

## **CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, NEBRASKA**

### **I. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

The City Council of the City of Bridgeport, Nebraska, met in regular session at Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 Main Street, Bridgeport, Nebraska, on the 13th day of March 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Prayer, Mayor Gail Beyer called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted as follows: Present: Mark Wickard, Jeff Nichols, Tony McGrath; Non-Excused Absence: Angie Clinger

Staff members present were: Billie Mitchell and Christi Collins

Mayor Beyer presided, and City Clerk Huck recorded the proceedings.

Mayor Beyer announced, "In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the open meetings act is posted at the back of the meeting room for the review of the public."

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Bridgeport News-Blade, the designated method of notice given as shown by proof of publication, as shown by attached affidavit of posting.

Notice was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and agenda is attached to the minutes. The availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and by email notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

The Mayor asked if there were any letters of public correspondence for the board. There were none.

The Mayor asked if there were any visitors that would like to speak on an item that is not on the agenda. There were none.

### **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

6. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 13, 2025
7. Acceptance of the Monthly Treasurers Report.
8. Remove Jason Lott from Probationary to Active Status to the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department.
9. Remove Barbara Prince from Probationary to Active Status to the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department.

Council Member Wickard moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Wickard, Nichols, McGrath; Nay: None. Motion carried.

### III. CLAIMS

10. Council Member Nichols stated he had a conflict with Jeff Nichols Claim; Council Member Nichols then excused himself. Council Member Wickard moved to approve the claim, seconded by Council Member McGrath. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Wickard; Not Voting, Excused: Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.

11. Council Member Wickard moved to approve the remainder of open claims, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

**Claims:** Aflac, \$434.86; Alarm Security Technicians, Msm, \$32.95; Allo Communications Llc, Tlpn, \$737.89; American Funds Service Company, Retire, \$6,097.55; American Legal Publishing Corp, Df, \$494.98; Ameritas Group Life Insurance, Amtrs, \$137.12; Atlas Automation Llc, Tf, \$1,244.00; Barco Municipal Products Inc, Op, \$842.97; BB Associates, Misc / Trng, \$4,457.73; Benzel Pest Control Inc, Op, \$75.89; Gail Beyer, Trng, \$536.62; Biblionix LLC, Auto, \$990.00; Black Hills Energy, Ht, \$5,187.27; Bloedorn Lumber, Rm, \$442.79; BCBS Of Ne, Hlth Ins, \$6,490.30; Bomgaars, Op / Rm / Tls, \$985.14; Bridgeport Hotel Group LLC, Cbble Int / Pr, \$2,171.24; Bridgeport News-Blade, Ofsup / Pp, \$252.96; Canteen Refreshment Services, Op, \$473.44; Casey Peterson Ltd, Audit, \$29,221.25; Cengage Learning Inc, Bks, \$41.98; Century Business Products Inc, Op, \$41.11; Cfp Capital Llc, Mtr Dep, \$84.85; Chimney Rock Public Power District, Elct, \$146.80; City Of Bridgeport, Elct / Mtr Dep, \$8,436.19; City Of Sidney, Inv, \$7,500.00; City Petty Cash/Checking, Df, \$64.00; Christina M Collins, Tlpn, \$40.00; Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co, Clnl, \$756.86; Community Center, Tr, \$22,000.00; Computer Connection, Op, \$49.00; Contractors Materials Inc, Op, \$139.00; CHJR Golf Course Inc, Glf, \$5,000.00; Crescent Electric Supply Company, Rm / Tf, \$678.07; Culligan Water Conditioning, Op, \$161.00; Docu-Shred, Op, \$30.00; E & S Auto Supply, Op, \$160.74; Enviro Service Inc, Wtr Aly, \$60.00; Federal, Fed, \$3,503.75; Fica, \$7,722.92; Fire Fund, Tr, \$5,000.00; Greenheart, Op, \$36.00; Hawkins Inc, Tf, \$1,927.47; Health Savings Account, Hsa, \$2,088.00; Doretta J Huck, Tlpn, \$40.00; Ideal Linen & Uniform, Op, \$778.01; Dane M Jeffords, Tlpn, \$40.00; Jonathan Kahl, Mtr Dep, \$10.12; Koke's Auto Farm Truck Inc, Rm, \$21.48; Kone Chicago, Op, \$325.95; Lee's Service Inc, Fl / Rm, \$850.01; Andrew S Leisy, Tlpn, \$40.00; Library Fund, Tr, \$11,000.00; Kyle E Lussetto, Tlpn, \$40.00; M C Schaff & Associates Inc, Op / Tf, \$1,387.50; Masa Global, Ins, \$168.00; Medicare, Mdcr, \$1,806.20; Michael Todd Industrial Supply, Va, \$235.60; Mike's Husker Stuff, Dwn Twn, \$31.80; Morrill County Clerk, Df, \$263.22; Morrill County Sheriff, Cnty, \$35,670.50; Morrill County Treasurer, Df, \$189.40; Municipal Energy Agency Of Ne, Mn, \$113,518.77; Ne Dept Of Environment & Energy, Op, \$40.00; Nebraska Dept Of Revenue, Sls Tx / State, \$13,453.76; Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab, Tf / Wtr Aly, \$182.00; Nebraska Public Power District, Msm, \$151.84; Perry E Nelson, Tlpn, \$40.00; Jeffrey T Nichols, Cnt Svc, \$1,705.00; One Call Concepts Inc, Op, \$3.67; Optk Networks, Tlpn, \$75.00; Pace Analytical Services LLC, Wtr Aly, \$600.00; Park Fund, Tr, \$9,000.00; Platte Valley Visa, Op, \$3,772.69; Police Fund, Tr, \$35,670.50; Powerplan, Rm, \$271.82; Quadient Leasing Usa Inc, Op, \$785.70;

Railroad Management Co Iii, LLC, Df, \$2,863.98; Raka Equipment, Op, \$1,016.25; Regional Care Inc, Hsa, \$72.00; Reliance Standard Life Ins Co, Lf Ins, \$263.45; Brody Joe Retchless, Cnt Svc, \$750.00; Rodak Law Office, Lgl Rtnr, \$1,000.00; Fay Scarrow, Tlpn, \$40.00; Bryan Schluterbusch, Tlpn, \$40.00; Paul A Sides, Tlpn, \$40.00; Parker Smith, Cnt Svc, \$748.00; Sonnys Super Foods, Op / Shop, \$29.88; Street Fund, Tr, \$5,000.00; John Thomas, Tlpn, \$40.00; Timevalue Software, Op, \$35.00; Trading Post Enterprises LLC, Fl, \$731.14; Waste Connections Of Ne Inc, Trsh, \$18,995.24; Wesco Distribution Inc, Shop, \$235.00; Wyoming First Aid & Safety Supply LLC, Op, \$79.95; Total Claims, \$391,123.12; Total Salaries, \$47,367.55

\*\*\*\*Aflc = Aflac; Amtrs = Ameritas; Audit = Auditing; Auto = Automation; Bks = Books; Cbble Int/Pr = Tif Interest/Principle; Clnl = Colonial; Cnt Svc = Contract Services; Cnty = County Contract; Df = Dues & Fees; Dwn Twn = Downtown Appearance; Elct = Electric Bills; Fed = Federal; Fl = Fuel; Glf = Golf Course; Hlth Ins = Health Insurance; Hsa = Health Savings; Ht = Heat; Ins = Insurance; Inv = Inventory; Lf Ins = Life Insurance; Lgl Rtnr = Legal Retainer; Mdcr = Medicare; Misc = Miscellaneous; Mn = Mean; Msm = Museum; Mtr Dep = Meter Deposit; Ofsup = Office Supplies; Op = Operating Expense; Pp = Printing & Publications; Retire = Retirement / City Share; Rm = Repairs & Maintenance; Shop = Shop Supplies; Slx Tx = Sales N Use Tax; Tf = Treatment Facility; Tlpn = Telephone; Tls = Tools; Tr = Transfer Out; Trng = Training; Trsh = Trash; Va = Veterans Park Old Swim Hole; Wtr Aly = Water Analysis;

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

12. None

#### **V. ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

13. Received on March 12, 2025, a letter of resignation from Council Member Angela Clinger stating she could no longer be able to perform her duties as Council Member to be effective immediately. Council Member Wickard made a motion to accept the letter, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Wickard, McGrath, Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.

14. Mayor Beyer declared a vacancy and will bring a name to the Council to be voted upon at the regular council meeting to be held April 10, 2025, to fill the remainder of the term formally occupied by Angela Clinger to expire December 2026. Council Member Wickard made a motion to declare the council vacancy, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

#### **VI. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

15. Ordinance 1017 proposes increasing electrical rates due to rising cost of materials and labor since 2017, recommending raising service charges from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per meter charge on residential meters; \$35.00 to \$45.00 for Commercial; and a general kilowatt rate increase of 2.5%. This keeps us competitive with nearby communities while addressing aging infrastructure needs. Changes to the Demand Meter charge were changed from \$80.00 to \$100.00 and will reflect on the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

Council Member Wickard introduced Ordinance No. 1017 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with the following changes on the demand meter charge as discussed, AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE RATES TO BE CHARGED BY THE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM FOR ELECTRICITY; ASSESSING LATE CHARGES ON ALL UTILITIES REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 912; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND

SECTIONS; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION OR POSTING AS REQUIRED BY LAW, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion passed on 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

## VII. REGULAR AGENDA

### 16. Emergency Items

- Received two bids for the 2001 International 4000 Series 4700 Conventional Cab, Serial No. 1HTSCABN51H336196; Dane Jeffords, \$5,000.00 and Dan Myers, \$8,200.00. Council Member Wickard made a motion to accept the bid from Dan Myers in the amount of \$8,200.00, seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: McGrath, Nichols, Wickard; Nay; None. Motion carried.

17. Deidre Budahl with Casey Peterson LTD presented the 2023-2024 audit and noted overall good financial health and stated the city came in under budget of \$3 million and did a really good job of keeping things in check and stating you can budget these expenses but if the revenues aren't coming in you can't spend it. She also discussed the three debt obligations balances as of September 2024.

8. City Administrator Coolidge is continuing to look at the implementation of budget billing, ensuring it aligns with USDA loan conditions related to water rates and has also reached another municipality with the same utility program as Bridgeport before proceeding further.

19. Sheriff Cardenas approached the Council asking for matching funds from the 2025 ACE Funds to purchase a shelter for the northeast corner of the Morrill County Veterans Memorial Park. The VA has raised \$3,100.00 for the project which will also consist of a concrete slab and benches and is hoping to have volunteers to construct. Council Member Wickard made a motion to approve \$3,100.00 in matching funds from the 2025 ACE fund for the shelter, seconded by Council Member McGrath. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Nichola, McGrath, Wickard; Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was also discussed that the remainder of the 2025 ACE Funds would potentially go toward a Disc Golf Project to be located on the east side of the Legion Baseball Field.

## VIII. REPORTS

### 20. Department Reports

- a. **Public Works:** City Administrator Coolidge stated the Fire Hydrant located at 14<sup>th</sup> & P Street is scheduled to be fixed for Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>. She did an exit interview with John Thomas and he had nothing but positive things to say about his experience here and working with the city.
- b. **Pwcc:** Christi Collins stated has been busy with meetings; soccer is starting; working on Camp Clark Day plans; will need to update the AED as well as CPR training for

employees. Started hiring for lifeguard positions and hoping to open the pool the last weekend in May.

- c. **Library** – The library reported good attendance at youth programs and is currently running a fundraiser via Facebook for Krispy Kreme donuts for the Teen Advisory Group.
- d. **Fire Department** – The department is facing challenges with resignations.
- e. **Sheriff:** There will be a national tornado drill on Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>, then the regular tornado siren testing will sound off every Thursday at 10:00 am. April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the Veterans Annual Pancake Feed Fundraiser with a free will donation at Pwcc from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. The month of February there were 126 calls and 13 arrests.
- f. **Administration:** Council Member Wickard stated he will be attending the MEANS Annual Winter Conference March 19<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln and stated the city won the 2025 ACE Project of the year award in the amount of \$200.00 for the Morrill County Veterans Memorial Park.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Wickard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Council Member Nichols. Roll call resulted as follows; Aye: Wickard, McGrath, Nichols; Nay: None. Motion carried.

APPROVED:

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Gail Beyer, Mayor

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Doretta J Huck, City Clerk

I, the undersigned Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is the full, true and correct original document of proceedings of Thursday, March 13, 2025, had and done by the Mayor and City Council; that all of the subjects included in the proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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Doretta J. Huck, City Clerk