

**Official  
City Council Minutes  
City of Wood River, Nebraska  
Regular Meeting  
March 7, 2023**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Wood River, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 108 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St, on March 7, 2023. Notice of the time and place of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publicized notice on March 1, 2023 in the Clipper and the Grand Island Independent. An agenda for the meeting, was kept continuously current, and was made available for public inspection on the City's website (woodriverne.com).

Mayor Greg Cramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Cramer issued the Oath of Office to councilmember Dakota Klingsporn, Ward 1.

**Council Present:** Nielsen, Rotter, Thompson, Rennau, Klingsporn. Rodriguez absent.

**City Officials Present:** Ashley Manning, City Clerk; Drew Graham, City Attorney; Brent Gascho, Utilities Superintendent.

**Public Present:** Deputy J. Jones, LeAnn Jochum, Matt Troyer-Miller

The Mayor led the Council Members and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cramer advised the public body of the Open Meetings Act that is posted in the meeting room and entry hall.

**Public Comment(s):** None.

Items on the consent agenda for approval were:

**February 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Disbursements reviewed this meeting by: **RENNAU & ROTTER**

Disbursements totaling: **\$43,222.07**

Checks not on list: **\$17,536.33**

Sunlife Financial: **\$169.52**

Blue Cross BlueShield: **\$5,447.37**

Lincoln Financial Group: **\$447.91**

Redwing Software **\$15.00**

Ameritas **\$49.00**

Zero Fee **\$29.99**

Nielsen made the motion to approve items on the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Thompson. Motion carried. 3/0. Klingsporn & Rotter abstained. Rodriguez absent.

LeAnn Jochum with South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) was present to answer questions regarding the proposed resolution requesting SCEDD to assist with a NAHTF application for a rental rehabilitation conversion. She explained that the City would apply as the recipient of the grant and would act as a pass-through party. City would apply for \$400,000 + admin costs. There is no match required of the City, all additional funding needed would be paid for by the building owners. If awarded, the grant would help pay for the conversion of the upstairs space of a downtown building, converting the space into 3 apartments. Sara Arnett has agreed to be a local point of contact and assist with the application. Rennau motioned to approve Resolution 2023-187 requesting SCEDD to assist with the NAHTF application. Motion seconded by Thompson. Motion carried 5/0. Rodriguez absent.

Deputy J. Jones offered a summary of the Sheriff's report for February 2023.

Rotter motioned to approve new manager application for Casey's liquor license. Motion seconded by Nielsen. Motion carried 5/0. Rodriguez absent.

**Nielsen** motioned to approve payment to FHU (Invoice 36400) in the amount of \$77,882.50 for Advance Assistance project work. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 5/0. Rodriguez absent.

**Rotter** motioned to deny the request made by Colby Hayes to reimburse payment for furnace repairs stating that determining which side of the meter that the problem ground wire came from was not possible due to the size/age of equipment. The City will work with the homeowner to upgrade service if homeowner so chooses. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 5/0. Rodriguez absent.

Nielsen explained the changes in the proposed employee handbook. The main changes that were made were the accrual of vacation time, part time holiday eligibility, and updating City policies to align with new laws/regulations. **Rennau** motioned to approve the proposed employee handbook dated 3/7/23 as presented. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 5/0. Rodriguez absent.

**Department Remarks:**

**Gascho:** Waiting for a quote from IES for lights at the ballpark. Contacted a company to get a price quote for hauling off compost this year as there is too much for the City to haul; cost will be around \$500 per load – probably 3 loads total.

**Council Remarks:**

**Nielsen:** Asked Brent about the banner information Sonya requested – Brent to contact Sonya.

**Thompson:** Middleton called back to say they were no longer interested in bidding the ballpark lights project, IES will be the only quote received and will be unable to get any materials until next year. Brent to contact electrician to see what City can do to get through this ball season. Tree in left field needs trimmed – Brent to take care of it.

**Mayor's Remarks:**

Need to work with Drew Graham to get the condo agreement finished up.

As there was no further business to come before this session of the Council, Council member **Nielsen** made the motion to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Motion seconded by **Thompson**.

You can find agenda request forms and minutes from previous meetings on the city's website at [www.woodriverne.com/agendaform.htm](http://www.woodriverne.com/agendaform.htm). You can preview all ordinances and resolutions at the city office during regular business hours.

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Greg Cramer, Mayor

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Ashley Manning, City Clerk

Nebraska minimum wage increased to \$10.50 per hour for 2023. This increase impacted the City's current pay scale for some of the pool employees. **Rotter** motioned to approve amending the 2023 pay scale for the job title Concessions to the following: Step 1 \$10.50, Step 2 \$10.75, Step 3 \$11.00, Step 4 \$11.25, Step 5 \$11.50, Step 6 \$11.75. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent. Mayor Cramer discussed with Council increasing the Library and Senior Center Director pay. There was a clerical error when setting up pay for Kila that was noticed when the 2023 COLA increase got put into the payroll system. This resulted in her being paid \$1.00 more per hour than what was listed on the pay scale for 2022. To remedy the situation and make the wage more appropriate to the duties of the jobs, Cramer asked Council to consider an increase in pay. **Rotter** motioned to amend the 2023 pay scale for the job title Library/Senior Center Director to the following: Step 1 \$16.46, Step 2 \$16.96, Step 3 \$17.44, Step 4 \$17.94, Step 5 \$18.47, Step 6 \$19.00, retro-active to 1/16/2023. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

Brent Gascho asked Council for approval to send Zane Strode and Marty Brown to a sewer operator certification training in March (6th-8th) in Hastings for a total of \$900.00. **Rennau** motioned to approve sending Zane and Marty to sewer operator training for a cost of \$450.00 per participant. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

Ashley Manning asked Council for approval for herself and Christina Wemhoff to attend Clerk School in March. **Rennau** motioned to approve Ashley and Christina going to Clerk School in Kearney in March (15th-17th) for a cost of \$223.00 per participant. Motion seconded by **Thomson**. Nielsen absent.

**Rotter** motioned to approve sending the following delinquent utility accounts to collection: 1-365-1098 \$49.58; 2-275-1020 \$186.60; 3-50-3C \$354.43. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Thompson** motioned to approve payment to CDS Inspections (Invoice OOR-A40) for housing management services in the amount of \$5,571.56. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Thompson** motioned to approve payment to CDS Inspections (Invoice Lead-15) for lead based paint services in the amount of \$1,500.00. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Thompson** motioned to approve payment to Eickmeier Construction for work completed on project HR-21 in the amount of \$25,000.00. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Rodriguez** motioned to approve payment to J-Tech Construction for work completed on project HR-17 in the amount of \$6,065.67. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Rodriguez** motioned to approve payment to Homeowner HR-11 for materials purchased in the amount of \$151.74. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Rodriguez** motioned to approve the following payments for services completed on project HR-07: England Electric in the amount of \$925.00; Extreme Plumbing in the amount of \$650.00. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Thompson** motioned to approve payment to homeowner HR-16 for materials purchased in the amount of \$1,710.00. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Thompson** motioned to approve payment to PM Renovations for work completed on project HR-18 in the amount of \$10,653.00. Motion seconded by **Rodriguez**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Rennau** motioned to approve the following payments for work completed on project HR-06: Bates Construction in the amount of \$5,000.00; Country Boy Flooring in the amount of \$1,998.75; Floor It Nebraska in the amount of \$710.57; Homeowner in the amount of \$929.17. Motion seconded by **Thompson**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

**Thompson** motioned to approve draw request #25 in the amount of \$60,856.46 for project #19-TFDR-34089. Motion seconded by **Rennau**. Motion carried 4/0. Nielsen absent.

Christina Wemhoff summarized the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2022.

#### Department Remarks:

Wemhoff: City Hall has been receiving complaints about stray cats.

#### Council Remarks:

**Thompson:** Ball park lights – need to have a density test done to determine whether or not the current poles can be reused. Will contact companies and request bids/plans be submitted.

**Rennau:** Frenkes Hillside would like to bid mowing contract.

To include →

was motioned & approved, just left out of minutes.

CLAIMS

3/21/2023

ABBREVIATIONS USED: RP=REPAIRS, SU=SUPPLIES,  
 SE=SERVICES, IT=INS/TAXES/RETRM, RE=REIMBURSEMENTS  
 UE=UTIL. EXPENSES, DM=DUES/MEMBERSHIPS/FEES, SP=SALARIES  
 PAID, ER=ELECTRICAL REBATE, MI=MISCELLANEOUS, OE=OPERATING  
 EXPENSES, CD=CD'S PURCHASED

**General Fund**

CHRISTINA WEMHOFF	RE	40.00
ASHLEY MANNING	RE	40.00
LINCOLN JOURNAL	SE	51.20
CITY OF GI	OE	475.08
EAKES	SE	150.53

**Street Fund**

GRONES	RP	105.60
CHAD SHUDA	RE	40.00
CPI	SU	1365.66
HOOKER BROS	SU	659.98
DRT TRUCKING	MI	2774.27
DOBESH LAND	SE	1834.56
CONSTRUCTION RENTAL	RP	335.62

**Sewer Fund**

PLATTE VALLEY LAB	SE	165.00
MARTY BROWN	RE	40.00

REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Fund**

SANDRY FIRE	SU	2785.41
WINSUPPLY	SU	112.01

COUNCILPERSON \_\_\_\_\_

**Electric Fund**

VERIZON	UE	80.02
CHARTER	SE	32.64
BRENT GASCHO	RE	40.00

**Water Fund**

ZANE STRODE	RE	40.00
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**Senior Center Fund**

DENNIS WAGONER	RE	170.95
STICK CREEK KIDS	SU	912.00

**Pool Fund**

CHURCHICH	RP	9594.00
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**Ambulance Fund**

O'REILLY FIRST CALL	SE	237.04
OMNI	SE	84.31

**Variety Fund**

SVEHLA	SE	1225.00
PRESTO-X	SE	157.07
USBANK	MI	1693.95
NT&T	UE	299.57
ELITE WEB DESIGN	SE	120.00
MENARDS	MI	163.17

TOTAL DISB.	\$	25,824.64
CHECKS NOT ON LIST	\$	77,882.50
	\$	103,707.14

**Checks not on list**

36969 FHU	77882.50
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