

## HECTOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 11, 2021

6:00 pm.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

The meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Mayor Weikle, followed by a Roll Call to determine a quorum.

Members present: CM Heerdt, CM Hollan, CM Best, and Mayor Weikle

Absent: CM Kandt

Also present: Steven Squibb, Ron Ebbers, Greg Krueger, Administrator Aukrust, Deputy Clerk Beckler, Chief of Police Pierce, Fire Chief Kramer, Public Utilities/Ambulance Supervisor Rodmyre, Public Utilities/Airport Manager Schellenberg, Public Utilities Deal, City Attorney Griffin Leitch, Brad Falteysek and Aaron Gilbert of AEM, and Jeremy Boots of Moore Engineering.

1. Consent Agenda
  - 1.01 Approve proposed Minutes from December 2, 2020, Emergency City Council Meeting
  - 1.02 Approve proposed Minutes from December 14, 2020, City Council Meeting
  - 1.03 Approval of Payables & Payroll  
CM Heerdt requested to discuss 1.03 and move to Administration—f)  
A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Hollan, and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda with changes.  
Oath of Office: Mayor Steven Squibb, Councilmember Ronald Ebbers, Councilmember Gregory Krueger—Administered by Administrator Aukrust
2. **Resolution 2021-1** A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A RESIGNATION AND DECLARING A VACANCY, PENNY KANDT  
A motion by CM Ebbers, seconded by CM Krueger, and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Penny Kandt.
3. **Resolution 2021-2** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A COUNCIL MEMBER TO A VACANCY, DOUGLAS BEST  
A motion by CM Ebbers, seconded by CM Krueger and unanimously carried with CM Best abstaining.
4. Oath of Office: Councilmember Douglas Best—Administered by Administrator Aukrust
5. Approval of the agenda and any agenda additions: CM Heerdt requested to add Administration—g) in-person meetings h) Library entry door  
A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Krueger, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with changes.
6. Public Hearings: None
7. Petitions, requests, and communications:
  - a) Brad Falteysek and Aaron Gilbert: AEM presented the Utility Rate Study. The study projected rates to stabilize the water and sewer

funds for the next five years. The Council accepted the report and will consider rate adjustments at the next meeting.

- b) AEM change order for additional work with Cares Act Funds  
A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Ebbers, and unanimously carried to approve the AEM change order for \$1,705.
- c) Jeremy Boots: Moore Engineering—Advertising now for bids for the 2021 street seal-coating.

**Resolution 2021-3 A RESOLUTION OF OFFICIAL DESIGNATIONS FOR 2021:**

CM Heerdt requested that he continue on in the role of Acting Mayor in place of appointing CM Best and continue being on the EDA Board in place of appointing CM Ebbers. Council discussed CM Heerdt's request to amend the resolution as presented. A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Heerdt and unanimously carried to approve the resolution with changes.

**Resolution 2021-4 A RESOLUTION ALLOWING ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER TRANSACTIONS:**

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Ebbers and unanimously carried.

**Resolution 2021-5 A RESOLUTION ALLOWING FOR DESIGNATING A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE CITY OF HECTOR:**

A motion by CM Ebbers, seconded by CM Heerdt and unanimously carried.

**Resolution 2021-6 CITY AUTHORIZATION FOR 2021:**

A motion by CM Ebbers, seconded by CM Best and unanimously carried.

**Resolution 2021-7 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS AND**

**DESIGNATING ITS USE: Donation from Hector Relief Association to use towards turnout gear.**

A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Ebbers and unanimously carried.

8. Reports of officers, boards, and committees

1. Administration—City Administrator A. Aukrust

- a) 2021 Meeting schedule: Workshops at 5 pm—Mayor Squibb would like to discuss goals for 2021. Squibb suggested a workshop in February and then quarterly in the future.
- b) COVID-19 Update: County EOC meeting update: Daily numbers sent out daily.
- c) Liquor License Renewal: The Other Place Inc.:  
A motion by CM Best to waive the \$1,500 liquor license fee for the 2021 year due to the pandemic, seconded by CM Krueger and unanimously carried.
- d) US 212 Beef Corporation Escrow Account Agreement review: City Attorney Leitch—in discussions with Attorney Bruce Phillips, representing US 212 Beef Plant to finalize the escrow agreement negotiated by Administrator Aukrust for \$90,000 to be placed in an escrow account by US 212 Beef Corporation for five years with partial payments paid back after year three, four, and five if US 212 Beef Corporation stays in good standing with the city.

- e) Pool information: City Attorney Griffin Leitch—Leitch discussed with Council his concerns with the pool structure and the unsafe use of the pool. He said that if the city does not fix all the issues, the city will be held liable. The building inspection clearly states it is unsafe. City Attorney Leitch said if a lawsuit comes, there would be punitive damages as well, and those would not be covered by insurance.
  - f) 1.03 Payables & Payroll: CM Heerdt asked some questions about 1.03 Payables and Payroll.  
A motion by CM Best, seconded by CM Ebbers and unanimously carried to approve 1.03 Payables and Payroll.
  - g) Council Meetings In-Person: CM Heerdt asked about having in-person meetings again. Mayor Squibb stated it would be great to meet in person but said there's a lot to consider with the pandemic. Administrator Aukrust will check with the LMC and PH for the guidance given our small staff and coverage if everyone gets sick. Mayor Squibb said he and CM Best have been hauling many Covid patients, and it isn't a good idea to be in close proximity to others.
  - h) Library: CM Heerdt requested the entry doors of the Library be opened every weekday morning so people can return books.
2. Public Utilities/Ambulance—Supervisor K. Rodmyre
    - a) Public Utility update: Everything is good with the water plant. The sewer plant is going well and running smoothly. Mayor Squibb asked Rodmyre how the beef plant was, and Rodmyre said the contract states they will use about 125,000-150,000 gallons a day, and they are not even close to that at this point.
    - b) Ambulance update: Approximately 127 calls YTD for 2020.
  3. Police Department—Police Chief Z. Pierce
    - a) PD update: Squad will get new tires.
    - b) Update on doors/windows for PD. The cost of the bid is \$5,600.  
A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Krueger, and unanimously carried to approve the project.
  4. Fire Department—Fire Chief R. Kramer
    - a) FD update: We put new batteries in the tanker truck.
    - b) Eleven guys got measured for turnout gear.
    - c) I am getting quotes for getting the Fire Hall painted since it has been neglected and is starting to rust.
  5. Airport—Airport Manager G. Schellenberg
    - a) AP update: The new gauge has been installed in the fuel tank.
    - b) By-Law change—At the December 2020 meeting, former Mayor Weikle suggested that the Chair of the AAC be the mayor to be able to go right to the Council with updates and recommendations. Mayor Squibb and Administrator Aukrust discussed what was suggested with the new Council. Nothing was decided, and this possible change will be addressed with the AAC.

6. EDA—Working closely with Renville County EDA: Information is being sent out to local businesses as it becomes available.
  - a) EDA and P&Z boards: Looking at having the local EDA members also on the P&Z board.
9. Unfinished business:
10. Miscellaneous:
  - a) Residents addressing the Council
    - 1.) Janis Weikle: Thanked the Council for their support the last two years and said the city would be in good hands with Mayor Squibb.
11. Adjournment: A motion by CM Heerdt, seconded by CM Ebbers and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm.