



City Council Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location

1029 Court Street, Gibbon, Nebraska

1. Opening Procedures

- a. Call to Order
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Announcement of Open Meetings Act
- d. Roll Call

Minutes:

Roll Call: Leon Stall: Present Derrick Clevenger: Present Bob Krier: Present Kevin Kraenow: Present

2. Submittal of Requests for Future Items

Minutes:

None

3. Reserve Time to Speak on Agenda Items

Minutes:

None

4. Presentations and Proclamations

a. Buffalo County Sheriff's Department--Contract Law Enforcement

Minutes:

Buffalo County Sheriff's Department— Sergeant Dave Gibbs reported the month was uneventful. There had been several parking violations and stop sign violations on 8th Street

b. Mayor Report--Deb VanMatre

Minutes:

Mayor Report—Deb VanMatre: Mayor VanMatre provided information on the election results with Leon Stall being voted in for mayor and Derrick Clevenger and Bob Krier reelected on the council. The mayor requested the December meeting be changed to 5:00 p.m. due to the school winter concerts that same evening. There will be two meetings that evening with the current council finishing business and the new council's organizational meeting. Mayor VanMatre will give her State of the City Report at the end of the meeting.

c. City Administrator Report--Matt Smallcomb

Minutes:

City Administrator Report—Matthew Smallcomb: Mr. Smallcomb provided the monthly operations report. He informed the council of the purchase of two Polaris side by side UTVs. One is for the cemetery and the other will be utilized by all in-town departments. Mr. Smallcomb gave an update on the wastewater treatment plant and gas building. There have been two Downtown Revitalization meetings held, and the next one will be in January. There were 178 surveys received. The City received the CCCFF \$75,000.00 grant and \$657,000 from insurance on the gas building claim. Phillip Carkoski Construction will be moving the gas building purchased from David City in early December. Paving has been completed on Beatty Street. There is a one-year warranty on the paving. Mr. Smallcomb indicated the new Christmas garland and lights have been hung and the third annual Christmas in the Park has 30 trees signed up thus far. He then went on to introduce two recently hired employees. Anthony Axtell was hired for the parks department and Steven Ackley was hired for the utility department.

d. City Attorney Report--Barry Hemmerling

Minutes:

No report.

e. City Treasurer Report--Susan Tonniges

Minutes:

City Treasurer Report—Susan Tonniges: Ms. Tonniges went over the fiscal end of year reports and October financials. The annual audit will be December 4th & 5th and she plans to be here for most of their onsite work.

5. Ordinances

a. Ordinance No. 682 To Change the Residential Rate for Collection of Garbage (Second & Final Readings)

Minutes:

Ordinance No. 682 now came up for second reading. Ordinance No. 682 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GIBBON, BUFFALO COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SECTION 51.04 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CHANGE THE RESIDENTIAL RATE FOR COLLECTION OF GARBAGE A motion by Leon Stall was made to move that the statutory rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended.

Council member Derrick Clevenger seconded the motion to suspend the rule. Leon Stall: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. The motion to suspend the rule was adopted by majority of the Council and the statutory rule was declared suspended for consideration of said Ordinance.

Said Ordinance was then ready by title AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GIBBON, BUFFALO COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SECTION 51.04 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CHANGE THE RESIDENTIAL RATE FOR COLLECTION OF GARBAGE And thereafter Council member Leon Stall moved for final passage of the Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Council member Derrick Clevenger. The mayor then stated the question "Shall Ordinance No. 682 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call

vote. Leon Stall: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. The passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members of the council, the mayor declared the Ordinance adopted.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

A motion was made by Leon Stall to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Derrick Clevenger. Leon Stall: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

- a. **Minutes of the October 21, 2024 Council Meeting**
- b. **Claims for the Month of November**
- c. **Buffalo County Sherriff's Department Report**
- d. **Treasurers Report**
- e. **Planning Commission Report**
- f. **Building Permits**
- g. **Cemetery Board Report**
- h. **Heritage Center Report**
- i. **Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department Report**
- j. **Library Report**
- k. **Recreation Advisory Board**
- l. **Board Appointments**

7. Resolution and Motions

- a. **Consider a Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2024-15 Signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent 2024 to Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Completed Forms**

Minutes:

A motion was made by Leon Stall to approve Resolution No. 2024-15 Signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent 2024 to Authorize the Mayor to Sign the completed forms, seconded by Derrick Clevenger. Leon Stall: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

- b. **Consider a Motion to Approve the Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Olsson for General Engineering Consulting Services for 2025**

Minutes:

A motion was made by Derrick Clevenger to approve the Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Olsson for General Engineering Consulting Services for 2025, seconded by Bob Krier. Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea; Leon Stall: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

c. Consider a Motion to Approve Jess Hurlbert with Olsson as Street Superintendent for the City of Gibbon

Minutes:

A motion was made by Leon Stall to approve Jess Hurlbert with Olsson as Street Superintendent for the City of Gibbon, seconded by Bob Krier. Leon Stall: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

d. Consider a Motion to Approve the Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Olsson for the Optimum Corrosion Control & Treatment Study Project

Minutes:

A motion was made by Leon Stall to approve the Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Olsson for the Optimum Corrosion Control and Treatment Study Project, seconded by Derrick Clevenger. Leon Stall: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Bob Krier: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

e. Consider a Motion to Change the Time of the December 16, 2024 meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Bob Krier to approve changing the time of the December 16, 2024 meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., seconded by Leon Stall. Bob Krier: Yea; Leon Stall: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0. Motion carried.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

8. Other Items

a. Next Regular City Council Meeting will be held on December 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

b. State of the City Report--Mayor Deb VanMatre

Minutes:

Having come to the end of our fiscal year, as well as my term of office, I wanted to take this opportunity to address the council and public on our many accomplishments and where we stand going forward. You've probably all heard the metaphor of the frog and water. The scenario is that a frog would leap away if put into a pan of hot water, but if the water is heated gradually, it won't notice until it is too late. The gist is that it is easy to miss small changes that build up over time and it usually has a negative connotation. However, the opposite is also true. Positive changes can happen in the same way, adding up over time without us realizing it.

I recently had the opportunity to take a group of elected officials on a tour of our city, many from communities much larger than ours. In preparation, I thought about what to include on the tour that would be of interest to them as well as what changes have occurred over the past 12 years. You're invited to mentally come along on that tour. To our east you will notice improvements which have been made to the Legion Ball fields, and as we leave the parking lot and look south, you'll see Clevenger's. Turning north, we'll pass the day care and chiropractor and then we'll pass the nine soon to be ten new homes on Turkey Drive. As we approach Pine Street, you'll be reminded of the annexation and improvements made to 8th Street. Going north, you will pass the new swimming pool, including the addition of playground equipment and other amenities. Next we'll enter Rosen Park where improvements include new lights and a walking track along with other improvements to our soccer fields. Looking across the fields is Rasmussen Mechanical's regional office and Cargill, both having made significant investments in their Gibbon facilities. As we head back to Court Street you'll notice the 12 new homes which were built on the previous school property. Twelve years ago there were two, which were for sale along with 16 other properties in town. In addition to the two sub-divisions, there have been many other homes built on individual lots. Moving toward downtown, the Heritage Center board has continued to make improvements both inside and out, and the property was approved by the Department of the Interior for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. They also led the City's 150th celebration. Across the street is our library, which was recognized as a Scholastic Top Library. They continue to add quality programming for all ages. Moving on, you'll notice Pioneer Park, which has also had new equipment installed in addition to being the home to our Christmas in the Park community celebration. Along with changes in ownership for Adam's, Hamilton, Pistoleros and the Food Pantry, many of our businesses on LaBarre and Front Street have made significant investments and improvements both inside and out. Gibbon Insurance, Exchange Bank, Dynamic T's, Rise and Grind, Axes, Central Nebraska Cremation and Burmoods to point out a few. The Community Beautification Foundation was established last year, added flowers this summer with plans for more projects moving forward. Moving on to Highway 30, Gibbon Packing has made and will continue to make considerable investments in their plant. They have also been a great partner in providing funding for several community projects through the Rosen Foundation. As we go past Davis Park, you'll see numerous updates to playground equipment and the baseball field, and additions of disc golf and pickle ball. Returning to Highway 30 you will see numerous new businesses and improvements. A change in the entry point for Gibbon Packing, Triple S, Bond's building which includes Lucky Duck and Railside, Casey's, Kwik Stop addition, Dollar General and Froth and Fizz.

There have been many changes within the city limits, but you'll also find numerous improvements at the cemetery including the new directory and at the municipal golf course, which added to our quality-of-life options and brings in many golfers from out of town.

Before we finish our tour, there are other aspects of leadership and city government that I want to point out. Administratively, we have updated our zoning, sub-division and municipal codes, employee handbook, comprehensive plan, strategic plan and website; gone paperless and streamlined our agenda for council meetings; participated with the UNL Rural

Fellows; became a Leadership Certified Community and received recognition for our Excellence in Economic Impact by the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County. In my opinion the main function of local government boils down to infrastructure, safety and quality-of-life. During our tour we've seen the focus we have had on the latter. As far as infrastructure is concerned, we've made improvements to our streets, most notably Gibbon Road and the Cargill crossing. We have made considerable investment and improvements to our wastewater treatment plant.

We live in a safe community, where I was once told parking and barking were our main concerns. Not to take it lightly, but we are fortunate with the coverage provided by the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office and our relationship with their personnel.

We've added recycling at no cost to our residents. We've made changes at the request of local businesses, such as changes to our alcohol sales days and times to compete with the interstate businesses, and voter approved Keno which was of mutual benefit to businesses and the city. Speaking of voter approval, we want to return to our tour, and to the downtown area. Thanks to their approval, we were able to provide our volunteer firefighters with updates and additions to the firehall that were greatly needed, including new bays, personal facilities and other improvements both interior and exterior.

To finish our tour, we will return to where started, which is here. While not in the original plan, the acquisition of this facility provided another asset for our community. The price was right, and along with the grants and donations, we were able to provide community space for nonprofit organizations, room for other meetings and celebrations, along with a city office and council room which will meet our needs for years to come. While there are so many positives, we all know that we have faced many challenges as well. Two hailstorms, two floods, two fires, two train derailments, COVID-19 and the supply issues and increased costs that followed, and changes in administrative personnel.

Despite this, we have prevailed, succeeded and excelled. While city government and staff are not responsible for everything I've pointed out, none of this would have happened if we weren't a great place to live and do business, and none of this would be possible without the support of the citizens of Gibbon, the volunteers on our city boards and commissions, our council leadership, our city officials and our employees. My personal thanks go out to Matt and Pam, as well as Susan and Barry. It has been my pleasure to work with all of you. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your mayor for the last 12 years. This completes 40 years of community and public service to my hometown in a variety of roles. It is time for new leadership, and it is reassuring to know that our city is in good hands to continue our path forward. There will still be challenges, but we are in a good place, and I have confidence in the leadership Mayor-Elect Leon will provide along with the expertise of our city administration. Remember the frog? If you're like me, the changes have been gradual, but it's good to know that we continue to get better each and every day. Thank you! Mayor Deb

9. Adjourn

Minutes:

A motion was made by Leon Stall to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Krier. Leon Stall:

Yea; Bob Krier: Yea; Derrick Clevenger: Yea; Kevin Kraenow: Yea Yea: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 0.

Motion carried.

Mayor VanMatre adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0

Contact: Matt Smallcomb (gibboncityhall@cityofgibbon.org) (308) 468-6118 | Minutes published on 12/06/2024,
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