

City of Gregory
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 |6:00 PM
Gregory City Hall 120 W 6th St Gregory, SD 57533

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The following City Council members were present: Kristi Drey, Cory Graber, Guhner Kepler, Laura Petersen, Maurice Schlaht, and Stacey Boes. Also present were outgoing City Attorney Amy Bartling and incoming City Attorney Rachelle Norberg, Library Director Tara Engel, Police Chief Ryan Cook, Reporter Patty Connealy, and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman. Visitors were Christian Spann, Piper Bartlett, Cara Hull, Dave Neuharth, Rachelle Bloom, Alice Slade, and Dave and Mary Peabody.

6:00 Pledge of Allegiance

Oath of Office: Motion to approve the appointment of Stacey Boes to Ward III made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried. Stacey Boes signed the Oath of Office for the remainder of the term for Ward III.

Agenda Corrections/Additions/Approval Finance Officer Trudy Waterman requested a correction on a typo on New Business Item F. Change Rick to Rich. Motion to approve the Agenda with the typo correction made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes from Monday December 2, 2024. Motion to approve the Minutes from December 2, 2024, made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Forum - Alice Slade 511 E 12th St addressed the Council again regarding the sewer back-up in her basement on September 29, 2024. Ms. Slade stated that she believes that the city is responsible for damage and personal loss in her basement and has given the city until January 10th to decide a course of action. Ms. Slade also stated that her homeowner's insurance will not pay more than \$10,000.00 for a sewer back-up. Mayor Cerny asked the Council about installing a back check valve at this address to try to avoid future issues but stated that there is an expectancy for the homeowner to maintain the back-check valve. Mayor Cerny also stated that the City of Gregory's insurance thus far has not found the city to be negligent, however the issue is still under investigation. Ms. Slade stated that she had estimates for her loss and basement repair in the amount of \$112,270.00.

Mary Peabody spoke to the Council regarding the house at 8th and Church Street. Ms. Peabody cited the increasing number of vehicles in addition to the large number of items in the yard and carport.

Cara Hull, Library Board Member, spoke to the Council on behalf of the library staff. Ms. Hull stated that our library has a great team that does an awesome job, and she encouraged the Council to keep the wages competitive so as not to lose the employees we have.

Department Head Reports- Library Director Tara Engel stated that she had forwarded her evaluations to Finance Officer Trudy Waterman with her wage increase suggestions on each evaluation. Ms. Engel reiterated the years that each of her employees have been with the library and emphasized that the library staff wages were lagging the summer help wages and that her staff work year-round. Ms. Engel also brought to the council's attention the proposed state budget cuts

that could include a \$1M cut in the State Library funding which would affect our library by cutting off databases, audio books, and other patron services the Gregory Library can access through the State Library. The State Library has sent out postcards that citizens and patrons can fill out and mail to the state legislature and governor to try to lessen or halt the cuts and Director Engel asked the Council to support the library against the budget cuts. A donation of eleven boxes of large print books was received by the library, some of which will be passed to other libraries, and the staff is busy unpacking the 102 books received through the Pilcro Grant. The STEM club made Christmas puzzle ornaments, and the books are being prepared for the Books for Christmas tree program.

Police Chief Ryan Cook stated that business is normal so far this season and that the GPD has secured access to a snowmobile, if NOAA predicts a large snowstorm, to better prepare for emergency responses if they arise. Chief Ryan also stated that he and his officers have been extremely busy with Santa's mail.

Mayor Al Cerny introduced Rachelle Norberg as the incoming City Attorney for the City of Gregory beginning January 1, 2025.

Committee Reports – None

Conflict of Interest – None

Old Business

- A. Purple Heart City** Finance Officer Trudy Waterman stated that she had looked on the Website and emailed the Chapter Commander but had not received a response.
- B. Letters to Grandview Residents** Attorney Amy Bartling stated that she needs the numbers to send out with the letters and Mayor Cerny stated we are compiling the list to take to the courthouse.
- C. Applicants** Finance Officer Trudy Waterman stated the city has received three applications so far.

New Business

- A. Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-05 Repealing 2021-02** Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-05, repealing 2021-02, made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.
- B. Second Reading of Appropriation Ordinance 2024-04** Motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance 2024-04 made by Maurice Schlaht, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.
- C. Assessments on Tax Sale Properties** Special assessments remained uncollected for Parcel #6273 200.00/street and 75.00/clean-up and Parcel #6279 188.50/street for a total of \$463.50. Motion to abate the special assessment taxes made by Guhner Kepler, seconded by Cory Graber. All ayes. Motion carried.
- D. Morgan Painter Loan Approval** The GED recommended that Morgan Painter be approved for a revolving loan of \$15,000.00 at 3% interest for five (5) years to assist with her purchase of the Gregory Times-Advocate. Motion to approve the revolving loan made by Guhner Kepler, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

E. Jim Birkel as Contract Snow Remover Motion to approve Jim Birkel to be paid as a contractor to remove snow made by Cory Graber, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

F. Rich Weller Approval to Add to Snow Removal List Motion to add Rich Weller to the list made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Cory Graber. All ayes. Motion carried.

G. Finance Report Finance Officer Trudy Waterman presented the Council with the current account balances through date 12/15/2024 and the budget report through 11/30/2024. Notes on the budget directly reflected the Appropriation Ordinance.

H. Pay Claims

CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
APPEARA	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	140.41
ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION	MEMBERSHIP DUES	25.00
BURKE OIL COMPANY	518-GALS JET A FUEL	1836.20
CENTRAL MUSTANG DISASTER CLEAN	DISASTER CLEAN-UP	24099.12
CHESTERMAN COMPANY	CITY HALL WATER	33.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS	CODE ENFORC 11/1-30/24	789.94
CORE & MAIN LP	MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	18499.42
CYBERTEK SYSTEMS	IT/BACKUP/SECURITY	579.54
DAKOTA AUTO CARE LLC	COURTESY CAR REPAIRS	2452.35
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPPORT	379.00
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	4472.08
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	GOOGLE WORKSPACE	229.39
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE/INTERNET CHARGES	899.12
GREGORY COUNTY TREASURER	GREGORY CTY SH 11/22-24/24	1312.50
GREGORY POOL ACCOUNT	VENMO TRANS-CHASE THE ACE	1344.20
GREGORY TIMES-ADVOCATE	COUNCIL PUB/EMPLYMNT AD	659.69
HARRY K NAPA	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	158.42
KWYR AM	EMPLOYMENT AD	180.00
MARTY JUNG	CLOTHING REIMB	31.83
MR. AUTOMOTIVE	LOADER PARTS	17.74
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	29.45
PETTY CASH	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	41.51
PREMIER BIOTECH LABS LLC	URINE TEST/SHIP	80.00
ROSEBUD FARMERS UNION	CITY FUELS	1504.66
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC.	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	112.83
SCOTT'S AUTO REPAIR	TIRE REPAIR	167.00
SD ASSOC OF RURAL WATER SYSTEM	ANNUAL DUES CLASS B	590.00
SDML WORKERS COMP FUND	WORKMNS COMP 1/25-1/26	15648.00
TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DIST	MONTHLY WATER SERVICE	3000.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE CHARGES	503.23
Accounts Payable Total		79815.63

Motion to pay the claims made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Stacey Boes. All ayes.
Motion carried. The City of Gregory is not accepting any liability by paying Central Mustang
Disaster Clean Up but considers Mustang as a third party that acted in good faith.

6:51 pm Motion to enter Executive Session, to discuss personnel and a contract, made by Laura
Petersen, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

8:20 pm Mayor Cerny took the Council out of Executive Session

Motion to approve proposed raises for Full-Time, Full-Time 32 hour, and Part-Time year-
round help made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Stacey Boes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Atkins, Jeremy 24.00	Claussen, Tommy 23.50	Cook, Ryan 27.50
Eagle Star, Damon 22.00	Engel, Tara 20.00	Jung, Marty 27.00
Keegan, Jennifer 26.25	Waterman, Trudy 24.50	
Barlett, Piper 12.75	Shaffer, Sherri 12.50	Spann, Christian 14.50

Motion to approve an annual bonus of \$250 for Full-time and Full-time 32-hour employees
made by Cory Graber, seconded by Maurice Schlaht. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve an annual bonus of \$100 for Part-Time year-round non-seasonal
employees approved by Laura Petersen, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

8:30 Adjourn Motion to adjourn made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Maurice Schlaht. All ayes.
Motion carried.

Mayor Al Cerny

ATTEST: _____

Finance Officer Trudy Waterman