



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

November 19th, 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

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

Present: 5, Absent: 1.

3. Consent Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

3.A.1. October 9th, 2024 City Council Emergency Meeting Minutes

3.A.2. November 5th, 2024 City Council Minutes

3.A.3. November 5th, 2024 Public Works Committee Minutes

3.A.4. November 5th, 2024 Finance Committee Minutes

3.A.5. November 5th, 2024 Legislative & Economic Development Committee Minutes

3.A.6. November 5th, 2024 Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

3.A.7. November 5th, 2024 Public Safety Committee Minutes

3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report

3.C. Approve Yazmin Belk as new volunteer member of the Fire Department.

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

4. Items of Business

4.A. Consider the employee policy manual amendments

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that there were a couple changes made. One of them being that each employee required to wear a uniform will be furnished with up to 5 serviceable uniforms instead of 3.

Approved the employee policy manual amendments Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Ashley Newmyer.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.B. Consider Ordinance 2221 Amending Ordinance 2219 to include hearing findings

City Attorney Anna Burge explained that there had been a blank spot to include the hearing findings.

Introduce Ordinance 2221 and move that the statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

Enact Ordinance 2221 Amending Ordinance 2219 to include hearing findings Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.C. Consider the Crete Carrier Room Grant Application for Apace Choir on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024.

Mayor Dave Bauer encouraged everyone to attend the event if they are able to go.

Approved the Crete Carrier Room Grant Application for Apace Choir on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024. Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.D. Consider the bid from RAFA Roofing for the roof/façade replacement at the Municipal Airport.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this went to the Airport Advisory Board, and they recommended this to the City Council.

Approved the bid from RAFA Roofing for the roof/facade replacement at the Municipal Airport. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.E. Consider the cost of service and rate design study letter proposal from JK Energy Consulting, LLC

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained this is a proposal from JK Energy for the cost and service and rate design study.

Approved the cost of service and rate design study letter proposal from JK Energy Consulting, LLC Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.F. Consider the General Administration Agreement between the City of Crete and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Downtown Revitalization 24DTR001

Approved the General Administration Agreement between the City of Crete and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Downtown Revitalization 24DTR001 Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.G. Consider the Construction Management Agreement between the City of Crete, Nebraska and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Downtown Revitalization 24DTR001

Approved the Construction Management Agreement between the City of Crete, Nebraska and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Downtown Revitalization 24DTR001 Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.H. Consider the General Administration Agreement between the City of Crete, Nebraska and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Public Works Infrastructure 24WI004

Approved the General Administration Agreement between the City of Crete, Nebraska and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Public Works Infrastructure 24WI004 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.I. Consider the Construction Management Agreement between the City of Crete and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Public Works Infrastructure 24PWI004

Approved the Construction Management Agreement between the City of Crete and Southeast Nebraska Development District for the Crete Public Works Infrastructure 24PWI004 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.J. Consider approving the Crete Ace Hardware claims in the amount of \$2,399.26

Approved the Crete Ace Hardware claims in the amount of \$2,399.26 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

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

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

4.K. Consider the proposed policy regarding advisory board members attending meetings virtually

Approved the proposed policy regarding advisory board members attending meetings virtually Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.L. Consider authorizing the Fire Department to apply for the AFG grant.

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that the Council is deferring this until the next meeting.

Tabled to authorize the Fire Department to apply for the AFG grant. Tabled with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0

4.M. Consider the Department of Public Works Utility account write off in the amount of \$10,521.06

Mayor Dave Bauer stated that the auditor mentioned this needs to be done.

Approved the Department of Public Works Utility account write off in the amount of \$10,521.06 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale

Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.N. Consider the LB840 Application from Eric Thornburg/Edward Jones for 1344 Main Ave in the amount up to \$75,000.

Approved the LB840 Application from Eric Thornburg/Edward Jones for 1344 Main Ave in the amount up to \$75,000. Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.O. Consider the LB840 Application from Air Methods in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Approved the LB840 Application from Air Methods in the amount not to exceed \$50,000. Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.P. Consider Ordinance 2224 Adding regulations for mobile food vendors

Tabled Ordinance 2224 Adding regulations for mobile food vendors Tabled with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.Q. Consider Ordinance 2225 amending permission for structures in public right of way

Introduced Ordinance 2225 and move that the statutory rule requiring three separate readings be suspended Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

Enacted Ordinance 2225 amending permission for structures in public right of way Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Dale Strehle.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.R. Consider the request for increased DTR funds from Angelica Ortiz for 1239 Main Ave.

Approved the request for increased DTR funds from Angelica Ortiz for 1239 Main Ave. Carried with a motion by Anthony Fitzgerald and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

5. Petitions - Communications - Citizen Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

Officer's Reports

- Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
 - The Police Department has been working on records management with the Saline County Sheriffs Office and they are schedule for April 2025.
 - Working with IT Director Mike Kalkwarf and GIS Technician/IT Emerson Ashoff and Southeast Communications.
 - Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked about the trainings they had at Tuxedo. Chief Young stated that the Police Department had driving training at Tuxedo Park and Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody helped to get the park ready.
 - Council member Anthony Fitzgerald thanked Chief Young for offering the Police Station for the deer check. The Nebraska Games & Parks Commission had a Firearm Deer Season Check Station on November 16th, 17th and will be there again November 24th, 2024.
- Library Director Jessica Wilkinson stated the following:
 - Crete Reads! book "No Two Persons" author Erica Bauermeister gave an author Talk on Saturday, November 16th 2024 and there were over 80 people that attended the event.
 - During the month of October there were 42 programs with 2,892 participants.
 - Bluey was at the library on October 26th, 2024 and over 200 people attended.
 - Board Game Library available to check out games.
 - Winter book sale starting December 1st, 2024.
 - Princess Tea Party Saturday, November 23rd, 2024.
- Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated the following:
 - Tuxedo Park is reopened to the public.
 - The Food Bank of Lincoln Distribution date has been changed for this month to Wednesday, November 27th 2024, at Tuxedo Park.
 - Attended an arborist training on November 14th and 15th, 2024 in Ashland with the Nebraska Arborists Association.
- City Council member Tom Crisman asked City Administrator Tom Ourada about the street tarring. Ourada stated that they have been working on that and doesn't know where they are at.
- City Council member Ashley Newmyer stated that the Author Talk event at the library was great and all the things The Parks and Recreation department are doing is wonderful.
- City Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked City Administrator Tom Ourada about the Solar Farm. Ourada stated that it might be operational by early Spring and it will be 1.8 megawatt.
- City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:

- It is official the City of Crete is certified as a Welcoming Community by Welcoming America as a two-star community.
- For the people that worry that means a sanctuary city that is not what it is. We are the first certified Welcoming Community in Nebraska. Lincoln is trying and they may or may not get it. What that means it that we know what we are doing. We did not address immigration but addressed helping people to become assets to the community and be self-sufficient.
- Ourada stated that there is a gal in Lincoln that works in Crete often and she is on the National stage. Someone called her and asked her where she is from and she said Lincoln and that person asked if that is close to Crete. They identified Lincoln by its proximity to Crete.
- Crete Public Schools, Public Health Solutions, CAMC, The Center for Rural Affairs and Doane University have been great partners. There were people that traveled for a couple hours to be here for the certification interviews. The two ladies that came were very impressed with Community Assistance Director Marilyn Schacht's work and what the office has done.
- Ourada has been very impressed with Community Assistance Director Marilyn Schacht. What the office has done to empower people to be productive in the community.
- Schacht helps people in a strategic way in that if there is not a job opportunity for them here, she sends them off to other communities where there is work.
- The asset that she is to the community and the office speaks volumes.
- City Attorney Anna Burge, Finance Director Wendy Thomas and City Clerk Nancy Tellez attended the Department of Transportation Thriving Communities Convening in Washington D.C. completely funded through the grant.
- A PowerPoint presentation was shown during the City Council meeting summarizing what was learned during the convening.
- Finance Director Wendy Thomas explained that the Thriving Communities Program is part of the Build America Bureau through the Department of Transportation. Thanks to City Administrator Tom Ourada for applying for the grant program, and the City of Crete was the only community in Nebraska awarded to participate.
- City Clerk Nancy Tellez stated that during the convening they had the opportunity to meet with other city officials from around the country while getting technical assistance to seek grant funds.
- City Attorney Anna Burge stated that some of the goals for future grants are an overpass pedestrian bridge at Boswell Ave, over Hwy 33/BNSF Railroad. Traffic studies to find best solutions for Iris Ave at 13th St and High School/Middle School intersection and Emphasis on trial walk-ability and connectivity.
- Burge stated that during the convening she was able to talk to someone the Federal Railway Administration. Burge has been in contact with someone from the government relations for the state of Nebraska BSNF. Someone with the NE BSNF came to Crete to do an inspection on the Main Ave crossing and said it was not that bad that they are within normal wear.
- A second inspection will be conducted by the Federal Railway Administration.

- City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the City of Crete has been selected for CDBG Public Works funding in the amount up to \$480,000 with no match required.
- The City of Crete has also been selected by The Nebraska Department of Economic Development for funding in the amount up to \$435,000 for CDBG Downtown Revitalization. There will be a little bit of a match required and typically the LB840 program is used for this.
- City Council member Dale Strehle asked City Administrator Tom Ourada about zoning changes. Ourada explained that those changes will be very beneficial to the community and will address some housing and other issues. Once that is ready, it will go to the Planning Commission and various committees and the City Council. This will probably be a year long process.
- Mayor Dave Bauer thanked Community Assistance Director Marilyn Schacht for all the work she is doing in the office and with helping the City of Crete. He also thanked City Attorney Anna Burge, Finance Director Wendy Thomas and City Clerk Nancy Tellez for attending the Department of Transportation Thriving Communities Convening in Washington D.C. and for taking action on future grants.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 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)