

April 7, 2015

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015

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

The Alliance City Council met in a Regular Meeting, April 7, 2015 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 March 31, 2015. 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 Yeager opened the April 7, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Yeager, Council Members Feldges, Jones, Seiler, and Korber-Gonzalez. Also present were City Manager Cox, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Olsen and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Yeager read the Open Meetings Act Announcement.
- The first item before Council was the introduction of new City of Alliance Landfill employees: Eric Bignell, Baler Operator Clerk and Mike Miller, Landfill Operator.
- The Consent Calendar was the next item to be addressed by Council.

Councilman Jones made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Seiler to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

CONSENT CALENDAR – APRIL 7, 2015

1. Approval: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 17, 2015 and the Special Meeting, March 24, 2015.
2. Approval: Payroll and Employer Taxes for the period February 28, 2015 through March 13, 2015 inclusive: \$169,128.02 and \$11,913.95; and March 14, 2015 through March 27, 2015 inclusive: \$175,545.58 and \$12,299.33 respectively.

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3. Approval: Claims against all funds of the City of Alliance for the period March 11, 2015 through March 31, 2015 in the amount of \$290,022.22.

4. Approval: The issuance of the following Cemetery Certificates:

The West Half (W1/2) of Lot Thirty-six (36), Section One (1), Block Twenty-two (22), Alliance Cemetery Fourth Addition to Donald "Don" L. Edwards and Rosezella V. Edwards

The West Half (W1/2) of Lot Twenty (20), Section One (1), Block Twenty-seven (27), Alliance Cemetery Fourth Addition to Patricia Bauer and John Bauer

The West Half (W1/2) of Lot Twenty-one (21), Section One (1), Block Twenty-seven (27), Alliance Cemetery Fourth Addition to Judy Taylor and Jack Taylor

5. Approval: The following contractor licenses:

General Contractor

Jim Edwards	Quality Steel Services, Inc.
Laura Buettner	Buettner Construction

Repair & Maintenance

James M. Burk	Gator Drywall, Roofing & Repairs
Heath Lawrence	Lawrence Drywall LLC
Urbano Moreno	Moreno Construction
Rick Ridenour	R & A Services
Ronald D. McDermott	McDermott Electric

Master HVAC

Bill Schlapfer	Gering Valley Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Dennis Meng	Merritt, Inc.
Rashid Kadir	Tessier's Inc.
Michael Ries	Johnson Controls, Inc.

Journeyman HVAC

Marlyn Schultz	Johnson Controls, Inc.
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Gas Fitter

Jason Tritle	Tritle Plumbing, Inc.
Leo Tritle	Tritle Plumbing, Inc.
Dennis Meng	Merritt, Inc.

Master Plumber

Jeff Weber	J & V Drain & Sewer Cleaning
Jason Tritle	Tritle Plumbing, Inc.

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Leo Tritle	Tritle Plumbing, Inc.
Bill Schlapfer	Gering Valley Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Chuck Moenning	Chuck Moenning Plumber
Roger Scheidies	Bamford Inc.
Dennis Meng	Merritt, Inc.

Roofer

Paul Harper	Resistant Roofs
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Sign

Tom Cozad	Cozy, Inc. dba Creative Signs by Cozad
Eric Farrar	Rosenbaum's Signs & Outdoor Advertising, Inc.

Ground Work

Mark Chrisman	Mark Chrisman Trucking
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Tree Surgeon

Patrick H. Weber	Weber Tree Services
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6. Approval: The *Special Events Request for Use of Public Facilities, Parks, Streets of Alliance Berean Church* on Friday, May 8, 2015. The group is requesting the use of Central Park to conduct a youth event (large group game with music and food) between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
7. For Your Information: The Alliance City Council adopted Resolution No. 14-65 on June 3, 2014 which authorized the acceptance of a three year Grant Award for the continuation of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The time period for the grant is July 1, 2014 through June 20, 2017. The City is now submitting the required paperwork for the second year of the award with an estimated funding level of \$41,001.00.

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: Feldges, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez, Jones, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council then had two proclamations for presentation.

The following proclamation was presented by Mayor Ralph Yeager to encourage volunteerism and to thank those who serve and give back to their community. Accepting the proclamation was Terry Grosz, Beth Bourn, Joyce Christensen, Neoma Clark, and Bob Hunter.

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, volunteer service is a hallmark of American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs; and

WHEREAS, national volunteer service participants address the most pressing challenges facing our cities, from tutoring students for K-12 success to supporting veterans and military families to providing food distribution assistance to helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, national volunteer service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, national volunteer service participants serve in more than 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national volunteer service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, national volunteer service represents a unique partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, national service volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the mayors across the country to recognize the impact of volunteer service on the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Volunteer Service on April 7, 2015.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Ralph Yeager, Mayor of Alliance, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2015, as National Volunteer Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of volunteer service; to thank those who serve and give back to their communities.

Brandy Dahlberg, Alliance Police Department Dispatch Supervisor, was in attendance to accept the second proclamation which follows in its entirety:

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; Emergencies can occur at anytime that require police, fire or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS; When an emergency occurs that prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS; The safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependant upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Alliance Communications Center; and

WHEREAS; Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS; Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers and firefighters by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety; and

WHEREAS; Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Alliance Police Department have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS; Each Public Safety Telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, does announce and proclaim to all citizens the week of April 12 – 18, 2015, as

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

and encourages all citizens to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the Public Safety Telecommunicators whose diligence and professionalism keep our City and community safe.

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 April in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.

- City Manager Cox gave his City Manager's Report which follows in outline form:
 1. Municipal Equilization Fund (State Aid to Municipalities)
 - 2014: \$318K
 - 2015: \$312K
 - 2016: \$270K (13% decrease)
 - Overall funding increase from \$19M to \$21M
 2. Airport Rejuvenation Project
 - June 8 - Kickoff

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- Project Completion Goal is the first or second week of September.
 - 3. Electric Supt job search
 - 4. Carhenge: 61,644 visitors for one year, ended March 31! (2.4 passengers/vehicle)
 - 5. Planning Commission is working on Comprehensive Plan
 - Next meeting: Energy Component addition
 - PC next to address Community Appearance section of Comp Plan
 - 6. Project Snapshots:
 - 10th Street Property Acquisition – Progressing on final 2
 - Affordable Care Act: Making provisions to comply with federal law
 - Laing Lake: Late summer/early Fall commencement; reduced water level
 - 7. Budget & Strategic Planning
 - Budget schedule ... enclosed in your MyBoardPacket
 - Strategic Planning Session around 4/28?
 - Staff conducting goal & initiative setting
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- Evert Smith, 123 Yellowstone Avenue, was in attendance to address Council and discuss the City water and sewer line conditions south of 3rd Street. Mr. Smith demonstrated to Council the condition of the water pipe in his neighborhood indicating an opening that should be one inch in diameter is now about the size of a pencil eraser due to mineral build-up. He informed Council that he has replaced the water service to three properties that he owns in the area. No action was taken at this time. Mr. Smith stated he would be back to discuss the sewer situation at a future meeting.
 - Council was next presented a Membership Distribution check form ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy) in the amount of \$13,249.00 and signed a proclamation encouraging residents to select ACE as their provider of natural gas.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy is a community-owned and not-for-profit natural gas supplier made up of 72 Nebraska member communities including the City of Alliance; and

WHEREAS, ACE was formed in 1998 to provide competition in the Choice Gas program in helping natural gas customers get the lowest price possible and keeping money in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The mission of ACE is to offer competitive rates and work to keep the cost of natural gas as low as possible for all consumers; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance received \$13,249.00 in revenue return from ACE during March of 2015 with total revenue returns to the City of \$99,155 since the inception of ACE; and

WHEREAS, The City Manager has recommended these funds be utilized to enhance the quality of life for our citizens by financing improvements to the park system.

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NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, encourages the Citizens of Alliance to consider selecting ACE as their natural gas supplier during the Choice Gas selection period which begins April 10th and runs through April 23rd, 2015.

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 April in the year of the Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.

- The next agenda item was the second reading of Ordinance No. 2770 which will amend the Alliance Municipal Code with regard to the A-1 Downtown Improvement Board's ability to expend their funds. Council was provided with the following information:

[The City of Alliance Municipal Code establishes two Business Improvement Districts (A-1 and A-2). The current Code limits the use of revenue to very specific items included in the "charter" at the time of the creation of the Districts that are more restrictive than those allowed by Nebraska State Statute (19-4019). Use of A-1 BID revenue is limited to creation of public parking and off-street parking facilities; provision of handicapped-accessible public restrooms; purchase and upkeep of bicycle racks and Christmas lighting and decorations. Use of A-2 BID revenue is limited to maintenance of flowers and shrubs in islands and pods; maintenance of ornamental lighting fixtures; and litter control including maintenance of trash receptacles and trash disposal.

The Nebraska Statute details ten broad uses for revenue generated in business improvement districts as follows:

- (1) The acquisition, construction, maintenance, and operation of public off-street parking facilities for the benefit of the district area;
- (2) Improvement of any public place or facility in the district area, including landscaping, physical improvements for decoration or security purposes, and plantings;
- (3) Construction or installation of pedestrian shopping malls or plazas, sidewalks or moving sidewalks, parks, meeting and display facilities, bus stop shelters, lighting, benches or other seating furniture, sculptures, trash receptacles, shelters, fountains, skywalks, and pedestrian and vehicular overpasses and underpasses, and any useful or necessary public improvements;
- (4) Leasing, acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, extending, maintaining, or repairing parking lots or parking garages, both above and below ground, or other facilities for the parking of vehicles, including the power to install such facilities in public areas, whether such areas are owned in fee or by easement, in the district area;
- (5) Creation and implementation of a plan for improving the general architectural design of public areas in the district;

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- (6) *The development of any public activities and promotion of public events, including the management and promotion and advocacy of retail trade activities or other promotional activities, in the district area;*
- (7) Maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of any improvements or facilities authorized by the Business Improvement District Act;
- (8) Any other project or undertaking for the betterment of the public facilities in the district area, whether the project be capital or noncapital in nature;
- (9) Enforcement of parking regulations and the provision of security within the district area; and
- (10) Employing or contracting personnel, including administrators for any improvement program under the act, and providing for any service as may be necessary or proper to carry out the purpose of the act.

Promotion of the downtown business districts is not specifically detailed in the current Code; however, in practice funds have been budgeted from the A-1 District revenues dating back to at least the late 1990s for promotional activities of Historic Main Street. The A-1 and A-2 Boards have expressed the desire to expand promotional efforts in the downtown districts and have included “promotion” as a key goal in their 2014-15 goals and objectives. Inasmuch, the Boards voted unanimously at their February 24th meeting to recommend that the City Council amend City Code to adopt the same uses as permitted in State Statute.

At the March 17th Council meeting, the Ordinance was amended to add only the promotional activities as described in item (6) of the allowed uses of revenue and only to the Code for the A-1 District. In light of the pending promotional opportunity discussed in a separate resolution before the City Council, the Boards are respectfully requesting the waiving of three readings of the proposed ordinance.]

A motion was made by Councilman Seiler, seconded by Mayor Yeager to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2770. City Clerk Jines read the ordinance by title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2770

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO LICENSES, TAXATION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS; OCCUPATION TAX GENERALLY AND AMENDING SECTION 18-34; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE ALLIANCE CODE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 18-34 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alliance, Nebraska is hereby amended to read as follows:

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Sec. 18-34. Same—Use of revenue.

The revenue derived from the district shall be used for any one or more of the purposes for the following:

- (1) The creation and implementation of a plan to furnish adequate public parking facilities within the district;
- (2) The creation and implementation of a plan to acquire, construct, maintain and operate off street parking facilities for the benefit of the district;
- (3) Public restroom facilities that are handicapped accessible;
- (4) Bicycle racks;
- (5) New Christmas lighting and decorations to be used within the district;
- (6) The development of any public activities and promotion of public events, including the management and promotion and advocacy of retail trade activities or other promotional activities, in the district area.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Feldges, seconded by Councilman Korber-Gonzalez to suspend the statutory rule requiring three separate readings of Ordinance No. 2770.

Roll call vote to waive the statutory reading with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Jones, Yeager, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 2770 on final reading with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez, Jones, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Mayor Yeager stated, “the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 2770 has been concurred by a majority of all members elected to the Council, I declare it passed, adopted and order it published.”

Following the approval to allow for promotional use of the A-1 Downtown Improvement Funds Council then considered Resolution No. 15-19. The following background information was provided for Council’s consideration:

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Annie Creek Productions (ACP) of Spearfish, SD first offered their services as an event management company to the Alliance Chamber of Commerce in early 2014. Annie Creek specializes in promoting downtown business districts through weekly organized concert events throughout the summer months. Their proven formula has resulted in successful events in the following area cities that have brought new life into the downtown areas.

Hometown Thursdays - Belle Fourche, SD
The Main Event - Newcastle, WY
Bands on Bordeaux - Chadron, NE
Downtown Friday Nights - Spearfish, SD
Black Hills Bluegrass Bash - Deadwood, SD

Annie Creek provides a roadmap to planning the community events including financial planning; organization management; leadership and volunteer recruitment and training; sponsorship solicitation and event promotion. There appears to be widespread local support for the summer concerts with Historic Main Street Director Holly Heath willing to serve as the primary contact.

Annie Creek services would be secured through a three-year contract valued at \$26,725 but discounted for Alliance to \$16,000 at the same amount as offered last year. Funding of the upfront charges is being sought through a BNSF grant, Historic Main Street contribution and Business Improvement District (BID) funding of \$5,000. Weekly commercial sponsorships of \$1,500 to \$2,000 would finance the actual concert events. Annie Creek has suggested a schedule of four to eight weekly concerts throughout the summer with six concerts being proposed for Alliance for the first year. The events have tentatively been scheduled on Friday nights from 6 to 9 PM starting July 10 and ending August 21. Food vendors will be allowed to make the events more family-friendly. Projections would indicate gatherings between 10% and 50% of the population with increased merchant sales and related sales tax revenue. Historic Main Street will provide the insurance coverage for the events and Council will receive street closure requests at a later date as plans are finalized.

The combined A-1 and A-2 BID Boards met on February 24th and unanimously voted to recommend to City Council the approval of the \$5,000 funding request from BID funds contingent upon the modification of the City Code and commitment of other necessary funding. Additional budget authority of \$7,500 was included in the 2014-15 approved budget with only an internal budget transfer to the promotions account necessary.]

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Holly Heath, Main Street Director informed the City Council that the group has received approval for funding from BNSF for this activity.

Motion was made by Councilman Feldges, which was seconded by Councilman Seiler to approved Resolution No. 15-19 providing funding from the A-1 Downtown Improvement Board to Main Street for the Annie Creek Concert Series services as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-19

WHEREAS, The A-1 and A-2 Downtown Improvement Boards are under the City's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, The A-1 and A-2 Downtown Improvement Boards at their Special Meeting, February 24, 2015 authorized making a recommendation to the City Council for the expenditure of \$5,000 to be contributed towards a payment to Annie Creek Productions for a Summer Concert Series; and

WHEREAS, Funding is available for this expenditure contingent upon approval of the proposed amendment to the Alliance Municipal Code to allow such an expenditure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that an expenditure of \$5,000 to be contributed towards a payment to Annie Creek Productions for a Summer Concert Series on behalf of the A-1 and A-2 Downtown Improvement Boards is hereby approved.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Kober-Gonzalez, Yeager, Seiler, Feldges.

Voting Nay: Jones.

Motion carried.

- The next agenda item was the second reading of Ordinance No. 2771 which will amend the City of Alliance's Classification Plan. Council was provided with the following background information:

[The Finance Department will have a vacant full-time Customer Service Clerk position as of April 3, 2015. The position is presently shared between the Utility Customer Service and Accounting areas and Staff is recommending the hiring of two part-time employees. The Utility Customer Service Clerk I position would be at 25 hours per week and the proposed Account Clerk I position would be scheduled at 20 hours per week. This will allow each new employee to receive part-time employee benefits (paid holidays, vacation and sick leave on a pro-rata basis). There will be ample budgeted funds to cover the additional .13 hours as full-time benefits will cease and starting wages will be at a lower rate. This change will also allow the new employees to focus on their diverse assigned work

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areas. The revised Authorized Strength of the City increases by .13 FTE to 97.46 FTE.

The attached ordinance will adopt the amended Classification Plan to add the Account Clerk I position and the attached resolution will update the title on the Authorized Strength document. Staff is requesting waiving of three readings to allow posting of the position to expedite the hiring process.]

A motion was made by Councilman Seiler, seconded by Councilman Korber-Gonzalez to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2771. City Clerk Jines read the ordinance by title which follows in its entirety:

ORDINANCE NO. 2771

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REVISED CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA.

WHEREAS, Section 16-310 of R.R.S. 1943 authorizes the Mayor and Council to establish the compensation for employees and officers by stating that "The officers and employees in cities of the first class shall receive such compensation as the mayor and council shall fix by ordinance;" and,

WHEREAS, The Alliance City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget which included funds for a revised Classification Plan.

WHEREAS, The City Manager is requesting that a certain position be added to the Classification Plan of the City of Alliance.

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

SECTION 1. That the Classification Schedule for the City of Alliance dated effective October 11, 2014 is hereby amended and the following stated position is classified as follows:

Job Title	Grade
Account Clerk I	210

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

Motion by Councilman Feldges, seconded by Councilman Seiler to suspend the statutory rule requiring three separate readings of Ordinance No. 2771.

Roll call to suspend three readings with the following results:

Voting Aye: Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager, Seiler, Feldges.

Voting Nay: Jones.

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Motion carried.

Roll call vote on the final reading of Ordinance No. 2771 with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez, Jones, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Mayor Yeager stated, “the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 2771 has been concurred by a majority of all members elected to the Council, I declare it passed, adopted and order it published.”

Following the approval of the amended City of Alliance Classification Plan, Council then considered Resolution No. 15-20 which will modify the 2014-15 Authorized Strength authorization by removing one full time position in the Finance Department and adding a 25 hour per week part-time employee in the Utility Office and a 20 hour per week part-time employee in the Accounting Office.

Motion was made by Councilman Seiler, which was seconded by Councilman Feldges to approved Resolution No. 15-20 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-20

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance utilizes the Council-Manager form of government, in which the City Manager acts as the Chief Executive Officer for the City; and

WHEREAS, The City Manager, appointed by the City Council and serving at their pleasure, is responsible for planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, researching, and budgeting the operations of the City in order to implement Council policies in an efficient and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, To implement the policies of the City Council the City Manager has to be able to hire the necessary employees to fulfill the obligations of the City of Alliance to the citizens of Alliance; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance needs to account for, track and budget the expenditures for employees; and

WHEREAS, The budget is directly related to the number of employees that are authorized to be hired by the City of Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, that the City approve and adopt the “Total Authorized Strength” as follows:

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General Fund			
<u>Administration</u>		<u>Fire</u>	
City Manager	1.00	Fire Chief	1.00
City Clerk	1.00	Firefighter/EMT	1.00
Exec Admin Asst/Public Info Officer	1.00	Temporary Wages (\$1,000)	
Administrative Secretary	0.50	Total	2.00
Total	3.50		
<u>Police Administration</u>		<u>Ambulance</u>	
Police Chief	1.00	Assistant Fire Chief	1.00
Police Lieutenant	1.00	Firefighter/EMT	1.00
Executive Secretary	1.00	Total	2.00
Total	3.00		
<u>Police Operations</u>		<u>Animal Control</u>	
Police Sergeants	4.00	Animal Cont/Comm Service Officer	0.75
Police Officers I & II	10.00	Total	0.75
Total	14.00		
<u>Police Support Services</u>		<u>Facility Maintenance</u>	
Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor	1.00	Public Works Director	0.05
Public Safety Dispatchers	5.00	Facilities Maintenance Worker	1.00
Total	6.00	Total	1.05
<u>Code Enforcement & Nuisance Abatement</u>		<u>Library</u>	
Building and Code Inspector	1.00	Cultural & Leisure Services Director	0.10
Administrative Secretary	0.50	Administrative Secretary	0.10
Animal Cont/Comm Service Officer	0.25	Library Director	1.00
Total	1.75	Librarians	
<u>Community Development</u>		Children's/Youth Services	1.00
Community Development Director	0.50	Outreach/Adult Services	0.63
Administrative Secretary	0.50	Technical Services	1.00
Total	1.00	Library Clerks	1.00
<u>Cemetery</u>		Library Pages	1.00
Cultural & Leisure Services Director	0.10	Total	5.83
Administrative Secretary	0.07	<u>Museums</u>	
Cemetery Maintenance Worker	1.00	Cultural & Leisure Services Director	0.35
Seasonal Wages (\$14,500)		Administrative Secretary	0.30
Total	1.17	Museum Director	1.00
<u>Swimming Pool</u>		Museum Assession Clerk	0.75
Cultural & Leisure Services Director	0.10	Museum Collection Clerk	0.50
		Museum Project Support Clerk	0.50
		Cook	0.25

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Administrative Secretary	0.20	Seasonal Wages (\$3,000)	
Seasonal Wages (\$55,000)		Total	3.65
Total	0.30		
<u>Tourism and Carhenge</u>			
		Visitors Bureau Director	1.00
		Seasonal Wages (\$11,000)	
		Total	1.00
<u>Parks</u>			
Cultural & Leisure Services Director	0.30		
Administrative Secretary	0.25		
Parks Foreman	1.00		
Parks Maintenance Workers	3.20		
Seasonal Wages (\$28,000)			
Total	4.75		
		Total General Fund (Excl. Internal Services)	51.75

General Fund-Internal Services			
<u>Finance</u>		<u>Personnel</u>	
Assistant City Mgr/Finance Director	1.00	Human Resource Director	1.00
Account Clerk II	2.00	Administrative Secretary	0.50
Account Clerk I	0.50	Total	1.50
Total	3.50		
<u>Technology</u>		Total Internal Services	
Community Development Director	0.50		
Total	0.50		
		Total General Fund and Internal Services	57.25

Enterprise Funds			
<u>Electric Administration</u>		<u>Refuse Collection</u>	
Electric Superintendent	1.00	Public Works Director	0.10
Administrative Secretary	0.33	Refuse Collection Drivers	2.00
Total	1.33	Total	2.10
<u>Electric Transmission</u>		<u>Refuse Disposal</u>	
Scada Management	1.00	Public Works Director	0.15
Seasonal Wages (\$4,000)		Landfill Supervisor	1.00
Total	1.00	Landfill Operator	1.00
		Landfill Baler Operator Clerk	2.00
		Seasonal Wages (\$4,000)	
		Total	4.15
<u>Electric Urban Distribution</u>		<u>Water Distribution</u>	
Electric Line Crew Chief	0.55	Public Works Director	0.25
Electric Journey Line Worker	2.20	Water/Sewer Maintenance Workers	3.25
Electric Line Apprentice	1.10	Administrative Secretary	0.17
Total	3.85	Seasonal Wages (\$4,000)	
<u>Electric Rural Distribution</u>			
Electric Line Crew Chief	0.45		

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Electric Journey Line Worker	1.80	Total	3.67
Electric Line Apprentice	0.90		
Total	3.15		
<u>Sewer</u>		<u>Water Treatment</u>	
Public Works Director	0.20	Water Foreman	0.50
Sewer Foreman	0.50	Water/Sewer Maintenance Worker	0.75
Water/Sewer Maintenance Worker	1.00	Total	1.25
Administrative Secretary	0.17		
Seasonal Wages (\$4,000)			
Total	1.87		
		Total Enterprise Funds (Excl. Internal Services) 22.37	

Enterprise Fund-Internal Services			
<u>Utility Customer Service</u>		<u>Warehouse</u>	
Utilities Admin. Services Director	1.00	Inventory Purchasing Clerk	1.00
Computer Operator	1.00	Total	1.00
Customer Service Clerk II	1.00		
Customer Service Clerk I	0.63		
Total	3.63		
		Total Enterprise Internal Services 5.63	

<u>Meter Reading</u>	
Meter Readers	1.00
Total	1.00

Other Funds			
<u>Airport</u>		<u>Streets</u>	
Airport Manager	1.00	Public Works Director	0.25
Airport Maintenance Superintendent	1.00	Street Foreman	1.00
Airport Maintenance Worker I	1.00	Street Maintenance Workers	4.00
Total	3.00	Administrative Secretary	0.33
		Seasonal Wage (\$8,000)	
		Total	5.58
<u>Golf</u>			
Cultural & Leisure Services Director	0.05		
Administrative Secretary	0.08		
Golf Course Superintendent	1.00		
Golf Course Maintenance Worker II	1.00		
Seasonal Wages (\$12,000)			
Total	2.13		
		Total Other Funds 12.21	

RSVP

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RSVP Director	0.77
RSVP Clerk	0.25
Total	<u>1.02</u>
<u>Handyman</u>	
RSVP Director	0.23
RSVP Clerk	0.25
Total	<u>0.48</u>

General Fund	51.75
General Fund Internal Services	
Enterprise Funds	28.00
Other Funds	12.21
Total	<u>97.46</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to hire employees for the City of Alliance as set forth in the "Total Authorized Strength."

Roll call vote Resolution No. 15-20 with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez, Jones, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council next discussed Ordinance No. 2768 which will amend the Alliance Municipal Code to allow publicly owned and operated community buildings, public museums, public libraries and churches in Rural Residential Zoning Districts. Ordinance No. 2768 is before Council on third reading and will approve the amendment. Council was provided with the following information:

[Iglesia Bethel requested the City of Alliance to consider adding churches as a Permitted Use in Section 115-97 of the City Municipal Code dealing with Rural Residential Districts. The church is anticipating an expansion in the near future and was considering the purchase of property around the outer areas of the City limits that are zoned Rural Residential. Properties in the Rural Residential District are typically larger in size than their other Residential and Commercial counterparts. This makes the property more attractive for the church as it would allow for future expansion should their congregation needs change.

Churches are permitted uses in all other types of residential and commercial zoning in Alliance. There is already a church in the Rural Residential Zoning District along Emerson Avenue and it does not appear to have had a negative impact on the intent of the zoning district. Churches in rural residential types of zoning are not uncommon. Churches are allowed in rural residential types of zoning in Scottsbluff, Sidney, North Platte, McCook and Nebraska City, among others. Conforming Lots in Rural Residential areas are required to be a minimum 2.5 acres which is enough for a large structure, such as a church building and its necessary appurtenances such as parking lots, and allows for future expansion.

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Legal opinion is that there is no reason a church could not be included in Rural Residential Zoning. As a matter of fact, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person Act requires that churches be treated the same as non-religious assemblies and institutions. So anywhere the City allows a community center, theater or other facility for non-religious assembly, it must allow a church.

The City of Alliance Planning Commission held a public hearing for the addition of churches as permitted uses in the Rural Residential Zoning District at their regular February 10th, 2015 meeting. The Planning Commission recommended adding “publicly owned and operated community buildings, public museums, public libraries” along with churches for two reasons to the Rural Residential District code. Their first reason for adding all Permitted Uses was to keep the language the same as it is in the other residential zoning districts and the second is to avoid adding other Uses identified at a later date.

The City of Alliance Planning Commission voted to recommend and staff concurs that the Alliance City Council amend Section 115-97 of the Alliance Municipal Code, titled RR, Rural Residential District, adding “publicly owned and operated community buildings, public museums, public libraries, and churches” as Permitted Uses.]

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager, seconded by Councilman Seiler to approve the third reading of Ordinance No. 2768, which title was read by Clerk Jines and the ordinance follows in its entirety:

ORDINANCE NO. 2768

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR) ZONING DISTRICT AND AMENDING 115-97; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE ALLIANCE CODE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 115-97 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alliance, Nebraska is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 115-97. RR, Rural Residential District.

- (a) *Scope and intent.* This section applies to district RR. The RR, Rural Residential District is intended to provide a transition from agriculture and ranching to low density residential development. This district is intended to accommodate larger residential estates with accompanying agricultural uses that do not conflict with residential uses.
- (b) *Permitted uses.*

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- (1) Animals, except the number of animals shall not exceed a density of more than 1.0 animal units per acre.
- (2) Dwellings, one-family.
- (3) Public parks and playgrounds, including public recreation or service buildings within such parks.
- (4) Railroad rights-of-way not including railroad yards.
- (5) Stable, private.
- (6) Publicly owned and operated community buildings, public museums, public libraries and churches.

(c) *Conditional uses.*

- (1) Golf courses and clubhouses and uses customarily accessory thereto, except miniature golf, driving ranges and other similar activities operated as a business.
- (2) Towers, telecommunications facilities, and antennas as permitted in chapter 109.
- (3) Reservoirs, wells, towers, filter beds, or water supply plants.
- (4) Buildings, structures, and premises for public utility services, or public service corporations, which buildings or uses the council, after report of the city planning commission, deems reasonably necessary for public convenience or welfare.
- (5) Confinement of animal units where the density of units exceeds the allowable standard described in this section or where any other animal unit condition not described in section 115-96 is proposed.
- (6) Wind-driven electric generators with prior approval of the city electrical engineer.
- (7) Irrigation wells and associated buildings and equipment, customarily incidental to the principal use of the property, only if approval is granted by the water superintendent.

(d) *Performance standards.*

(1) *Area and bulk regulations.*

Use	Minimum Lot Size	Minimum Lot Width	Minimum Number of Dwelling Units	Setbacks (feet)				Maximum Height (feet)	Maximum Building Separation (feet)
				Front	Rear	Side	Side Street		
Dwelling (single-family)	2½ acres	150 feet	1	50	50	15	50	30	6
Accessory building	—	—	—	50	5	5	5	30	—

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Minimum dwelling size: 800 square feet.

(2) *Permitted accessory uses.*

- a. Sheds.
- b. Garages.
- c. Barns.
- d. Silos.
- e. Home occupations in conformance with section 115-171
- f. Signs as permitted in chapter 111
- g. Off-street parking and loading serving a principal use. All off-street parking shall be located on the same lot as the principal use. See section 115-173
- h. Fences as permitted in section 115-172
- i. Temporary construction, grading, and demolition activities which are necessary and incidental to the development of facilities on the same lot, or on another of several lots being developed at the same time.
- j. Temporary conduct of a real estate sales office which is necessary and incidental to, and located on the site of, a subdivision being developed into five or more lots.
- k. Open area devoted to decorative paving, swimming pools, tennis courts, and other similar uses, located on the same lot as the principal use.
- l. A single trailer, camper, motor home or a boat, incidental to and on the same lot as principal residential uses, but only if the trailer, camper, motor home, or boat is not intended for habitation while it is on the lot, subject to the setback provisions in section 115-170(e).
- m. Television, radio receiving and transmitting equipment, and satellite dishes as permitted by chapter 109, subject to the setback provisions in section 115-170(e) and not exceeding 60 feet in height.

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

Roll call vote on the second reading of Ordinance No. 2768 with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager.

Abstain: Jones*.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

*Councilman Jones stated he abstained from voting as he is on the Board of the non-conforming church.

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Mayor Yeager stated, “the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 2768 has been concurred by a majority of all members elected to the Council, I declare it passed, adopted and order it published.”

- The third reading of Ordinance No. 2769 which will amend the current electric rates as recommended by Phil Euler with the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, was the next item for Council’s consideration. Council was provided with the following information:

[Mr. Phil Euler (Manager of Engineering with Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, known as NMPP) has completed a review for the midpoint of the four-year rate study contract with NMPP and will be present to review the information. The recommendation as a result of the study is to increase rates on average by 9% on May 1, 2015 with average increases of 1% projected in subsequent years beginning April 1, 2016. The proposed rate changes for 2015 are proposed for May 1, 2015 to allow for three readings of the ordinance. As a result, the authorized PCA of one cent will remain in affect for the month of April.

The recommended rates are impacted by the following assumptions:

- Energy consumption is projected to increase annually by 1.4%.
- The proposed rates encompass special MEAN assessments (RITA and PEAs) from the past as well as the revised purchased power rate increases as a result of MEAN’s recent wholesale rate restructuring. Greater percentage increases are noted in the customer charge with generally smaller percentage increases in the energy rates.
- Transfers to General Fund are limited to a maximum increase of 1% per year with the overall contribution rate decreasing from 12% to 10% over the next five years.
- Anticipated capital budgets were included in the model at about one-half of the total. Debt is included for funding of the anticipated automated remote metering system and may be necessary if actual capital projects are more aggressive than in the past.
- Minimum cash reserves are maintained in accordance with debt covenants as well as recommended standards.

The detailed executive summary is attached. The proposal calls for the highest increases in May 2015 of 12.2% for Rural Three Phase and 12.0% for Irrigation. The increases in the largest revenue-producing categories are 8.7% for Urban Residential and 10.1% for Large Power consumers. April 2016 increases range from the high of 2.0% for the Irrigation to a low of .4% for Security Lights.]

A motion was made by Councilman Feldges, seconded by Councilman Jones to approve the third reading of Ordinance No. 2769. City Clerk Jines read the ordinance by title which follows in its entirety:

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ORDINANCE NO. 2769

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ALL RATE SCHEDULE CLASSIFICATIONS OF ELECTRIC ENERGY RATES, REPEALING PORTIONS OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE CHANGES HEREIN AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

SECTION 1. Staff from the City's Electric and Finance Departments has prepared amendments to all rate schedule classifications of electric energy rates resulting from the findings of the Cost of Service and Rate Design Study conducted by the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool for submission to the City Council.

SECTION 2. The City Council has received and reviewed the proposed changes and finds such changes to be in the best interest of the City of Alliance and should be therefore adopted. All is hereby amended with an effective date of this ordinance, in the following particulars:

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SERVICE ON RESIDENTIAL RATE SCHEDULE (CLASS 1)

1. Urban Residential Rates: (within corporate limits)

Monthly Customer Charge	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
	\$18.00	\$18.90
<u>Summer</u>		
First 600 kWh@	\$.1082 per kWh	\$.1082 per kWh
Excess kWh @	\$.1082 per kWh	\$.1082 per kWh
<u>Winter</u>		
First 600 kWh @	\$.1082 per kWh	\$.1082 per kWh
Excess kWh @	\$.0882 per kWh	\$.0882 per kWh

2. Rural Residential Rates: (outside corporate limits)

Monthly Customer Charge	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
	\$24.80	\$26.30
<u>Summer</u>		
First 600 kWh @	\$.1082 per kWh	\$.1082 per kWh
Excess kWh @	\$.1082 per kWh	\$.1082 per kWh
<u>Winter</u>		
First 600 kWh @	\$.1082 per kWh	\$.1082 per kWh
Excess kWh @	\$.0882 per kWh	\$.0882 per kWh

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RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SERVICE ON GENERAL SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE (CLASS 2)

1. General Service Urban Rates Single Phase: (inside corporate limits)

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
Monthly Customer Charge	\$22.25	\$22.25
<u>Summer</u>		
All use	\$.10760 per kWh	\$.10860 per kWh
<u>Winter</u>		
All use	\$.10760 per kWh	\$.10860 per kWh

2. General Service Urban Rates Three Phase: (inside corporate limits)

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
Monthly Customer Charge	\$53.00	\$54.00
<u>Summer</u>		
All use	\$.10760 per kWh	\$.10860 per kWh
<u>Winter</u>		
All use	\$.10760 per kWh	\$.10860 per kWh

3. General Service Rural Rates Single Phase: (outside corporate limits)

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
Monthly Customer Charge	\$24.50	\$27.00
<u>Summer</u>		
All use	\$.11080 per kWh	\$.10860 per kWh
<u>Winter</u>		
All use	\$.11080 per kWh	\$.10860 per kWh

4. General Service Rural Rates Three Phase: (outside corporate limits)

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
Monthly Customer Charge	\$53.60	\$53.80
<u>Summer</u>		
All use	\$.11410 per kWh	\$.11570 per kWh
<u>Winter</u>		
All use	\$.11410 per kWh	\$.11570 per kWh

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RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SERVICE ON GENERAL SERVICE
DEMAND RATE SCHEDULE (CLASS 3)

1. General Service Demand Urban Rates: (inside corporate limits)

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>		<u>April 1, 2016</u>	
Monthly Customer Charge	\$59.25		\$59.25	
Energy	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
	\$.08910	\$.08410	\$.08690	\$.08690
Demand	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00

2. General Service Demand Rural Rates: (outside corporate limits)

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>		<u>April 1, 2016</u>	
Monthly Customer Charge	\$63.30		\$65.00	
Energy	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
	\$.07940	\$.07940	\$.08050	\$.08050
Demand	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SERVICE ON LARGE POWER RATE
SCHEDULE (CLASS 4)

1. Large Power Rates:

	<u>May 1, 2015</u>		<u>April 1, 2016</u>	
Monthly Customer Charge	\$120.00		\$125.00	
Energy	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
	\$.06960	\$.06960	\$.07060	\$.07060
Demand	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SERVICE ON IRRIGATION RATE
SCHEDULE (CLASS 5)

<u>Irrigation Rates:</u>	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
Customer charge per month	\$60.00	\$73.00
Energy	\$.09260 per kWh	\$.09260 per kW
Annual Horsepower charges [#]		

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The following annual horsepower charges will be made available at the discretion of the City:

	Summer/Winter	Summer/Winter
No Load Control	\$84.00	\$84.00
One (1) Day per Week Control	\$70.60	\$70.60
Two (2) Day per Week Control	\$56.30	\$56.30
Three (3) Day per Week Control	\$42.60	\$42.60
Four (4) Day per Week Control	\$28.00	\$28.00
Full Load Control	\$13.75	\$13.75

Municipal Rates will be charged on the applicable General Service Rates:

SECURITY LIGHT (CLASS 7)

1. Security Light Rates:

<u>Rates - Urban:</u>	<u>May 1, 2015</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>
150 W HPS/175 W MV	\$11.65 per month	\$11.70 per month
250 W HPS/MV	\$15.75 per month	\$15.80 per month
400 W \$24.15 per month	\$24.25 per month	

<u>Rates – Rural:</u>		
150 W HPS/175 W MV	\$12.90 per month	\$12.95 per month
250 W HPS/MV	\$17.00 per month	\$17.10 per month
400 W \$25.45 per month	\$25.55 per month	

SECTION 3. All other ordinances, resolutions, or policies of the City of Alliance not consistent with the amendment made herein are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall go into effect on meter billings rendered May 1, 2015 and thereafter.

Roll call vote on the final reading of Ordinance No. 2769 with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Seiler, Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

Mayor Yeager stated, "the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 2769 has been concurred by a majority of all members elected to the Council, I declare it passed, adopted and order it published."

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- The next matter before Council was Resolution No. 15-24 which will award the Underground Irrigation System Project at Bower/Shankland Ballfield to Jeske Lawn Sprinklers LLC of Alliance, NE in the amount of \$29,780.00. Council was provided with the following information:

[The Parks Division 2014-15 capital budget includes \$35,000 to replace the underground irrigation system at Bower Ball Field. Invitation to Bid 7176-02-2015 for the replacement of the irrigation system was issued March 10, 2015. Bid packets were sent to eight possible bidders. One bid was received and was opened at the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center on March 30, 2015 with details following:

Irrigation Company	Bid Received	Bid Amount
Jeske Lawn Sprinklers, LLC	3/30/2015	\$29,780

Culture and Leisure Services Director Shana Brown is recommending the bid be awarded to Jeske Lawn Sprinklers, LLC because of the high quality of work on several other projects within the City and their willingness and responsiveness when issues arise. In addition, specific irrigation parts were required in the bid document to ensure compatibility with other existing Parks Division irrigation systems. For these reasons, Staff is confident that this project will be successful if awarded to Jeske Lawn Sprinklers, LLC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of Payment and Performance Bonds in accordance with specifications]

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Feldges to approve Resolution No. 15-24 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-24

WHEREAS, The City of has issued an Invitation to Bid for the Bower Ballfield Underground Irrigation Replacement pursuant to Bid Number 7176-02-2015; and

WHEREAS, One (1) response was received to the Invitation; and

WHEREAS, Jeske Lawn Sprinklers, LLC of Alliance, Nebraska appear to be the lowest, responsive, and responsible bid in the amount of \$29,780.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Mayor is authorized to sign the contract for Bid Number 7176-02-2015 awarding to Jeske Lawn Sprinklers , LLC of Alliance, Nebraska in an amount of Twenty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty and no/100th (\$29,780.00) to be paid from Account No. 01-71-71-59-970.

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED, that there be an additional allowance to the contract of

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up to five percent (5%) for change orders in the field should they be necessary.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Feldges, Seiler, Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Resolution No. 15-25 which will approve the reduction of our the City's utility easement along the south property line of Lot 13-18, Block 23, original Town from 20' to 10' was the next agenda item for Council's review. Council was provided with the following information:

[The City of Alliance is in receipt of a letter from Steven Stumpf, a representative of the Alliance Grocery Kart, requesting the release of 12' of a 20' utility easement deeded to the City along the south property line of Lot 13-18, Block 23, Original Town.

The Release is to allow the expansion of their existing grocery store to the east. Their desire is to expand eastward from the south wall of the existing building and then an additional 2' south at the east end of the building to accommodate their loading and unloading facilities. This would encroach into the easement 8' on the west portion of the proposed building and 10' on the east side of the new building.

Section 113-150 of the City of Alliance Municipal Code titled "Utility Easement" states where alleys will not accommodate utilities; code requires a minimum easement of 10' on each side of the rear lot lines and 5' along each side on side lot lines. Should the 10' of easement be released, the remaining 10' would meet the minimum size required by code. A release of 12' would result in an 8' easement which is smaller than the required minimum and as such would not meet code.

The utilities affected are those that were relocated as part of the alley vacation in 2013. These include sanitary sewer and natural gas. Source Gas relocated their main into the 2nd Street and Sweetwater ROW and does not use the easement. Source Gas has a rectifier present on the property; however, they have their own easement for it. Grocery Kart has made provisions in the building plans to accommodate their easement.

The sanitary sewer is south of the property line at the center section of the property and extends 2' into the property at the east end. It was not installed parallel to the property line. Baker and Associates, Public Works, and the City Electric Department were asked for comment about the reduction. They stated because the easement abuts a public ROW to the south and the location of the sanitary sewer at the south end of the easement, that they would support a reduction in easement no greater than 10'. This would give them room to dig the

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sewer line up as well as lay the underground electricity service for the proposed building. Grocery Kart is also agreeable to the release of 10' of the requested 12' of easement.

Staff recommends the release of the north 10' of the west 130' of easement on the east half of Lot 13-18, Block 23, Original Town.]

Doug Cullan, Hemingford, NE, General Contractor for Grocery Kart, was in attendance to speak in favor of the easement reduction. Mr. Cullan requested the Council to consider the original request to reduce the easement to 8' instead of the 10' as proposed by City staff. Following a brief discussion, staff informed Council that the reduction to 8' is less than the Alliance Municipal Code requires. That being the case, the increased reduction would require a variance from the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Cullan stated they did not want to wait that long and would work with the 10' easement.

Grocery Kart Manager Becky Maser, 928 Black Hills Avenue, spoke in favor of the easement and stated she was very anxious to begin construction.

A motion was made by Councilman Seiler, seconded by Councilman Feldges to approve Resolution No. 15-25 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-25

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance, Nebraska "City" has received a request by Alliance Grocery Kart, Inc. "Owner" to partially release a portion of a utility easement it had granted to the City; and

WHEREAS, The utility easement is located inside the south and east property lines of the Owner's property and is used for infrastructure of the City; and

WHEREAS, The partial release of the utility easement is requested so that the Owner may complete an expansion of its current facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, as follows:

The City agrees to accommodate the Owner in completing the expansion of its facility within the City. As such, the City now approves the Partial Release of Utilities Easement and directs the Mayor to sign the Partial Release of Utilities Easement in order to reduce the current utility easement and to release the north ten (10') feet of the west one hundred and thirty (130') feet of the utility easement on the east half of Lots 13-18, Block 23, Original Town Addition to the City. This partial release will assist the Owner in the completion of its expansion.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Seiler, Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager, Feldges.

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Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next agenda item before Council was Resolution No. 15-26, which will authorize City staff to waive the Penalty Policy for a one month period of time to assist utility customers with the transition of the new billing process. Council was provided with the following background information:

[Alliance City Council approved Resolution 14-119 on October 21, 2014 and Ordinance 2765 on November 18, 2014 that amended the Utility Customer Service Office policies and procedures and the utility billing Code after many years without change. The actions adjusted fees and billing practices to be more in line with industry standards and practices and addressed concerns inherent with prior practices.

To date, the Utility Customer Service Office has eliminated the offering of waivers and discontinued the placement of hang tags. Both of those changes created minimal impact on the office as there was ample lead time and extra emphasis on communicating to the neighbors directly affected. The bulk of the fee changes and the change in billing and collection practices will become effective on May 1, 2015. The greatest impact to our neighbors will be the shortened billing cycle by approximately two weeks, which will affect the due date as well as the penalty and disconnect dates. These changes will ultimately decrease the balance of uncollected charges for services which will in turn decrease our neighbors' outstanding commitment to the City and reduce the balance of potential uncollectable accounts of the City while also partially addressing ongoing concerns of our auditors regarding the delayed collection of revenues.

Utility Customer Service Office staff has been visiting with customers one-on-one regarding the upcoming changes since their approval in November. Messages have been included on bills since January and inserts are planned for both March and April mailings. The April and May billing envelopes are a different color (yellow) with a red message on the outside drawing attention to the changes. In addition, extra media coverage of the change is expected.

The changes will potentially require our neighbors to make two payments within the same thirty-day period which may adversely impact those with fixed income and limited resources. In addition to the notices and media coverage mentioned above, Staff has or is taking the following additional actions:

- The change was strategically planned for a month when billings are historically lower.
- Neighbors have been encouraged to prepay or migrate toward the new payment schedule.

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- Direct Pay is consistently being offered to allow extra time and reduce office traffic.
- Credit card payments are available through Payment Services Network.
- Staff is prepared to allow one-time contracts to spread the additional payment over a two-month period.

Staff has determined that the City's accounting software does not allow automatic collection of two penalties within a one-month period. In order to avoid double penalty assessments on accounts within a single month and to eliminate the manual calculation of penalties, Staff is recommending the waiver of penalties for the May monthly billings. This may result in a loss of penalty revenue for the City of \$5,000 to \$10,000 while non-waiver would actually accelerate collection of penalties. The change is initially expected to increase monthly penalties and Staff is also prepared to offer the standard one-time reversal of penalties for neighbors.

Hopefully, implementing these measures will assist us in offering help to our neighbors as we transition to the new schedule. Another positive outcome is that Council is aware of these conciliatory measures so that, if asked, can share what we are doing to help folks.]

A motion was made by Councilman Yeager, seconded by Council Korber-Gonzalez to approve Resolution No. 15-26 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-26

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance performs the billing services for the Electric, Water, Sewer and Refuse Departments; and

WHEREAS, Policies for the billing practices for our Utility Customer Service Office have been established by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance is implementing a shortened billing timeframe of approximately two weeks which in the beginning will potentially require customers to make two payments within the same thirty-day period; and

WHEREAS, Staff is recommending the waiver of the Penalty Policy for a one month period of time to coincide with the May, 2015 utility bills for all four billing cycles; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has reviewed the request to waive penalties for all four billing cycles in May, 2015 in order to assist our customers with the shortened billing timeframe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Alliance, Nebraska, that the Penalty Policy will be waived for a one month period of time to coincide with the May, 2015 utility bills for all four billing cycles.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Penalty Policy will be reinstated starting with the June, 2015 utility bills for all four billing cycles.

Finance Director Waggener reviewed with Council various ways staff was working with our neighbors to assist with the billing transition. Currently the City offers:

- An Equal Pay Program, which provides for payments in the same amount every month
- Direct Pay, which authorizes payments from a customer's bank account on a specific day each month
- Utilizing the deposit when the account was opened
- Accepts credit card payments
- Will offer two month contracts for individuals needing additional assistance.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Seiler, Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager, Feldges.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- The next discussion item before Council was Resolution No. 15-27 which will authorize City staff to submit a proposal to operate the Public Transit Program. Council was provided with the following information:

Following a request by Mayor Ralph Yeager at an earlier Council meeting to investigate applying to Nebraska Department of Roads for Public Transportation Assistance, staff has spent the past several weeks researching the viability of the City assuming Public Transportation.

Background

This service is currently provided by Senior Services Inc ("SSI"). For several years prior to the current year, Box Butte County had been the applicant, and SSI administered the program. Interestingly, Federal and State funding match of local funds are substantial. The cost share (reimbursement scheduled) for operational costs is 50% Federal, 25% State, 25% Local. For non-operational costs (administrative staff, insurance and rent), the cost share is even more lucrative at 80% Federal, 10% State, and 10% Local. In this way, SSI's submittal of \$56,198 in local match garnered a State and Federal match of \$248,399, for a total budget of \$304,597. Generally, the two reimbursement schedules when blended, calculate to \$4.42 State and Federal funds for every \$1 in local funds.

Unfortunately, when SSI submitted its application for this year's funding, they represented to NDOR that \$20,000 in funding would be coming from the City, \$20,000 from the County and \$15,000 from Box Butte General Hospital. In reality, only the hospital funded at the level represented, as the City did not fund

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SSI and the County's support totaled only \$10,000. This lack of \$30,000 raised locally extrapolates into an additional loss of approximately \$133,000, which together total around \$163,000 in funding shortfall of the total \$304,597 budgeted. As a result of this projected shortfall, SSI notified the public that it would reduce costs by no longer providing transit services on Fridays. This was disconcerting to users of the program. NDOR indicated that they received a large number of complaints regarding this reduction of service.

The current funding cycle ends June 30. In visiting with NDOR Public Transit Liaison Manager, Kari Ruse, no lag of services is anticipated as SSI has committed to continue its current level of service until the new funding cycle begins on July 1, 2015 (which would continue for one year through June 30, 2016).

Due Diligence

Thus far, due diligence has included several meetings and discussion, researching and investigating the background of the program, fact-finding, informally discussing funding possibilities with other potential funding contributors, and exploring how public transportation might best work within our organization structure. Also, there are several other Transit programs that are administered by cities, including Sidney, Chadron, McCook, and Ogallala. Following our review and although we anticipate there to be a few unexpected bumps along the way, Staff is nevertheless confident that the City can successfully administer this important service to the benefit of our neighbors.

City Organizational Structure

After multiple meetings, staff believes that not only could this program fit nicely hand-in-hand together with RSVP. We are considering establishing "Community Services," which would include the following programs: RSVP, Handyman, and Transit. In fact, the assumption of the Transit program will allow us to realign some of our costs and services in such a way as to provide relief to the always tight budget of the RSVP program, which in recent times has been forced to seek supplemental funding through chicken noodle dinners and other donations. Additionally, through internal services, human resources, finance (payables, cash receipting, payroll and receivables) and legal all will be completed by existing staff, thus reducing a large volume of the paperwork. As a result, we are currently exploring having the positions of administrative assistants to manage the required Federal and State paperwork of both the Transit and RSVP programs.

Contemplated Plan

To address the concern of reduction of services to our neighbors, staff is investigating a plan to actually expand services. Initially, the plan is to add back Friday services, as well as possibly expanding into both Saturday and Sunday service, provided drivers can be hired to do so. Staff feels it is important that we establish a schedule of services, but maintain flexibility to modify that schedule based upon need.

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Additionally, expansion of transit services for special events may be considered. Services in Hemingford would continue, and possibly include transport to Alliance for shopping. Staff would further propose to have regular, planned trips to Scottsbluff (and possibly Chadron) to allow for doctor appointments, etc. Finally, the goal would be to provide this service as moderately priced and as convenient as possible. Staff has received favorable comments back from NDOR regarding our inquiries of either a season pass or possibly a punch card system.

Process

- Establish organizational structure
- Finalize budget and obtain Council approval of contingency
- Submit application
- Obtain NDOR award funding
- Create Job Descriptions (will also contact other cities)
- Research and establish job wages based upon comparable wages in our array cities as well as internal comparison
- (Council) Approve Staffing authorization and Classification Plan
- Place job postings
- Interview and hire Transit staff
- Establish Transit services schedule

In addition to the above, there are still many details to be worked out, but staff is confident that this program can and would be a good fit for our organization. A couple of major items that are currently under consideration include: City-owned buses versus leased from the County as well as location of Transit program staff and buses.

Budget Authority

This program was not budgeted in the current fiscal year but certainly Council can include it in next year's budget. As stated above, the program year begins July 1, but this is a full three months prior to the beginning of the City's new fiscal year. As such, a substantial amount of budget authority and cash will be necessary to start up the program and cash flow the initial 3-month period until state and federal reimbursements are received and the City's new fiscal year commences.

Summary

This resolution therefore will:

- (1) Authorize staff to fully pursue and prepare an application to NDOR
- (2) Allow staff to officially approach other funding agencies and ask for letters of formal support to be included in the application package.
- (3) Acknowledge the future need to utilize Council Contingency for budget authority and cash necessary for startup during the City's 4th Quarter (July – September)

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A motion was made by Councilman Seiler, seconded by Councilman Feldges to approve Resolution No. 15-27 which follows in its entirety:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-27

WHEREAS, The State of Nebraska Department of Roads, Rail and Public Transportation Division administer funding for the operation of public transportation for rural areas in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance is interested in making an application to be the operator of the public transit system within the Alliance and Hemingford areas; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide the required matching funds for the program, additional community support will be necessary; and

WHEREAS, Due to the State of Nebraska and the City of Alliance has different fiscal year designations funding for the program for the months of July through September would be recommended from the City Council's Contingency Fund as we do not currently have budget authority designated for this program; and

WHEREAS, Staff is confident that the operation of the public transit system through the City organization, will be beneficial and 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 Staff is authorized to pursue and prepare an application for submittal to the Nebraska Department of Roads to operate the public transit system within the Alliance and Hemingford areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Staff is authorized to obtain letters of support and funding commitments for other governmental agencies and private sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council is willing to commit an adequate amount from City Council Contingency Funds to provide the budget authority and necessary cash to begin the Transit Program effective July 1, 2015, if awarded by the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Seiler, Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager, Feldges.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Council next conducted a general discussion addressing the quarterly invoice received from Keep Alliance Beautiful for services they are not currently completing. Representatives from the Keep Alliance Beautiful Board of Directors were present to share with Council the progress they have been making. Mr. Al Rolfson, Ms. Vicky Mattox and Mr. Ralph Wiggins

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each spoke on the activities to date: secured a lease for a facility on 2nd Street from Mr. Essay to once again begin recycling which is their No. 1 priority, selected a new market in Ogallala for recycling goods, preparing to restart their education program within the school system, and their use of social media to help educate and inform the public.

- The next agenda item was to set two separate meeting dates for Strategic Planning and to review the Capital Improvement Plan for the next fiscal year.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones to set April 28, 2015 for the Strategic Planning meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Seiler.

Roll call vote with the following results:

Voting Aye: Seiler, Jones, Korber-Gonzalez, Yeager, Feldges.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

The date for the Capital Improvement Plan review will be determined at the next Council meeting.

- The final agenda item was board vacancy announcements and acknowledgement of a board resignation.

Councilman Jones announced that the City of Alliance has the following current openings: one vacancy on the A-1 Downtown Improvement Board, one vacancy on the Planning Commission, one opening on the Senior Facility Advisory Board and a Hispanic Representative on the Police Advisory Board. There are also two youth ex-officio positions on the Library 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.

The City of Alliance received a letter of Resignation from William Hewgley from his position on the Park and Tree Board. Mr. Hewgley's term would have expired February 28, 2017.

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, seconded by Council Seiler to accept the resignation of William Hewgley from the Park and Tree Board with sincerely appreciation for his service.

Roll call vote with the following results:

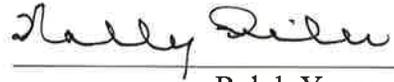
Voting Aye: Feldges, Jones, Yeager, Seiler, Korber-Gonzalez.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion carried.

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- Mayor Yeager stated, "there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 9:01 p.m."



Ralph Yeager, Mayor

(SEAL)



Linda S. Jines, City Clerk