Comments from mayor and city council members.** Bulkley commended the CHS New World singers for providing their remarkable rendition of the National Anthem, which will now be used at all city council meetings, he mentioned this month’s League of Nebraska Municipalities magazine highlights Columbus’ viaduct and innovative lighting, and he is accepting applications for the vacant city council seat representing the first ward.

16. **RESOLUTIONS:**

16.A. **R23-163 consenting to Memorandum of Understanding and General Release with Joseph E. Sedlak for settlement payment in the amount of $375,000 regarding motor vehicle and pedestrian accident.** Resolution No. R23- 163 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, CONSENTING TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND GENERAL RELEASE WITH JOSEPH E. SEDLAK, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS; AND TO REPEAL

ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Bahr. Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Freshour was absent. One seat vacant.

17. **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:** None

18. **ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING:** None

19. **ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING:** None

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

21. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

22. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Presented and approved this 18th day of December 2023.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
: Janelle Kline