



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Crete Carrier Community Room 1515 Forest Ave.

MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was given by posting and publishing in The Crete News, the appointed method for giving notice as shown by the Proof of Publication attached to the minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Mayor and City Council. 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. Additional copies are available to read. The City may consider items listed on the agenda in random order. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. Open Meeting

2. Roll Call

Tom Crisman: Present
Kyle Frans: Present
Jack Oelschlager: Present
Dan Papik: Present
Dale Strehle: Present
Present: 5

3. Comprehensive Plan Update presentation by Confluence staff.

Plan update presentation by Confluence staff, Christopher Shires and Caitlin Bolte.

Planners are about halfway through the new comprehensive plan process and are currently in Phase 2: Vision, Input, and Direction. They shared community profile data including terrain, population growth projections, age, race, and ethnicity demographics, household income, housing ownership, commuters, employment, and land use.

An Advisory Committee kick-off meeting included discussions about the biggest

advantages in Crete as well as the most challenging aspects of updating the plan; other issues included those with housing and economic development opportunities. Stakeholders addressed in the community included students, commuters, economic development groups, Welcoming Circle members, realtors, bankers, community leaders, business owners, and developers.

Stakeholder interviews, a public workshop, and interactive website yielded theme topic areas of focus, and results of mapping and image voting activities.

Strategic planning was held with city department heads and then with the mayor and council members about the city's diamonds - things the community does well, coal - community struggles, and roadblocks - challenges to turning coal into diamonds. Groups talked about core values and critical categories for long term decision-making: finance and budget, facilities and equipment, customer service and outreach, staffing/human capital, future planning and policy.

The council committed to focus on five key priorities in the short-term: railroad quiet zone, staffing plan, street improvements, housing and economic development strategy, and parks and recreation master plan.

Guiding principles from the consultant team include: Welcoming Community, Quality of Life, Diversity in Housing Options, Pedestrian Mobility and Connectivity, Economic Development and Growth, Parks and Recreation, Strategic Partnerships. Twenty-one Big Ideas were also highlighted.

The next steps in the plan are draft writing, review sessions in April/May/June, and a public open house projected for June.

4. Consent Agenda

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

Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

4.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

4.A.1. April 4, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

4.A.2. April 4, 2023 Legislative Development Committee Meeting Minutes

4.A.3. April 4, 2023 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes

4.A.4. April 4, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

4.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report

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

4.C.1. Approve statements 359744-369747 for legal services provided by Cline Williams in the amount of \$19,555.11.

4.D. Approve the CE and Contractor signed copy of Pay Estimate No. 5 for all work completed through 3/25/2023 in the amount of \$90,363.81.

5. Items of Business

5.A. Mayor's appointment of Ward I Council Member.

Mayor Bauer presented the name of Anthony Fitzgerald of 1175 Lakeshore Drive as Ward I Council Member.

Approve the Mayor's appointment of Ward I Council Member Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0

Fitzgerald was sworn in by City Clerk Wilcox and joined the meeting.

5.B. Consider Application # SE 23-01 for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration by the Crete Chamber of Commerce.

Veronica Ortiz, Crete Chamber of Commerce member, explained that there will be food vendors, crafts and other activities during the Cinco De Mayo Celebration. The event will follow last year's model as an event for the whole community.

City Administrator Tom Ourada mentioned that the park doesn't have to be reserved. However, since the Chamber is asking for street closures and commitment of additional city services, this requires council action.

Approved Application # SE 23-01 for the Cinco de Mayo Celebration by the Crete Chamber of Commerce. Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Tom Crisman. Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 6, No: 0

5.C. Consider the Arbor Day Proclamation

City Administrator Tom Ourada mentioned that this is an annual proclamation for Arbor Day required for Crete to be a Tree City. Mayor Dave Bauer Issued Arbor Day Proclamation

Approve the Mayor's Arbor Day Proclamation Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 6, No: 0

5.D. Consider enacting Ordinance 2168: An ordinance to annex Area #1 into the corporate limits of the City of Crete on second reading.

City Attorney Alison J Borer explained that this was the voluntary annexation and due to its voluntary nature there is no public hearing required. This is the second reading of three.

Introduced Ordinance 2168 and moved that it be approved for its second reading and that its title be read and approved Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik. Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 6, No: 0

5.E. Consider swim team registration going up to \$75 after April 18th 2023.

Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody stated that the current registration fee is \$50 and there are currently 34 participants. Registration is open until May 5th. They are looking to limiting the number of participants. In past years there were 30-40 participants. Last year they had over 70 participants. The current fee is \$50 and many participants pay less than that due to the sibling discount. They are looking to raising the fee to \$75 for the entire season after April 18th, 2023. This will help to help offset the costs and the huge undertaking that goes into the swim season. They will still keep the \$10 sibling discount. The participants will still be practicing 5 days a week and having meets on Saturdays, which will give participants 6 days a week access to the pool.

Council member Kyle Frans added that for the \$75 it is still really good value for the practices a week.

Approved swim team registration going up to \$75 after April 18th 2023. Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5.F. Consider amending employee rules and regulations section 4.02.

City Council member Tom Crisman explained the Personnel Committee met on this item and it is their recommendation it be forwarded to the city attorney to ensure the wording is correct and come back to the council.

City Administrator Tom Ourada reported that the previous wording said something to the effect of a day off without pay. That was confusing wordage in their opinion. They want clarification and if the council is receptive to the change of the clarification before taking it to the attorney and they were.

Approved amending employee rules and regulations section 4.02. Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Kyle Frans.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5.G. Authorize the solicitation of bids for a 10 MVA Substation Class Distribution transformer

City Administrator Tom Ourada reported this is the transformer that would be going at the Doane substation. The city is trying to buy this early while the substation is still in design since it will take some time for delivery. This would authorize to go out for bid. Years ago it was around half a million dollars, but it could go into the 7 figures. This authorizes the city to do an early purchase.

Council member Dale Strehle explained this went to the Public Works Committee and City Administrator Tom Ourada explained it well.

Approved to authorize the solicitation of bids for a 10 MVA Substation Class Distribution Transformer Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5.H. Authorize the solicitation of bids for a substation class power distribution center.

City Administrator Tom Ourada reported this is for two power distribution centers. A 35 KV site input for the transformer and a 15 KV site input for the transformer. Both of which have extended lead time.

Council member Dale Strehle explained that Public Works did meet on this as well. Approved to authorize the solicitation of bids for a substation class power distribution center. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5.I. Consider a recommendation on request from Saline County Area Transit on fiscal year funding.

City Administrator Tom Ourada reported that these are annual requests and they do escalate year to year. The last year was a little different than previous years. The Mayor solicited from partners. Scott Bartels did mention that the school ridership is up considerably. If the council is okay with this the Mayor would be speaking to the partners to help offset the cost. City Council member Dale Strehle mentioned that the three highest are Smithfield, Crete Area Medical Center, and Crete Public Schools.

Approved request from Saline County Area Transit on fiscal year funding in the amount of \$24,236. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5.J. Consider enacting Ordinance 2169: An ordinance setting the rates for ambulance and rescue services provided by the City of Crete Fire and Rescue Department.

City Administrator Tom Ourada reported that the council acted on this but did not act on passing the actual ordinance.

Introduced Ordinance 2169 and waive the rules it be read on three different days. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 11, SECTION 3-1102, PERTAINING TO MUNICIPAL AMBULANCE SERVICE; RATE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM; AND PROVIDING FOR A TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Adopted Ordinance 2169 on final reading Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Tom Crisman.

Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5.K. Approve payment of claims to Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$947.32

Approve payment of claims to Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$947.32 Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Kyle Frans.

Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Council member Dan Papik abstained (with conflict) from voting.

6. Petitions - Communications - Citizen Concerns

None

7. Officers' Reports

- Police Captain Pucket reported that new Police Officer Noah Zach will be attending the Academy in May.
- Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody commented that the City is still actively hiring for the pool manager position.
- Human Resource Director Wendy Thomas introduced Jennifer Valente as one of the new bookkeepers for the City.
- New probationary members to the Fire Department: Henry Vicente Perez, Sarah Theiler, Quinn Whitcomb
- Council member Tom Crisman mentioned that he has noticed trains not blocking all intersections as much.
- City Administrator Tom Ourada mentioned that both of the workforce duplexes have sold at target value
- Met housing guidelines
- Workforce housing grant has been extended to 48 months
- Crete Cleanup is the first week in May; discounts available starting May 1st in newspaper; appliance pickup; freon has to be evacuated and refrigerators have to be tagged.
- 22nd street box culvert is coming along; top of box has been poured; side walls have been done prior; showed pictures of the progress
- North side paving coming along; showed pictures of the progress
- 18th street paved and Linden on one side
- Kingwood is ready to go
- 16th street letters went out; some totes have been painted; rest will be painted; that's being addressed.
- Public Works Committee with Mayor Bauer, Tom Ourada, Ann Richart, Director of Aviation with NDOT, and others met to discuss privatization of the airport. There has been discussion about that. There are people who would like to see that happen. The Elected officials don't have a notion if that would be good or not. There would be a lot of items and issues to work through. By law the City keeps all airport finances separate from all other city funds and all other accounting. All grant funds have been accounted for and separated and always have been. This is good because if the airport was ever to be sold or privatized grant funds would likely have to be reimbursed to the FAA. There are many things that might make this an intriguing idea. Many questions have to be answered. There are many moving parts. City Council member Kyle Frans asked if the grant repayment would be 10 years. Ourada responded that their best information is 20 years.
- Will be in Lincoln on Wednesday to NDPP Board Special meeting and Thursday is the MEAN Governance meeting on which Ourada is Chair. They will be discussing the scheduled contracts. Restructuring for power supply. Many things to talk about possibly two years to get through all the discussions.

8. Adjournment

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The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Mayor

(SEAL)

City Clerk-Treasurer

I, Jerry Wilcox, 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-Treasurer

(S E A L)