



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 16th, 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 Consent Agenda Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

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

3.A. Approve Meeting Minutes

- 3.A.1. April 2, 2024 City Council Minutes**
- 3.A.2. April 2, 2024 Park and Rec Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.3. April 2, 2024 Public Safety Committee Minutes**
- 3.A.4. April 2, 2024 Public Works Committee Minutes**
- 3.B. Accept the City Treasurer's Report**
- 3.C. Approve the Payment of Claims Against the City**
- 3.D. Approve Karson Cowan, as a new volunteer member of the Fire Department.**

4. Items of Business

4.A. Resolution 2024-05 Recognizing Terry Petracek's 50 years of service to Crete Fire and Rescue.

Mayor Bauer recognized Terry Petracek for his dedication and commitment to the Crete Fire and Rescue Department. Upon receiving the recognition, Terry Petracek addressed the mayor and city council. Petracek thanked the mayor and council for the recognition, saying he was proud to serve. He also thanked the department members of 50 years ago. He encouraged people in the area to think about volunteering as firefighters because 50 years goes by fast.

Adopt Resolution 2024-05 Recognizing Terry Petracek's 50 years of service to Crete Fire and Rescue. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Dan Papik.

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

4.B. Consider the appointment of Jessica Wilkinson as Library Director.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that Library Director Joy Stevenson submitted her resignation in March and her last official day is April 30th. Jessica Wilkinson is coming from Columbus where she was on staff at the Columbus Public Library and will start on May 1st 2024 here at the Crete Public Library.

Approved the appointment of Jessica Wilkinson as Library Director. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Tom Crisman.

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

4.C. Consider pension plan changes

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this change mandates roll over. This went to the Personnel Committee.

Approved pension plan changes Carried with a motion by Tom Crisman and a second by Ashley Newmyer.

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

4.D. Consider the payment of claims to Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$2,468.99.

Approved the payment of claims to Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$2,468.99. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Anthony Fitzgerald. Dan Papik: Abstain (With Conflict), Tom Crisman: Aye, Anthony Fitzgerald: Aye, Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye
Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

4.E. Consider adopting Resolution 2024-04 Authorizing the termination of the Emergency Dispatch Service Interlocal Agreement with Beatrice and the City of Crete.

City Administrator Tom Ourada mentioned that this went to the Public Safety Committee. This is one stipulation of what is required to terminate the agreement with Beatrice Southeast 911.

Introduce and adopt Resolution 2024-04 Authorizing the termination of the Emergency Dispatch Service Interlocal Agreement with Beatrice and the City of Crete. Carried with a motion by Dan Papik and a second by Dale Strehle.

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

4.F. Consider the Master Fee Schedule amendment

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that there wasn't enough time for this to go to committee. Ourada explained that the change for the Master Fee Schedule is primarily for the garbage adjustment annually.

Approve the Master Fee Schedule amendment 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.G. Consider the Mutual of Omaha Insurance contract changes.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that these changes also went to the Personnel Committee and the substance of this change was to change the renewal date to 7/01/2024 instead of 10/01/2024.

Approved the Mutual of Omaha Insurance contract changes. 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.H. Consider the SCADA System

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that the SCADA System went to the Public Works Committee. This is a replacement system in the \$250,000 range with Kidwell doing some of the work with hardware and Olsson doing the programming work. This controls the electric water and waste water systems.

Approved the SCADA System 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 Drug and Alcohol Policy for Part-Time and Seasonal employees.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that this went to the Personnel Committee. The substance of this policy is basically to test only for cause either by accident or incident.

Approved the Drug and Alcohol Policy for Part-Time and Seasonal employees. 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.J. Consider the liquidated damage proposal

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the general contractor for 22nd street twin box culvert project incurred significant liquidated damages for their lateness in completing the project. They proposed trading work resources in lieu of cash liquidated damages. This went to the Public Works Committee. Dale Strehle stated that they felt there was no way they could use the machine for \$50,000 and it is their recommendation that they do not accept the proposal.

Approved not to accept the liquidated damage proposal Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle 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.K. Consider to ratify LARM's insurance action on North 15th St.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the City's insurance or risk provider, League Association of Risk Management, has been dealing with a couple of insurance claims. The first one being on 15th Street on the north side. This did go to the Public Works Committee on two separate occasions.

Approved to ratify LARM's insurance action on North 15th St. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle 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.L. Consider to ratify LARM's insurance action on South 15th St.

This also went to the Public Works Committee, and it is another claim on 15th St but on the south side.

Approved to ratify LARM's insurance action on South 15th St. Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle 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 Family Learning Community Network Commitment Agreement

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that there is information that Community Assistance Director Marilyn Schacht would like to find out. There is other information that they would work on concerning the office that they have and other things they want to talk to the council about going forward.

Tabled to consider the Family Learning Community Network Commitment Agreement Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle 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

5. Petitions - Communications - Citizen Concerns

6. Officers' Reports

○ Assistant Director & Outreach Services Librarian, Laura Renker stated the following:

- Had the "A Tree Grows in Crete" program with the help of Parks and Recreation Director Liz Cody.
- Celebrated National Library Week with the Eclipse Program and had the telescope available.
- Carol Vlasin was recognized for her volunteer efforts with the 2024 Outstanding Library Volunteer Award from the Nebraska Library Association.
- 6 outdoor games have been added
- Had another successful puzzle race party with 19 teams.
- Will be having a family puzzle race party in June.

○ Chief of Police, Gary Young stated the following:

- The records management system at Southeast Communications in Beatrice was shut down until today due to an update. Young thanked city IT staff Mike Kalkwarf and Emerson Aschoff, who have worked with Beatrice to help with getting it up and running.
- Testing for sergeants will be on April 30th 2024.
- Jaden Acevedo will be going to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy this month.

○ Fire Chief, Todd Allen stated the following:

- Thanked the Mayor and City Council for the resolution for Terry Petracek. The department will be hosting an open house on Sunday, April 21st from 1-3 p.m.
- Members will take a rig to Officer Barlett's funeral in Ceresco.

- Their ambulance has been requested by the manufacturer to go to fire school for demonstrations in May.
- Allen introduced Karson Cowan as the newest member to the department.
- Parks and Recreation Director, Liz Cody stated the following:
 - Welcomed back pool manager Luke Bonifas and swim coach Kourtney Martin for their 2nd year
 - Swim team parent's meeting is Wednesday, April 17th in the Crete Carrier Community Room
 - Swim team registration and T-Ball registration are both open until May 3rd and parent volunteers are needed. If interested in coaching please contact Recreation Coordinator Dan Dunaway.
 - Seasonal staff hiring is underway with Human Resource Coordinator Savannah Anderson's diligence they have received over 55 applicants.
 - They always appreciate receiving inquiring about concerns in the park, such as possible safety hazards. Council member Strehle mentioned the bridge to the baseball area has a tripping hazard.
- City Council member Tom Crisman thanked Officer Audrey Arbuckle for serving on the district's American Legion post selection board and introduced them to K9 Hunk. Thanked Chief Gary Young for assisting them with that and letting everyone know what a great dedicated officer she is and doing that on her own time.
- City Council members Ashley Newmyer, Dale Strehle, Dan Papik and Anthony Fitzgerald welcomed the new Library Director Jessica Wilkinson and Fire Department member Karson Cowan.
- City Administrator, Tom Ourada stated the following:
 - The City of Crete received a Freedom of Information Act request from Kathryn Doll of Blair, who wanted to know the city's relationship with Welcoming America. The city responded to that and redacted any personal information. The city gets these requests from time to time.
 - There is a subdivision request for the Planning Commission. It is still incomplete but there is interest in the northeast area of Crete.
 - Reminded of the nuisance hearings on Thursday, April 25th 2024.
 - The bid opening is on April 26th 2024 for the city farm property.
 - They are close to purchasing an ADA playground structure for City Park and are working out funding details.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.