

October 7, 2014

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, October 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room, 1604 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on September 30, 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 October 7, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Feldges, Council Members, Benzel, Lewis and Yeager. Also present were City Manager Cox, Assistant City Manager Waggener, City Attorney Olsen and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Feldges read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- A motion was made by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Lewis to excuse Councilman Seiler from the meeting due to being out of town.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Yeager, Benzel, Feldges, Lewis.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- City Manager Cox introduced and welcomed John Sauers, our new Electric Journey Lineworker to the City Council.

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- Council next proclaimed the week of October 5-11 as Public Power Week with the following proclamation:

Proclamation Public Power Week

October 5 – 11, 2014

City of Alliance Electric Department Helps Our Community in Powerful Ways

WHEREAS, We, the citizens of Alliance, Nebraska place high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility and, as consumers and owners of our electric utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, The *Alliance Electric Department* provides our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates; and

WHEREAS, The *Alliance Electric Department* is a valuable community asset that contributes substantially to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness; and

WHEREAS, The *Alliance Electric Department* is a dependable and trustworthy institution whose local operation provides many consumer protections and continues to make our community a better place in which to live and work, as well as protecting the global environment;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the *Alliance Electric Department* will continue to work to bring lower-cost, safe, reliable electricity to community homes and businesses just as it has since 1911, the year when the utility was created to serve all the citizens of Alliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the week of October 5 – 11, 2014, be designated the 26th Annual Public Power Week in order to honor the *Alliance Electric Department* for its contributions to the community and to make its consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees more aware of its contributions to their well-being and how it makes their lives powerful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That our community joins hands with more than 2,000 other public power systems in the United States in this celebration of public power and recognition that the *Alliance Electric Department* is good for customers, business, the community and the nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Alliance to be affixed on this 7th day of October, 2014.

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- The Consent Calendar was the next item to be addressed by Council. Councilman Benzel made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – OCTOBER 7, 2014

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 18, 2014 and the Special Meeting, September 30, 2014.
2. Approval: Payroll and Employer Taxes for the period August 30, 2014 through September 12, 2014 inclusive: \$175,527.79 and \$12,340.83 respectively; and for September 13, 2014 through September 26, 2014 inclusive: \$173,356.65 and \$12,306.54 respectively.
3. Approval: Claims against the following funds for the period October 1, 2014 through October 3, 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; \$114,244.10.
4. Approval: The update of the Alliance Volunteer Fire Department by removing Brandon Bingham, Samantha Jo Jackson, Josh Riley.
5. Approval: The issuance of the following Contractor licenses:

Repair & Maintenance Limited & Specialty Cement & Masonry Master HVAC	Shank Roofing Services Aspen Contracting, Inc. Dan Warburton dba Warburton Masonry Jesse Henderson dba Source Gas Randy Coleman dba RLC Heating, Air & Appliance Repair
Journeyman HVAC	Seth Hulquist dba Source Gas Mark Hofmann dba Source Gas John Dahlberg dba Source Gas
Gas Fitter	Randy Coleman dba RLC Heating, Air & Appliance Repair Seth Hulquist dba Source Gas Mark Hofmann dba Source Gas John Dahlberg dba Source Gas
6. Approval: Resolution No. 14-110 authorizing the annual Contribution Agreement for the Heartland Expressway in the amount of \$3,200.
7. Approval: Resolution No. 14-111 authorizing the annual Contribution Agreement for the Keep Alliance Beautiful in the amount of \$30,000.

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8. Approval: Resolution No. 14-112 authorizing the transaction requested by Charter Communications VI, LLC as a result of the merger between Comcast Corporation and Time Warner Cable Inc. The corporate restructuring is for legal and tax reasons and will not change the services provided for the Alliance cable system.
9. Approval: To designate J.D. Cox as the City's representative for the Nebraska Cooperative Government (Keno) Annual Meeting which will be held on October 29, 2014.

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: Yeager, Benzel, Feldges, Lewis.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next agenda item was the Conflict Claim of Mayor Feldges of \$208.06 for travel and meal reimbursement while attending the Annual League Conference in North Platte, NE, September 24th-26th. A motion was made by Councilman Lewis to approve the reimbursement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benzel.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstaining: Feldges.

Motion carried.

- City Manager Cox gave his City Manager's Report in outline form:

1. Production Cost Adjustment:

- Oct: \$0.00658
- Sept: \$0.00183
- Aug: \$0.00187
- July: \$0.00177
- June: \$0.00317
- May: \$0.00312
- April: \$0.00600
- March: \$0.01000

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2. 10th Street Trail Project – not in this funding year
 - Did not have control of right of way
 - Requested NDOR study allowing stop light at 10th & Flack Avenues.
3. NDOR Heartland Expressway Public Hearing progress: 2016/2017 construction;
4. Library Repairs:
 - Immediate temporary shoring – complete (\$1200)
 - Phase 1 - Stabilizing work – obtaining bids (<\$20,000)
 - Phase 2 – Excavation on exterior of building – remove pad
 - Engineering (\$5600)
 - Final Report: \$1600
 - Bldg Envelope Repairs: \$2000
 - Intrusive Testing: \$2000
 - RFP: \$3500 (Will not need)
5. Streetscape – Phase 2 –
 - October 17th – Final NDOR Comments
 - October 24th – 100% Engineering Design Submittals (including request for March 30 Start Date)
 - February 5th – Bid Opening
 - February – March (Contracts and Submittals)
 - March 30th – Requested Start Date
 - Tentative construction schedule (95 working days) based on previous phase construction.
 - 1 month per half block
 - 2 weeks (10 working days) removal and installation of underground
 - 2 weeks (10 working days) concrete, paver installation
 - 1 week extra (5 working days) for each underground vaults
 - 1 week for incidentals (5 working days) for landscaping
 - July 31st – Substantial completion.
 - Requesting an earlier start date.
6. Carhenge this year: +47,000 visitors verified.
7. Upcoming Calendar:
 - Next week: LNM Conference
 - 10/1: NDOR Heartland Expressway Public Hearing
 - 10/8: Local Government Day as part of Business & Industry Day for Sophomores
 - 10/10: AOTB (YMCA)

• The third reading of Ordinance No. 2764, which will amend the Alliance Municipal Code regarding regulations for peddlers and solicitors was the next agenda item. Council was provided with the following background information:

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[The City of Alliance recently issued several Peddlers Licenses to individuals selling alarm systems to local residents by going door to door. The company involved has been conducting sales over the past several years and the City has received complaints regarding the tactics used to sell the systems and possible misrepresentations by the salesmen. As a prerequisite of issuing a permit, the City would like to ensure that Staff has the authority to conduct background checks on the peddlers for the protection of the public by ensuring the applicants are found to be persons of good moral character.

The proposed new language to be inserted within the Municipal Code is shown using the redline method in the attached document. Legal has also suggested one additional change in the new language, which is to remove "in business dealings" following "persons of good moral character." On second reading, it was the consensus of Council to add wording requiring the peddler or solicitor to carry their permit on their person and to show it when making sales presentations.]

A motion was made by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve the third reading of Ordinance No. 2764 which City Clerk Jines read by title.

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Benzel to include language that all individuals must have their issued license on person at all times.

Roll call vote on amendment with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Benzel, Lewis, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Roll call vote to approve the final reading of amended Ordinance No. 2764 with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Benzel, Lewis, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2764

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS AND AMENDING SECTION 18-248; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE ALLIANCE CODE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Section 18-248 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alliance, Nebraska is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 18-248. License required, fees, application.

No person shall deal as a solicitor or peddler as defined by this division without having procured a license as herein required, and no two or more persons shall deal under the same license as partners, agents, or otherwise. The license fee for a solicitor or peddler shall be as established by the city. The application for license shall be submitted to the city manager's office at least five days prior to the date of any solicitation or sale, and shall state the name of the applicant, permanent address for himself and the name and address of the person, firm or corporation represents, the nature and character of the property to be sold, whether sells and delivers the property directly to the purchaser, or whether solicits or takes orders for it by carrying samples or catalogs, the manner in which intends to make contact with the customers, and how intends to operate within the city.

Upon receipt of such application, the city manager or his designee shall cause the police chief to conduct such investigation of the applicant's moral character to be made as it deems necessary for the protection of the public with whom the applicant may deal. If, as result of such investigation, the applicant is found to be a person who is of good moral character in business dealings, the police chief shall authorize the issuance of a permit, through the City Clerk, who shall, upon payment of the prescribed permit fee, deliver the permit to the applicant. Such permit shall contain the signature of the issuing officer and shall show the name and address of the applicant, the kind of goods permitted to be sold thereunder, the amount of fee paid, the date of issuance and the length of time the permit shall be operative, and the license number and other identifying description of any vehicle used in such peddling. The Clerk shall keep a permanent record of all permits issued.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its approval, passage, and publication according to law.

Mayor Feldges stated, "the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 2764 has been concurred by a majority of all members elected to the Council, I declare it passed, adopted and order it published."

- Council next conducted a Public Hearing to consider the Class D Liquor License Application of Maverik Stores Inc. Council was provided with the following information:

[The City is in receipt of a Class D liquor license application from Maverik Stores, Inc., 1640 West 3rd Street. The license application is included in the packet. No disqualifiers came from a background check conducted by the Alliance Police Department.

HEARING PROCESS -

1. Mayor or council member announces agenda item.
2. Mayor opens public hearing and asks clerk what exhibits she has.
3. Clerk identifies application, checklist for 53-132, Chief's report, Community Development report, and other documents she may have received.
4. Mayor asks for a motion that the exhibits be received into the record, second and vote.
5. Mayor asks for those who are going to give testimony to stand and be sworn.
6. Mayor says "do you swear or affirm to tell the truth so help you God".
7. Individuals respond.
8. Those individuals should include the applicant who must prove to the council's satisfaction the elements on the top part of the checklist. They will also include individuals who may speak either in favor or against the application and police chief who will hit the high points of his report.
9. Mayor calls on applicant to make a presentation.
10. While applicant is still at the podium, the Mayor will call on the City Attorney for any questions and to council and himself for questions.
11. Mayor asks for others who wish to speak in favor of the application and follows the same process for questions.
12. Mayor the calls upon those who wish to speak against and follows the same process for questions.
13. Mayor then calls on the police chief for his comments.
14. Mayor asks if there is any other testimony.
15. Mayor closes the public hearing and asks for comment from the City Attorney.
16. Mayor asks for comment from council and himself.
17. Mayor asks for a motion.
18. The motion is either to make a positive or negative recommendation on the application to the Liquor Control and to reference the elements on the top of the checklist and ask staff to prepare Resolution for the Mayor's signature. (done after the fact so as not to affect council neutrality).
19. After a second, Mayor calls for a vote.]

Mayor Feldges stated "now is the date, time, and place to conduct a Public Hearing to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of the taxpayers relating to the Class D Liquor License Application of Maverik Stores, Inc. and opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis to accept the Exhibits which included the Application, Checklist for Section 53-132 R.R.S., and the Police Chief's Report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Benzel.

Roll call to accept the exhibits with the following results:

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Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Feldges, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Mayor Feldges swore in Holly Robb, Norma Bowen and Police Chief Kiss as individuals to testify regarding the application of the liquor license.

Holly Robb, Licensing Manager for Maverik Stores, Inc. was in attendance and presented a power point presentation to Council on the history of Maverik, the training employees receive, and the layout of the Maverik Store in Alliance.

Norma Bowen, 519 Toluca Avenue, the new local Manager for Maverik, was present and answered questions of City Council and the public. She also spoke about her experience with alcohol serving and her Nebraska alcohol training.

Jennifer Tollefson, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Area Supervisor for Maverik, was in attendance and will be responsible for monthly trainings at the Alliance Maverik. She also stated she will be on-site every two weeks and is available 24/7 if she needs to be contacted.

Alliance Police Chief John Kiss reported that he found nothing negative during his background checks and is impressed with the employee training that Maverik provides for their employees.

Hearing no further testimony, the Public Hearing closed at 7:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve Resolution No. 14-113 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-113

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA:

On October 7, 2014 the matter of the Class D Liquor License application of Maverik Stores, Inc, Alliance, NE, came on for consideration by the Council.

The following exhibits were offered and received:

- Exhibit 1 - Application of Maverik Stores, Inc., 1640 West 3rd Street, Alliance
- Exhibit 2 - City Council checklist for Section 53-132 R.R.S. (1984).
- Exhibit 3 - Written statement of Police Chief dated September 24, 2014.

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Witnesses were sworn and testimony was received in support of the Class D Liquor License at the public hearing on this date from Holly Robb and Norma Bowen. Police Chief Kiss testified on behalf of the City of Alliance.

Upon consideration of the evidence and the criteria to be considered by the City Council pursuant to law, the City Council finds as follows:

Applicant complies with the provisions of Section 53-131.01 R.R.S. (2003).

Applicant has met its burden with regard to the checklist that is provided by Section 53-132 R.R.S. (1984) and demonstrates a willingness and ability to properly manage the liquor license held by Maverik Stores, Inc., in conformance to the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act.

Based on the above findings, the City Council recommends to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission that the Class D Liquor License Application of Maverik Stores, Inc. at the premise described in the application be approved.

City Clerk shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Commission.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Benzel, Lewis, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 14-114 authorizing City Manager J.D. Cox to negotiate a one-year lease with Keep Alliance Beautiful for a building and surrounding area at the Alliance Landfill to be used for recycling purposes was the next matter before Council. Council was provided with the following information:

[Keep Alliance Beautiful, Inc. (KAB) has been notified that their lease on the recycling center building has been terminated. The lease was originally set to cease at September 30, 2014; however, has been extended to October 31, 2014. A recycling building is necessary to continue the recycling program as it presently operates in Box Butte County.

Alliance City Council adopted a resolution of support for KAB and the recycling program at its August 5, 2014 meeting. The action allowed KAB and the City to examine opportunities to provide space at the landfill specifically to accommodate recycling activities and storage and provide KAB with a supporting document to assist in seeking grant funding for operations and potential building construction. It also reiterates the City's commitment to recycling education and collection and financial support, as feasible.

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Staff has identified a vacant building at the Alliance Municipal Landfill directly across from the scale house that would be appropriate for housing of the recycle sorting operations. Additional ground space will be required for recycling trailers and storage containers. All improvements to the building (estimated at approximately \$25,000) would be the responsibility of KAB. (See the attached impact statement that includes the detailed costs.) Proposed building and land rentals would be at rates similar to the airport warehouse and ground rental rates, adjusted for inflation. An allowance for electric service would be specified in the agreement. Additionally, the agreement between the City and KAB would include agreed rates for services, such as baling of recycled materials. The City would continue to insure the building and KAB would be responsible for contents and liability coverage.

Housing of the recycling operations at the City landfill would require formal notification to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). City and KAB staff would be required to agree upon operating procedures that would address the flow of recycled materials and the establishment of restricted areas. The addition of recycling operations at the landfill could possibly affect the gate and scale operations, also.

City Staff is requesting authorization to finalize negotiations allowing KAB to house the recycling operations at the Alliance Municipal Landfill with a one-year lease being submitted to Council at the October 21 Council meeting. This short-term arrangement will allow both entities an opportunity to evaluate the partnership and plan for the future of the recycling program.]

Deb Dopheide, Keep Alliance Beautiful Director, was present to speak with Council regarding the intent for the buildings at the Alliance Landfill and how the leased property will be maintained by Keep Alliance Beautiful staff.

Ron Perry, Public Works Director addressed Council and stated his belief that the proposal would be a great benefit to the community and should work smoothly with our current operations.

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager, seconded by Councilman Benzel to amend Resolution No. 14-114 by removing "one-year" lease in the last paragraph to read "a" lease.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Benzel, Lewis, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

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A motion was made by Councilman Yeager, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve amended Resolution No. 14-114 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-114

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance owns and operates the Alliance Municipal Solid Waste Landfill which is permitted through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, Keep Alliance Beautiful desires to relocate their recycling facility as their current leased space is no longer available; and

WHEREAS, The City has a vacant building at the Alliance Municipal Solid Waste Landfill which appears to be acceptable for recycling sorting operations; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance believes that participating in a recycling program with Keep Alliance Beautiful is in the best interest of the citizens of Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that City Manager Cox is hereby authorized to negotiate a lease with Keep Alliance Beautiful to operate their recycling center at the Alliance Landfill.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Yeager.

Voting Nay: Feldges.

Motion carried.

- The next item for discussion was Resolution No. 14-115, which authorizes the lease transfer of a single office within the Alliance Learning Center from Chadron State College to Western Nebraska Community College. Council was provided with the following background information:

[Chadron State College (CSC) has leased a single office in the Alliance Public Library (Learning Center) since December 2009. The City received notice in August 2014 that CSC no longer desired to continue leasing space in the Learning Center. Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) has expressed an interest in assuming the 143 square feet into their present lease and has agreed to pay the same rate of \$6 per square foot that CSC had most recently paid. In addition, WNCC will also pay a prorated share of utilities for the added space.

A second amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between WNCC and the City has been prepared for approval by the Council.]

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A motion was made by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Lewis to approve Resolution No. 14-115 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-115

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has space in the Alliance Learning Center available for lease to educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Western Nebraska Community College currently leases space from the City and desires to modify the lease by adding to the space that it leases at the Alliance Learning Center; and

WHEREAS, City staff has negotiated a contract with Western Nebraska Community College to provide for the terms and conditions of Western Nebraska Community College occupying the new space within the Library/Attendance Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Lease Agreement with Western Nebraska Community College, a copy of which accompanies this resolution and is incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved by the City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, and the Mayor is authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Yeager, Feldges.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council next considered Resolution No. 14-116 which authorizes the Friends of Box Butte County RSVP to submit grants and receive donated materials from local merchants to make improvements at the Senior Center. Council was provided with the following background information:

[The Friends of Box Butte County RSVP (The Friends) would like to submit two Mission Store mini-grant proposals by the October 15, 2014 deadline. In addition, the Friends would like to complete negotiations for donated materials from Bloedorn Lumber for the building of a retaining wall on the east side of the Alliance Senior Center and a planter and signage materials for the south side of the Alliance Senior Center.

Proposal #1: Request for \$1,549 for the purchase and installation of a new copier/fax machine with a stand. The copier would be gifted to the Alliance Senior Center with provisions to include copy privileges to Senior Center patrons, Box Butte County RSVP/Handyman, Alliance Nutrition Site and other agencies who may rent office space at the Alliance Senior Center. Copy paper will be furnished by the agencies and patrons using the copier. The toner expenses will

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be split between the agencies using the copy machine with the majority of expenses being split between Box Butte County RSVP and Box Butte County Handyman.

Proposal #2: Request for \$1,200 for expenses associated with a Landscape Project designed to replace the cracked and crumbling retaining wall on the east side of the Alliance Senior Center (212 Yellowstone). The Landscape Project includes constructing a replacement retaining wall using landscape brick and includes building a planter on the south side of the building. The planter would require landscape brick, compost, a drip system and plants. The Project also includes building a sign to be installed on the south side of the Senior Center. The estimated Project total for materials is \$2,700. The Friends is in the process of negotiating with the manager of a local lumber company in an effort to obtain a commitment for \$1,500 for the remaining cost of the materials. The provisions include listing the name of the contributors on the Senior Center signage. In addition, provisions will include recruiting volunteer labor for all the work with the possible exception of the landscape brick work.

Proposal #3: Request for \$1,500 of materials from a local lumber store for building a replacement retaining wall on the east side of the Alliance Senior Center; a new planter with compost and drip system on the south side; and materials for a sign to be built and installed on the south side. The provisions include listing the name of the contributors on the Senior Center signage. In addition, provisions will include recruiting volunteer labor for all the work with the possible exception of the landscape brick work.]

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Yeager to approve Resolution No. 14-116 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-116

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance is the owner of the Senior Center which is located at 212 Yellowstone Avenue, Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of Box Butte County RSVP are requesting permission to apply for two Mission Store mini-grants and seek donations from a local merchant to perform improvements and acquire equipment for the benefit and use of the Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of Box Butte County RSVP are proposing two projects (1) the purchase of a copier, and (2) replacement of the retaining wall, landscaping/planter installation and new building signage; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of Box Butte County RSVP are proposing to provide the labor for the improvements; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance believes that this proposal is in the best interest of the citizens of Alliance.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Friends of Box Butte County RSVP are hereby authorized to pursue two Mission Store Mini Grants and donations from a local merchant for improvements at the City's Senior Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if successful in obtaining said funding and donations all proposed improvements will be performed in a manner that is consistent with the rules and regulations of the City and utilizing proper building standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that acknowledgement of contributors to these projects will be allowed on the new signage.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Yeager, Feldges.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next agenda item was the discussion of proposed modifications to the policies, procedures and fees of the Utility Customer Service Office.

The Finance Department has reviewed the policies, code and fees as a part of the service excellence initiative. The goals were to align the policies with current practice; enhance and streamline policy details; address billing delays criticized in City audits; recommend updated fees and update Municipal Code accordingly. The formal utility customer service office policies have remained unchanged since 2006 and most of the current fees and meter deposit rates were set in 1999.

The major policy changes will include the following:

Hang Tags. Hang tags are a courtesy notice (not specifically mentioned in policy or code) delivered to the residence or business the day prior to disconnect. Initially, the goal was to reduce the number of actual service disconnects. This practice is expensive to the City in terms of employee time, vehicle costs and supplies and has become a "crutch" for some residents routinely on the monthly list. It is proposed that hang tags be discontinued on December 1, 2014. Staff would be allowed to make courtesy calls to customers who appear on the delinquent list for the first time or where delinquent payments are unusual.

Waivers. Current practice allows customers to request an automatic ten-day extension prior to the delinquent date. Waivers are consistently used by many of the same customers every month to delay payment. The current contracts will still be allowed for just cause if approved by the Utilities Administration Services Director or his designee. Customers signing waivers through the remainder of the year will be notified of this change. It is proposed that waivers be discontinued as of January 1, 2015.

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Collection Timeline. Due dates will be reduced from one month to two weeks and the disconnect date will be twenty days earlier and set prior to the following month's billing. (See the attached comparison.) Note that those customers on the City's automatic payment plan would have later due dates without penalty. This change is proposed for billing cycles after May 1, 2015 in order to provide customers with adequate notice.

Meter Deposits. It is proposed that meter deposits be increased by \$50 for most all service classes. There would be an allowance to discount meter deposits by \$50 for those customers who enroll on the City's automatic payment plan and remain in good standing on their accounts. This change is proposed for new deposits beginning May 1, 2015.

Other Fees. Following are other fee changes being proposed as of May 1, 2015.

Fee	Current	Proposed
Reconnect Fee	30.00	50.00
Reconnect Fee (After Hours)	60.00	100.00
Late Fee	30.00	40.00
Return Check Fee	None	30.00

A complete copy of the proposed utility customer service office policies is attached.

No action was taken at this time

- The final agenda item was board vacancy announcements.

Council received a letter of resignation from Denise Clarke from the Alliance Housing Authority Board. A motion was made by Councilman Benzel, seconded by Councilman Lewis to accept the resignation for Denise Clark.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Yeager, Feldges.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Yeager to appoint Bridget L. Miller the Economic Development Plan Citizen Review Advisory Board with a term to expire December 31, 2017.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Benzel, Lewis, Yeager, Feldges.

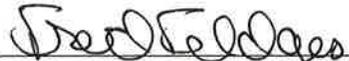
Voting Nay: None.

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Motion carried.

Mayor Feldges announced that the City of Alliance continues to have vacancies on the A-1 Downtown Improvement District Board and a School 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 8:53 p.m."


Fred Feldges, Mayor

(SEAL)


Linda S. Jines, City Clerk

October 7, 2014

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