

January 21, 2014

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE) §
)
CITY OF ALLIANCE)

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, January 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Board of Education Meeting Room, 1604 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on January 14, 2014. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, and that an agenda of the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk in City Hall; provided the Council could modify the agenda at the meeting if it determined an emergency so required. A similar notice, together with a copy of the agenda, also had been delivered to each of the City Council Members. An agenda, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours from the publication of the notice to the time of the meeting.

Mayor Feldges opened the January 21, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:01 p.m. Present were Mayor Feldges, Council Members Benzell, Lewis, Seiler and Yeager. Also present were City Manager Cox, City Attorney Olsen, and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Feldges read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The first agenda item was the introduction of Brandy Dahlberg, who was promoted to Dispatch Supervisor.
- The next agenda item was the Consent Calendar. Councilman Benzell made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – JANUARY 21, 2014

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 7, 2014.
2. Approval: Payroll and Employer Taxes for the period December 21, 2013 through January 3, 2014 inclusive: \$189,432.58 and \$13,309.24 respectively.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period December 31, 2013 through January 15, 2014: General, General Debt Service, Trust and Agency, Street, Electric, Refuse Collection and Disposal, Sanitary Sewer, Water, Golf Course, Downtown Improvement Districts, R.S.V.P., Keno, and Capital Improvement; \$457,051.18.

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4. Approval: The update to the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department by adding Terry Craig, Gerald Sockwell and Wesley Whitwer.
5. Approval: Resolution No. 14-07 granting permission for the City of Alliance to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the Houston-Galveston Area Council.
6. Approval: Capital transfer for the Police Department in the amount of \$2,600.00 from investigative supplies to machinery and equipment.

NOTE: City Manager Cox has reviewed these expenditures and to the best of his knowledge confirms that they are within budgeted appropriations to this point in the fiscal year.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Feldges, Seiler, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The Council presented two proclamations: the first declaring the week of January 26, 2014 through February 1, 2014 as Catholic Schools Week, the second declaring the month of January as Official Radon Action Month.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Week of January 26, 2014 is National Catholic Schools Week; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes Academy has been part of Nebraska since September 8, 1908, and therefore, has been part of our community for over 100 years, and St. Agnes Academy has helped to make our town a loving community; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes prepares its students not only with fine academic training, but also with spiritual values that will make them good citizens able to contribute to their community and become the leaders of the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, does hereby proclaim the week of January 26, 2014 through February 1, 2014 as

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 21st day of January in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Fourteen.

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Accepting the proclamation were Bailey Johnson, Adriana Olvera, Lillie Otto, Charlie Otto and Cherokee Purviance.

The next proclamation was accepted by Tabi Prochazka, Environmental Health/Media Coordinator for the Panhandle Public Health District.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water that can accumulate to dangerous levels inside homes, schools, and other buildings; and

WHEREAS, Radon cannot be seen, has no odor, and the only way a family can know if their house has an elevated radon levels is if they test for it; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has high levels of radon with more than 50 percent of the homes tested having elevated radon levels; and

WHEREAS, Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, Testing for radon is simple and inexpensive; and

WHEREAS, Identified radon problems can be fixed; and

WHEREAS, The Panhandle Public Health Department, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are supporting efforts to encourage Americans to test their homes for radon, have elevated levels of radon reduced, and have new homes built with radon-resistant features.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, NE do hereby proclaim January 2014 as Official Radon Action Month in Alliance, Nebraska in recognition of the importance of testing homes for radon, I hereby proclaim the month of January 2014 as,

National Radon Action Month

and I urge every member of the community to test their homes by contacting the Panhandle Public Health District at 308-487-3600 ext 107 to request a free radon test kit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 21st day of January in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Fourteen.

- City Manager J.D. Cox gave his City Manager's Report which is shown in outline form:
 1. Great Lakes –

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- A. Regulation change for all pilots to 1500 hours/New rest requirements that we don't know what effect there will be but it will have an impact
- B. Great Lakes taking steps that they can by the 135 certification and the plan to help get more pilot hours
- C. Great Lakes changing schedules and trying to shorten the day of the pilots.....
- D. Our current efforts:
 - Conference calls with Great Lakes
 - Calls to representatives, NDA, Department of Transportation
 - Requested to sustain one flight per day
 - with the intent of having at least one flight a day and not having flights scheduled that realistically will not be able to operate.
- E. Goal: One flight per day (except Saturdays)
- F. Development - Sixel Aviation conference in April
2. Airport
 - A. 10-Mile Approach Zoning
 - Working with Adam Hoesing to put together multi-county plan
 - B. Hopeful – Runway Funding (\$8.3 M will be in place)
3. Charter Cable System Agreement Upgrade Request Update – Charter has Responded
 - A. Hold Public Meeting / Gather public input
 - B. City staff draft proposed franchise agreement
 - C. Charter review and approve (or send recommended changes) to franchise agreement
 - D. City staff finalize ordinance
 - E. City Council consider ordinance
 - F. In the meantime, Brent is going to champion our efforts to come up with what we would like to see as far as equipment upgrades are concerned.
4. MEAN/NPPD –
 - A. Attending meeting on Thursday
 - B. Additional cost increase
5. Senior Center Followup
 - A. Sent Letter Agreement for Month-to-month lease to SSI
 - B. Have until end of month
 - C. Meeting on Friday @ 12:30
6. Joint Meeting with County - February 27 at 7:00am
7. Demolition Project (Toad's, City Parks Bldg, Warehouse #3)
 - A. Going out for bids due to size
 - B. Authorized asbestos removal on all three facilities
 - Cost: \$4,582
 - Notifications to the State – Commence work on 1/27/14.
8. Streetscape Phase 2 Update – Schedule is still in works
 - A. 90% Plans are submitted
 - B. Waiting on Environmental final approval – NDOR in final review
 - C. Potential Time Frame:
 - Nov
 - Jan: Receive NDOR Enviro Approval & Comments

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- ~~Dec~~ Submit final 100% plans
 - ~~Mar~~ Let Bids thru NDOR
 - ~~Apr~~ Bid Openings
 - ~~May~~ City Approve/Accept Bids
 - ~~June~~ July (after Heritage Days) Construction
- D. Sale of old decorative streetlights
- Many in 300-400 block no longer working
 - Authorized the removal & sale (as has been started with 200 block)
 - Proceeds used for project Deb Feller spoke to Council regarding
 - Asking-Single-lamp lights at \$200 and the sale price for three-lamp at \$500.
 - Contact Deb Feller Main Street 762-1800
9. Adirondack Chairs – Going well
- A. They sat for four years – unused and forgotten
 - B. Now they are in big demand
10. Public Works - Street Repair
- A. Pot holes under the 3rd Street under pass for the 3rd time in the last 4 months.
 - B. Runoff onto Kansas – Working with BNSF
 - C. Crack Seal work this week
 - D. Reviewing operations to search for more effective solutions
 - E. Completed Snake Creek Ditch Cleanup - Removed 104 tons debris
11. Electric –
- A. Last Week - CODY station offline last week
 - Tap Changer repair (regulates voltage) - Under warranty; Also repaired fiber
 - B. CODY back online & Broadwater now offline - Planned work
 - C. Conference Call with Kevin Groves to discuss upcoming punchlist
12. Upcoming Meetings:
- A. February
 - Planning Commission Recommendation:
 1. Maverick's – Preliminary & Final Plats
 2. Rezone of Skateland
 3. Rezone of Brittan Building
 - EDPARC Recommendation:
 1. Funding of LB840 Application for Prairie Seed Project
 - Community Garden Ideas & Direction
 - Height of Grass/Weeds
 - B. March/April
 - Demolition Projects
13. Upcoming Calendar:
- Jan 22 @ 6:00pm Chamber Banquet: BTBHIA, You Betcha!
(Matt Coatney)
 - Jan 28 @ Noon Joint Community Group (Knight Museum)
 - Feb 24 & 25 LNM MidWinter Conference (Lincoln)
 - Feb 27 @ 7:00am Joint Meeting with County Commission

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- The next matter before Council was Resolution No. 14-08 authorizing the donation acceptance from the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department for new equipment to be used in the Alliance ambulances. Council was provided with the following background information:

[The Alliance Volunteer Fire Department Inc. (VFD) recently purchased a Zoll Auto-Pulse (Non-Invasive Cardiac Support Pump) and a Masimo RAD-57 CO-Oximeter through fund-raising efforts including the Miss Flame Pageant.

The Alliance VFD membership would like to donate to the City of Alliance Fire Department the two pieces of equipment for continued use on Alliance ambulances. These two pieces of equipment are already being used by the Fire Department and have proven to be valuable assets in providing quality emergency medical services.

Fire Chief Troy Shoemaker is recommending acceptance of this donation. Total cost of this donation is \$20,378.62. The Zoll Auto-Pulse had a purchase price of \$16,146.85 and the Masimo RAD-57 monitor was valued at \$4,231.77.]

A motion was made by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Seiler to approve Resolution No. 14-08, which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-08

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance operates an emergency medical and ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance Volunteer Fire Department membership has purchased and would like to donate a Zoll Auto-Pulse (Non-Invasive Cardiac Support Pump) and a Masimo RAD-57 CO-Oximeter to the City of Alliance for the Fire Department's use on ambulances; and

WHEREAS, The total value of the equipment is \$20,378.62; and

WHEREAS, The City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City of Alliance to accept the donation from the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department membership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the donation of a new Zoll Auto-Pulse (Non-Invasive Cardiac Support Pump) and a Masimo RAD-57 CO-Oximeter be accepted from the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alliance City Council on behalf of the Citizens of Alliance extends our sincere appreciation for their generous gift.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Lewis, Feldges, Benzel, Seiler, Yeager.

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Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

● Council was next presented with the Park Report for the upcoming year by Cultural and Leisure Services Director Shana Brown. The following is an outline of the presentation:

1. Park and Tree Board Involvement: Increase input and participation regarding project implementation and resource allocations. Encourage cooperation between the Park Foundation and Park and Tree Board to identify projects.
2. Laing Lake Improvements
 - a) Laing Lake Rehab: Submit grant funding request to reconfigure the lake bottom, eliminate water loss, remove sediment and organic material, stabilize shoreline, and develop aquatic habitat.
 - b) Fill Line Development: Engineers recommend that due to the shallow nature of the West basin, the larger fill line will need to be run to the east basin to ensure no additional damage is done to the liner. Estimated cost of materials and Labor is \$18,000.00 if work is completed in house.
 - c) Goose Dispatch: If we continue to fill the lake, goose populations will continue to return and pollute the lake. With open water it is impossible to keep goose populations at bay.
 - d) Structure Repairs: Repairs will be completed to the picnic structures and bridge.
3. Central Park Improvements:
 - a) Sunken Gardens Pillar Replacement: Working with local contractor to develop a comprehensive budget for pathway replacement, stair and retaining wall repair, and pillar replacement budget.
 - b) Playground Surfacing: Staff will be removing and replacing existing gravel playground crash surfacing with ground rubber crash surfacing.
 - c) Shelter House Improvements: The roof and one door have been replaced. New siding has been purchased and will be installed by staff as time allows. Staff also plans to repair damaged flooring and paint the interior.
4. Downtown Landscape Design: Because no landscape design or installation costs were included in the downtown improvements budget, City staff is working with All Seasons Landscape to design downtown landscape to be installed in the spring of 2014.
5. Bower Park Improvements:
 - a) Baseball Field Irrigation Upgrades: Staff is gathering quotes for completion of irrigation design in preparation for bidding a total irrigation replacement at Bower Baseball Field.
 - b) Landscape Improvements: As part of the irrigation upgrades, lines will be added in several locations surrounding the baseball field to allow the introduction of landscaping to improve the aesthetics of the facility.

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- c) Baseball Field Improvements: City staff is working with the Spartans Baseball group to complete field, backstop and facility upgrades.
 - d) Park Furnishing Improvements: New park furnishing such as benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles will be added to the east side of Bower Park.
6. Mowing Schedule Changes: With the adjustment in policy and height level of vegetation on city owned lots, mowing and hand trimming hours will increase significantly in 2014. Currently, to mow the areas highlighted in green once each week, we dedicate 70 man hours and two mowers.

Assistant City Manager Randy Waggener also provided Council with a Dashboard Presentation on the following items: quarterly sales tax receipts and annual motor vehicle city sales taxes, highway allocation, motor vehicle fees, billed electric and water usages and revenues, airport statistics, and online bill payments.

- Board vacancies were the final agenda item.

A motion was made by Councilman Seiler, which was seconded by Councilman Lewis to accept the resignation of Steve Stackenwalt and thank him for his service to the Planning Commission.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Lewis, Feldges, Benzel, Seiler, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Councilman Seiler announced that the City of Alliance continues to have vacancies on the Economic Development Plan Citizens Advisory Board, Planning Commission and a homemaker representative on the Police Advisory Board. Anyone interested in serving on these Boards should contact the City Clerk's Office. Information on all of the City Boards is also available on our web site, www.cityofalliance.net.

- Mayor Feldges stated, "there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 8:12 p.m."

(SEAL)

Fred Feldges, Mayor

Linda Jines, City Clerk