

City of Gregory

City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 5, 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 5, 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. 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, and Finance Officer Trudy Waterman.

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

Agenda Corrections/Additions/Approval

Motion made by Ashley Lozano to approve the agenda, seconded by Cory Graber. All ayes.
Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting November 20, 2023.

Motion made by Guhner Kepler to approve the minutes, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes.
Motion carried.

Department Heads

Tara Engel, Library Director, stated that 19 kids attended Lego Club and the library has an upcoming painting tutorial; the kids will leave with snowmen or a serving tray for Christmas at home. Saturday 12/16/2023, from 1-2, is Christmas Cookies and Crafts with Cops. The area law enforcement branches have been invited to come and create with the kids. Ms. Engel presented the Council with the November Financial Report for the library and noted that the Pilcrow Foundation supplemented book order had been received. The order's final book total was 116 books including juvenile and YA books. The library has also received notification that it is receiving another grant for a 2024 project and Ms. Engel is currently applying for a summer reading grant in the amount of \$1500.

Ana Smiley, Chamber Director, reported the tree lighting went very well, despite the cold weather. She stated there has been talk of a permanent tree being planted, but there are no plans for that right now. The Chamber has free kids' movies coming up sponsored by the local banks. On December 30, 2023, the Chamber is hosting the murder mystery event at the auditorium.

Committee Reports

Ashley Lozano reported that the cameras are being installed at the auditorium.

Mayor Cerny reported that the new highway speed limit signs have arrived and are going up soon. He also stated that Superintendent Josey Larson and he drove the streets of Gregory and

have mapped approximately 42 blocks (3 miles) that the city is working toward grinding/milling, reshaping, laying chip rock, and sealing in 2024. The cost may run up to \$250,000 and the mayor hopes to open the bids in January or February in conjunction with the Phase I bids.

Conflict of Interest – None

New Business

A. Esterling Building Permit

Motion made by Kristi Drey to move into Board of Adjustment, seconded by Cory Graber. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Darwin Grim to approve the Esterling building permit, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kristi Drey to move out of Board of Adjustment, seconded by Darwin Grim. All ayes. Motions carried.

B. Main Street Lot

Britnie Kenzy addressed the Council and reiterated her offer of \$5000.00 for the empty lot downtown. She stated she is interested in opening a business in Message Therapy and that there would be other offerings in the store.

Mayor Cerny thanked Ms. Kenzy for her interest, but also stated the City of Gregory had not reached a decision on the future of the downtown lot at this time. He also stated that the lot could not be sold until the Council had decided to sell it, calculated a value, declared it surplus property, and opened it up for sealed bids. The mayor also stated that he appreciated Ms. Kenzy's offer, but he felt the overall input costs thus far exceeded her offer and he felt the lot would be valued closer to \$30,000.00. Cory Graber stated that a new building would have to conform to the surrounding buildings in appearance. Ms. Kenzy questioned the legality of that. Mr. Graber continued explaining fire codes and restrictions regarding the buildings on either side. The mayor closed the conversation with the Council agreeing to discuss a value and the expectations regarding the lot at the December 19, 2023, meeting.

C. One-Day Liquor License for the Chamber December 30, 2023.

Motion made by Ashley to approve the one-day license, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

D. Greenlight Dispensary 2024 Permit

Motion carried by Darwin Grim to approve 2024 permit, seconded by Guhner Kepler. All ayes. Motion carried.

E. Update Public Nuisance

Shannon Speck, Code Enforcement, has suggested that the City of Gregory hire a Process Server to serve papers regarding abandoned residences in Gregory to an out of state owner. Mayor Cerny also mentioned a letter of Abatement that he is personally addressing the owner about.

Motion made by Ashley Lozano to hire a Process Server, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

F. GED/Ciavarelli Report

Rachelle Bloom reported to the Council some of the Ciavarelli presentation including city evaluation, potential restoration plans, two highlighted buildings, store owner financial assistance resources for restoration, and several street scape ideas. Ms. Bloom stated that much of the public feedback has been leaning toward Ciavarelli design #4 that alters the downtown 4-way stop to improve esthetic, accessibility, and safety. Ms. Bloom stated that the GED would like to see these things happen approximately the same time as the sidewalk project in downtown and that if the Council would commit to a plan, the business owners could begin planning accordingly. Mayor Cerny and the Council agreed that a forward plan would be good for all involved, but Mayor Cerny and other Council members pointed out that the sidewalks may be more pressing as a project that needs to be addressed much sooner.

G. Supplemental Budget – First Reading

Motion made by Ashley Lozano to approve Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance 2023-04, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion carried.

H. Year-End Bonus and Employee Evaluation Procedures

The Council opted to halt discussion and hold an Executive Session.

I. Pay Claims

CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
AFLAC	AFLAC- PRE-TAX	495.70
APPEARA	TOWELS/HNDCLNR/CVRALLS/AF/ETC	132.13
CHESTERMAN COMPANY	CITY HALL WATER	30.00
CITY OF GREGORY	EQUIP REIM	75.00
CYBERTEK SYSTEMS	MANAGEIT/PHONESYS/BACK-UP	475.97
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPPORT	901.92
EFTPS	FED/FICA TAX	4177.71
FRONTIER MOTORS FORD INC	POLICE-CHK TRANS FLUID F150	143.58
GREGORY BUILDING CENTER	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS/MAINTENANCE	651.39
GREGORY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	ROAD MAINTENANCE	320.00
GREGORY PUBLIC LIBRARY	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS/BOOKS	1788.25
GREGORY SCHOOL DISTRICT	AUDITORIUM-HALF COST CAMERAS	5923.92
gWORKS	CITY FINANCIAL/UTILITY SOFTWR	16179.00
HARRY K FORD	STREET-REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	56.93
HEALTH POOL OF SD	HEALTH INSURANCE	6969.03
KLEIN'S TRUE VALUE	POLICE- ERASER BOARD/MARKERS	31.88
KUTTIN KLUG TREE CARE	TREES- 508 RICE STREET	1050.00
MARTY JUNG	CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT	80.85
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER	OFFICE SUPPLIES	170.90
PETTY CASH	REIMBURSEMENT	15.30
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY	TESTING	208.00
ROSEBUD ELECTRIC COOP INC	ELECTRIC PAYMENT	5493.55
SCHMUCKER PAUL NOHR AND ASSOC	ENGINEERING: 1ST & 4TH ST	8443.56
SD ASSOC OF RURAL WATER SYSTEM	ANNUAL DUES CLASS B	590.00

SDRS	SDRS	4662.34
SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT	ROTH	550.00
TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DIST	MONTHLY WATER SERVICE	3000.00
US BANK	PRINCIPAL SERIES 2013	123100.00
US POSTAL SERVICE	WATER BILLING POSTAGE	299.88
VANDERPOL DRAGLINE INC	PAY REQUEST #2 AST/4TH STREET	128239.60
VEURINK INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC	FIRE-SMKHOUSE TRLR INS	302.00
WM KROTTER CO	STREET- CONCRETEMIX/ROOFCEMENT	222.81
YANKTON FIRE & SAFETY CO INC	ANNUAL FIRE EXT INSPECTIONS	1312.00
Accounts Payable Total		316093.20
Invoices: Paid		134262.55
Invoices: Scheduled		181830.65
Payroll Checks		13688.73
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		329781.93

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

6:55 PM Motion made by Ashley Lozano to move into Executive Session, seconded by Kristi Drey. All ayes. Motion Carried.

7:20 PM Mayor Al Cerny took the Council out of Executive Session.

Results: Motion made by Darwin Grim to approve holiday bonuses of \$250 to full-time and \$100 to part-time (non-seasonal) staff, seconded by Ashley Lozano. All ayes. Motion carried.

J. Adjourn

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

Mayor Al Cerny

ATTEST: _____

Trudy Waterman, Finance Officer