

City of Gregory

City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 | 6:00 PM

Gregory City Hall, 120 W 6th St, Gregory, SD 57533

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Tuesday December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The following City Council members were present: Ashley Lozano, Cory Graber, Guhner Kepler, Kristi Drey and Darwin Grim (by phone). Absent was Maurice Schlaht. Also present were News Reporter Patty Connealy, City Attorney Amy Bartling Jacobsen, GED Director Rachelle Bloom, Chamber Director Ana Smiley, Library Director Tara Engel, Police Chief Ryan Cook, Public Works Superintendent Josey Larsen, and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman.

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Corrections/Additions/Approval

Mayor Cerny added item C, the moving of contingency funds, to the agenda. Motion made by Guhner Kepler to approve the agenda change, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2023

Motion made by Guhner Kepler to approve the minutes, seconded by Cory Graber. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Forum – None

Department Head Reports

Library Director Tara Engel reported that the Cookies & Crafts with Cops was a big success with three officers participating in the activity. Police Chief Ryan Cook, Officer Tommy Claussen, and Sheriff's Deputy Cody Spann all participated. The leftover cookies will be served this week for Christmas. The last day of Lego Club will be this week, but Ms. Engel promises it will be back next year as it is a very popular program. The library is proposing a movie for the week of no school and signed up three new patrons.

Committee Reports – None

Conflict of Interest – None

New Business:

- A. Confirm April 9 as Election Day
Council agreed to April 9, 2024

- B. Schedule January Council Meeting Dates
Council agreed to change meeting dates to Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and Tuesday, January 16, 2024 due to holidays on preceding Mondays.

- C. Move Contingency Fund to Police & Fire Departments

Motion made by Guhner Kepler to move \$11,100 to the Police Fund and \$100 to the Fire Department fund to cover extra 2023 Expenses, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

D. Special Meeting Date to Pay EoY Claims.

Mayor Cerny proposed sending the list of claims by email for the Council to read and approve the list of claims. The Council agreed.

E. Offer for purchase of Lots 7 & 8, Block 2, in the Grandview Addition

Motion made by Ashley Lozano to accept the offer of \$37,000 from Dawn Waldner for the purchase of Lots 7 & 8, Blk 2, Grandview, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

F. Future of Lot 9, Block 60 on Mainstreet

Mayor Cerny outlined the process for selling Lot 9, Block 60 if the Council approves it. He also stated that there would need to be a space between the building with the new windows and a proposed building and that would require a replating of the lot to 40' from 50'. Rachele Bloom reiterated the GED's interest in the lot as a city park, but stated the GED would not be opposed to a new business in downtown. One Council member expressed an interest in selling the lot, another Council member reiterated the importance of the building looking like the other downtown buildings, and a third Council member mentioned the long-term lease agreement with the GED that had been discussed. Ahley Lozano suggested the Council explore, discuss, and set some goals for the lot; Cory Graber agreed. Attorney Amy Bartling asked for clarity and asked the Council to confirm that it was denying the offer for \$5000 for the lot.

Motion made by Cory Graber to reject the offer of \$5000, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

G. 2nd Reading of the Appropriation 2023-4

Mayor Cerny asked to shift the Police Department up to \$15,000 from the original \$5,000.

Motion made by Ashley Lozano to approve the shift, seconded by Guhner Kepler.

Ayes: Ashley Lozano, Cory Graber, & Guhner Kepler. Nays: Kristi Drey & Darwin Grim.

Motion approved.

H. Chamber of Commerce Plan for 2024

Chamber Board President Liz VanOverschelde addressed the Council stating that the Chamber Board would like to work together with the City of Gregory to come up with a viable plan that would continue to work for and benefit both entities. Sandy Smith addressed the Council concerned that the City of Gregory was going to lose its strategic vision and fail to invest in its future. Rachele Bloom addressed the Council and stated that the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Group work hand in hand and to not have a Chamber Director would reflect badly on the City of Gregory. Mayor Cerny reiterated for the Chamber Board and Chamber members present at the meeting, that the Chamber of Commerce was not losing funding, the Council and Chamber Board had to decide how the funds were distributed and if the Chamber Director was to remain an employee of the City of Gregory or be an employee of the Chamber. Attorney Amy Bartling

clarified the definition of employee. The Council decided to move the discussion and decision to Executive Session.

At 6:45 pm Motion made by Kristi Drey to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel and the Chamber for 2024, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion Carried

At 8:00 pm Mayor Cerny took the council out of Executive Session.

Results of Executive Session:
Chamber Funding for 2024

Ashley Lozano made the motion, seconded by Kristi Drey to extend the funding for The Chamber as is until July 1, 2024, treating the Chamber Director as a city employee with full-time benefits. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Salaries for 2024

Ashley Lozano made the motion, seconded by Kristi Drey to approve the following rate of pay per hour for the following full-time employees for 2024. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Jeremy Atkins	\$23.00	Rachelle Bloom	\$21.75
Tom Claussen	\$22.25	Ryan Cook	\$26.50
Damon Eaglestar	\$17.62	Tara Engel	\$17.50
Marty Jung	\$25.25	Jennifer Keegan	\$25.25
Josey Larsen	\$24.25	Ana Smiley	\$16.75
Trudy Waterman	\$23.50		

Bonus Payment

Motion was made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Kristi Drey to pay a bonus of \$1000.00 to Jennifer Keegan for performing job duties outside her normal responsibilities in 2023 when the City of Gregory did not have a full-time Finance Officer. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Kristi Drey to pay Al Cerny for 93 hours of work at the minimum wage rate of \$10.80 an hour for work in the Financial Office/City Administrator Office in 2023 when the office was vacant. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Pay Claims

Motion made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Ashley Lozano to pay the claims. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
AMERICAN GARAGE DOOR	STREET-SHOP DOOR REPAIR	712.06
APPEARA	TOWELS/HANDC/CVRALLS/MATS/MOPS	122.50
ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION	MEMBERSHIP DUES	25.00
BARTLING WELDING & MACHINE INC	WELDING GAS/REPAIR IN WELLFIEL	535.00

CIAVARELLA DESIGN INC	STREET-MAIN STRT DES FINAL PAY	6250.00
CITY OF GREGORY	EQUIP REIM	75.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS	CODE ENFORCEMENT-11/1-30/2023	780.40
CORE & MAIN LP	RNI-SENS ANALYTICS YR 5	16882.93
DAKOTA AUTO CARE LLC	REPAIR 2019 CHEVY SILVERADO	667.09
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPPORT	901.92
DOUG'S CONCRETE SAWING	WINDOW OPENINGS MAIN STRT	1730.56
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	4426.09
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	520.72
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	GOOGLE WORKSPACE	229.39
GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATION	AIRPORT PHONE/INTERNET CHARGES	881.74
GREGORY SCHOOL DISTRICT	AUDI-1/2 COST FIX LOCKS	120.85
GREGORY TIMES-ADVOCATE	COUNCIL PUBLISHING	175.87
HELMS & ASSOCIATES	AIRPORT- T-HANGAR DESIGN	3601.34
JERRYS ELECTRIC & SERVICES LLC	NUTRICENTR-THERMOSTAT & DRAIN	438.53
JIM'S GARBAGE SERVICE	GARBAGE SERVICE	400.00
KIM'S CLEANING SERVICE	CITY HALL CLEANING SERVICES	600.00
LANES DIESEL REPAIR LLC	REPAIR RED INT PLOW/TRUCK	830.00
MARTY JUNG	REIMBURSEMENTS	54.36
MR. AUTOMOTIVE	PARTS REPAIR	1624.99
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER	FIN OFF-SERVICE CONTRACTS	221.54
PETTY CASH	PETTY CASH	6.21
ROSEBUD FARMERS UNION	FUEL BILLS	2875.88
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC.	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	361.55
TREETOP PRODUCTS LLC	PD-GRANT SIGNS 3@4358.85/SHIP	13759.85
TURNNEY CONTRACTING	REPAIR-ROOF LEAKS MAIN STRT	1897.00
US POSTAL SERVICE	ANNUAL FRST CLASS PRESORT FEE	310.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELLPHONE CHARGES	536.12
Accounts Payable Total		62554.49
Invoices: Paid		6805.47
Invoices: Scheduled		55749.02
Payroll Checks		16969.17
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		79523.66

Adjourn

Motion made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Ashley Lozano to adjourn.

Mayor Al Cerny

ATTEST: _____

Trudy Waterman Finance Officer