



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Crete City Hall, 243 East 13th Street

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

Kyle Frans: Present
Ryan Hinz: Present
Jack Oelschlager: Present
Dan Papik: Present
Travis Sears: Present
Dale Strehle: Present

Present: 6.

3. Consent Agenda

Approve consent agenda as presented. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Travis Sears.

Kyle Frans: Aye, Ryan Hinz: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Travis Sears: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

3.A.1. January 4, 2022 Public Works Committee meeting

3.A.2. February 1, 2022 Public Works Committee meeting

3.A.3. February 15, 2022 City Council meeting

3.A.4. February 15, 2022 Finance Committee meeting

3.A.5. February 15, 2022 Legislative Development Committee meeting

3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report

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

4. Items of Business

4.A. Presentation by the Police Department on the proposed Police Service Dog Program.

Police Chief Steve Hensel provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Police Service Dog Program and why it would be beneficial to the Crete Police Department. Hensel explained how to start the program and how to sustain it long-term. The rest of the department agrees that a K9 unit would be a great asset to the organization. Needs of the program include everything from a dedicated handler who would house the K9, a properly equipped vehicle, basic needs like food, and veterinary care. The unit would have public interaction to form a strong connection with the community, because if the community is behind it, it will succeed. Funding avenues would include donations and the potential for material seizures as part of task force activities. This could also be a retention effort for the department, offering an additional opportunity for dedicated officers. Hensel said the officers are excited about this opportunity.

Crete PD has an officer who has handled a K9 unit, helped select dogs, and worked with state K9 training before. Sgt. Jon Pucket has experience as a former handler with a previous department. Pucket said the life expectancy of a service dog is around 7-10 years. Departments try to get the dog at 2 years old for the right attention span and ability to complete the training. Pucket commented on the training process, including recertification and performance evaluations.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that while the K9 doesn't take the place of an officer, it can sometimes fill that role as an asset to the department. There is potential for money in the city's general fund to make this happen. Funds are also available in the PD budget for another patrol vehicle. Ourada said the city would be remiss not to proceed. Mayor Dave Bauer agreed it was a great presentation and the available funds mentioned were correct. However, he also wanted to make sure there would be opportunity for donations and for the community to buy-in and feel involved as well.

Jack Oelschlager, Ward II Council Member, commented that this is a right step in the right direction for the city.

The presentation was not an action item on the agenda, therefore it will be an item on a future council agenda to be approved.

4.B. Consider approving Van Kirk change order and pay application for the West Crete Sewer Project.

The Public Works Committee met on this and recommended approving the change order and pay application.

Approve Van Kirk change order and pay application for the West Crete Sewer Project. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Travis Sears.

Kyle Frans: Aye, Ryan Hinz: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Travis Sears: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.C. Consider authorizing the execution of a power purchase agreement and a lease agreement with Sandhills Energy LLC for the solar power project.

City Administrator Tom Ourada informed the Council that this was tabled at the Public Works Committee meeting. Ourada and the city attorney have some questions on the agreement and will bring it back with more information.

Table this item until the next council meeting. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Travis Sears.

Kyle Frans: Aye, Ryan Hinz: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Travis Sears: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.D. Consider authorizing the submission of grant applications for new lane ropes for the Wildwood Pool.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this will authorize swim team coach, Tina Rockenbach, to apply for grants and to pay her for the time spent completing them. The Park & Recreation Committee met on this and, due to the current conditions of the ropes, recommended authorizing the submission of the grants and compensation to Tina for her time.

Approve authorizing the submission of grant applications for new lane ropes for the Wildwood Pool. Carried with a motion by Kyle Frans and a second by Ryan Hinz.

Kyle Frans: Aye, Ryan Hinz: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Travis Sears: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

4.E. Consider entering into a software service agreement with myGov for permitting, licensing, and code enforcement software.

City Administrator Tom Ourada reminded the Council of all the things that the myGov software is capable of and all of the departments that will benefit from it. The Finance Committee met on this and recommended entering into the software service agreement, with periodic updates on how the software is working for the City.

Approve entering into a software service agreement with myGov for permitting, licensing, and code enforcement software. Carried with a motion by Travis Sears and a second by Dan Papik.

Kyle Frans: Aye, Ryan Hinz: Aye, Jack Oelschlager: Aye, Dan Papik: Aye, Travis Sears: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 6, No: 0

5. Petitions - Communications - Citizen Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

- Police Chief Steve Hensel:
 - Reported on the weekly crime incident report and complimented his officers on their eagerness to work
 - Thanked HR Coordinator Wendy Thomas for all of the work she does for the City and for the Police Department to help find new officers
- Council member Dan Papik noted the grading work on Dogwood Avenue and thanked the city for getting it done.

- City Administrator Tom Ourada reported:
 - City officials and staff attended a League of Nebraska Municipalities conference in Lincoln where there was discussion of federal money coming that would make a big impact
 - Acknowledged the great job the police department did on the K9 program report
 - The latest job posting for a police officer has closed; testing and interviews to come.

7. Adjournment

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)