

**City of Gregory**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 2, 2024 |6:00 PM**  
**Gregory City Hall 120 W 6<sup>th</sup> St Gregory, SD 57533**

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Monday December 2, 2024, at 6:00 pm with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The following City Council members were present: Ashley Lozano, Kristi Drey, Cory Graber, Guhner Kepler, Laura Petersen, and Maurice Schlaht. Also present were City Attorney Amy Bartling, Library Director Tara Engel, Police Chief Ryan Cook, Reporter Patty Connealy, and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman. Visitors were Jim & Karen Imler, Lori Kaupp, and Rachelle Bloom.

**6:00 Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Corrections/Additions/Approval** Mayor Cerny requested the addition of changing the date of the next Council meeting due to conflict with a school concert. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the date change made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting November 21, 2024** Motion to approve the Minutes from November 21, 2024 made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Laura Petersen. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Forum – None**

**Department Head Reports** – Library Director Tara Engel reported that the first STEM Club for December had met and that the curriculum was engineering. Thirteen attendees have built bridges, and the bridges will be posted on Facebook. She stated the following week would see a Lego challenge and that would be followed by the Christmas project. Director Engel also announced that the Huron Library has gifted a substantial number of large print books to the Gregory Library. Ms. Engel was very pleased with the condition and value of these books and implied that this gift had saved the Gregory Public Library a substantial amount of money while providing quality books for our large print patrons.

Police Chief Ryan Cook reported that the department is operating in a business-as-usual manner and although they are busy with some police work, some of it is community service. Chief Cook was happy to report that Santa’s mailbox was installed on Main Street and the officers are looking forward to helping Santa Claus get his mail. Chief Cook also advised the Council that the snow removal notice had been published in the paper to remind citizens of the importance of removing obstructions on the roadways so our snow crews, officers, and emergency responders can do their jobs.

**Committee Reports** – Guhner Kepler reported that he had received a phone call asking about registering Gregory as a Purple-Heart city.

**Conflict of Interest – None**

**Old Business –**

Alice Slade sewer. City Attorney Amy Bartling is in communication with Claims Associates.

## New Business

- A. Snow Removal List** Mayor Cerny presented the Council with a list of potential snow removal help and proposed a pay amount of \$25.00. The snow removers would be considered seasonal help. The Council agreed to take the discussion to Executive Session. No action taken at this time.
- B. Repeal Ordinance 2021-02** Motion to approve the first reading made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion Carried.
- C. Tax Rebate** City Attorney Amy Bartling explained that due to the change in the South Dakota Discretionary Formula, the City of Gregory's Discretionary Formula in Ordinance 2021-02 was immediately voided. Attorney Bartling also explained that the Discretionary Formula targeted affordable housing and would not have applied to the Grandview homes as the value of those homes exceeds the affordable housing threshold. Attorney Bartling also acknowledged that the City of Gregory had failed to catch this and that the Ordinance should have been addressed sooner and removed from the Website sooner. Attorney Bartling then addressed the Municipal Tax Rebate portion of the Ordinance and explained that this was a Municipal Tax Rebate and although our Ordinance was rendered null and void, the City of Gregory would be willing to make a one-time tax rebate to homeowners in Grandview whose homes were constructed after 2022. This would be a Municipal Rebate of their first year of Municipal taxes. **Motion to offer a tax rebate of the Municipal Tax on the first year for homes built during the 2022 and 2023 tax years made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.**
- D. Employee Evaluation Procedure** – Council agreed that the Department Heads should complete the employee evaluations by December 16, 2024, for the December 17, 2024, meeting. No action needed.
- E. Budget Supplement** Finance Officer Trudy Waterman presented the Council with the Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance 2024-04. The Ordinance reflects the need to supplement the budget by \$1,241,500 to balance the expenditures made on projects completed in 2024. Motion to approve the first reading of the Supplemental Budget Ordinance 2024-04 made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.
- F. Resignation of Amy Bartling as City of Gregory Attorney** The Council accepted Attorney Amy Bartling's resignation beginning December 31, 2024. Mayor Cerny and the City Council thanked Ms. Bartling for her years of service
- G. Resignation of Ashley Lozano as Councilperson (Due to Move out of Ward III)** The remaining Council accepted Ashley Lozano's resignation and the Council, with Mayor Cerny, thanked her for her years of service.
- H. Change Meeting Date Due to School Concert** Motion to move the next meeting to Tuesday December 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.
- I. Pay Claims**

### CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
AFLAC	AFLAC INSURANCE	726.64
APPEARA	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	147.96

BIRKEL DIRTWORK&EXCAVATION LLC	STREET PROJECT/524 E 6TH	8369.10
BURKE OIL COMPANY	2650 GALS AV GAS	12084.00
CORE & MAIN LP	METERS/PARTS	3303.76
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPPORT	379.00
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	3888.02
GREGORY/DALLAS CHAMBER OF COMM	MONTHLY STIPEND	3125.00
GREGORY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	MONTHLY STIPEND	2267.37
GREGORY PUBLIC LIBRARY	SUPPLIES/BOOKS/PROFEES	1005.15
gWORKS	SOFTWARE LICENSE/CONTRACT	14400.00
HAWKINS INC	POOL CYLINDER FEE	10.00
HEALTH POOL OF SD	HEALTH INSURANCE	5876.50
JOHNSON POCHOP&BARTLINGLAW	LEGAL SERVICES	2025.00
KIM'S CLEANING SERVICE	CITY HALL CLEANING SERVICES	600.00
KLEIN'S TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	505.07
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE REIMB	4.08
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY	WATER TESTING	86.00
ROSEBUD ELECTRIC COOP INC	ELECTRIC PAYMENT	5392.04
SCHMUCKER PAUL NOHR AND ASSOC	1ST & 4TH ENGINEERING FINAL	506.25
SDRS	SD RETIREMENT	4831.80
SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT	SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT	2550.00
SYN-TECH SYSTEMS	AIRPORT TECH SUPPORT	121.00
US POSTAL SERVICE	WATER BILLING POSTAGE	328.72
YANKTON FIRE & SAFETY CO INC	ANNUAL FIRE EXT INSPEC	696.00
Accounts Payable Total		73228.46
Invoices: Paid		12704.18
Invoices: Scheduled		60524.28
Payroll Checks		10866.08
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		84094.54

Motion to pay claims made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Maurice Schlaht. All ayes. Motion carried.

**6:57 pm** Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel made by Ashley Lozano, seconded by Kristi Drey.

**7:31 pm** Mayor Cerny took the Council out of Executive Session

### Results of Executive Session

1. Motion to appoint Stacy Boes as interim Councilperson for Ward III made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Cory Graber. All ayes. Motion carried.
2. Motion to approve the following list for seasonal employees for snow removal at a rate of \$25.00 an hour made by Laura Petersen, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

Darwin Grim    Alex Hamilton    Aaron Hogrefe    Russell Nelson

**7:34**

**J. Adjourn** Motion to adjourn made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes.  
Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Al Cerny

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Officer Trudy Waterman