

City of Gregory  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 17, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.  
Gregory City Hall, 120 W 6<sup>th</sup> St, Gregory, SD 57533

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The following members were present: Kristi Drey, Guhner Kepler, Darwin Grim, Cory Graber, and Maurice Schlaht. Absent was Council Member Ashley Lozano. Also present were News Reporter Patty Connealy, Librarian Tara Engel, Assistant Finance Officer Jennifer Keegan, Chief of Police Doug Catts, Officer Ryan Cook, City Attorney Amy Bartling Jacobsen and GED Director Rachelle Bloom.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Agenda

Motion was made by Guhner Kepler, seconded by Kristi Drey, to approve the agenda with the following addition to be added between D & E under New Business: GED Loan Approval. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

#### Minutes

Motion was made by Cory Graber to approve the regular minutes from 7/6/23 as written, seconded by Maurice Schlaht. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

#### Public Forum

Patty Connealy asked the council who was filling in the position as finance officer since Alex Hamilton's resignation. Mayor Al Cerny stated he was currently handling the position with no pay until the position is filled.

Donna Schmitz questioned why the 4-H Achievement Days will no longer be held in Gregory. Mayor Cerny stated that the city received a letter informing them that 4-H Achievement Days will be moved from Gregory, but they did not state a reason for the change.

#### Dept. Head Reports

Librarian Tara Engel stated she has been busy with summer programs. A play will be held at the library on July 20<sup>th</sup> about Wounded Knee by the "Dakota Daughters" supported by the SD Humanities Council. Another program being held on Aug. 1 will bring reptiles to the library by the Cold-Blooded Red Head. Engel also gave a financial report showing an increase in patrons by six.

Police Chief Doug Catts reported that Officers Cook and Atkins had recently had taser training and completed firearms qualifications. Catts mentioned that the pool party was a success, hosted by Jana Winters and the lifeguards, and the police dept provided and served food to over 80 people. The event raised over \$1,700 from freewill donations.

With July 18<sup>th</sup> being Catts last day of work, he thanked the council for the opportunity to serve as police Chief for the last two years. Officer Cook presented Chief Catts with a plaque on behalf of himself, Officer Atkins and the City of Gregory.

#### Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest were stated as none with the new business portion of the agenda.

## New Business

### Building Permit

Motion was made by Kristi Drey to enter the board of adjustment to discuss a building permit, seconded by Cory Graber. All members voted aye; the motion carried. Mayor Cerny presented the following building permit: George Kenzy, deck. Mayor Cerny stated that the planning and zoning board made the recommendation to approve the building permit. Motion was made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Darwin Grim, to approve the application from George Kenzy for a deck. All members voted aye; the motion carried. Motion was made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Cory Graber, to exit the board of adjustment. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

### Doug Pochop Lots

Doug Pochop met with the council to propose another offer to the ongoing negotiations regarding the city purchasing two lots from him. Pochop initially requested a purchase price of \$30,000 for the two lots north of city hall. The city counteroffered with \$20,000, which was not accepted by Pochop. Following that, Pochop suggested a swap offer of lots, which was subsequently rejected by the city. In effort to find common ground, Pochop proposed the city buying both lots for a total of \$25,000. Motion was made by Cory Graber to buy Lots 11 & 12 Block 52 OT of Gregory from Doug Pochop, with one lot being purchased this year for \$12,500 and the other through a contract for deed arrangement next year. Pochop will handle all the title work with no additional costs to the city. The motion was seconded by Maurice Schlaht. All members voted aye; the motion carried. Doug Pochop accepted the offer.

### Authorization to Move Pool Savings Account to CD

Motion was made by Darwin Grim, seconded by Guhner Kepler, to authorize Mayor Cerny to move the city's pool savings account money from BankWest to a 6-month CD at 5.05% APY at BankWest or the best offer from another local bank. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

### Pool Committee

Kelli Stukel, along with other Gregory Pool Committee members, met with the council to recap their recent committee meeting and ask some questions about the proposed new pool. Discussion was had on the cost of the plan using the design from Helms & Associates. Mayor Cerny will contact the engineers to get an updated pool cost for the proposed design. It was decided Rachelle Bloom, GED Director would look into an Emergency Shelter Grant that could be beneficial with the pool house and parking. The committee asked if they could break ground before the raising all the funds and asked how much the community needed to raise before the city would start the project. It was agreed that an updated cost estimate for the project is needed before some of those questions can be answered. The mayor complimented the pool committee for spearheading the project and their fundraising efforts.

### GED Loan Approval

Rachelle Bloom, Gregory Economic Development (GED) Director, informed the council that the GED board had recommended approval of a loan request from Coach's Lawn Service LLC in the amount of \$20,000 for a term of 5 years at an interest rate of 3%. Motion was made by Cory Graber, seconded by Guhner Kepler, to approve the revolving loan request of \$20,000 for a term of 5 years at an interest rate of 3% from Coach's Lawn Service LLC. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

### GBA Request for Donation

Noone was present at the council meeting from the Gregory Baseball Association to present a detailed cost of their proposed project. The council agreed to table their request for a donation for ballpark improvements.

### Bids on Salvage of Whitepipe Building

The council agreed to have Mayor Cerny put together an agreement for removing salvage from the Whitepipe building and present it for discussion at the next council meeting.

### Renewal of City's Website Provider

Motion was made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Guhner Kepler, to approve the 4-year contract for website management with Catalis starting Sept. 1, 2023 to Aug. 31, 2027. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

### Authorization for Mayor to Sign Grant Agreement

Motion was made by Darwin Grim, seconded by Kristi Drey, to approve Mayor Al Cerny as the City of Gregory's authorized representative to sign the state financial assistance agreement, Project No. 3-46-0018-21-2023, for the design of T-Hangars at the Gregory Municipal Airport. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

### Personnel Policy Handbook Update

The personnel policy handbook was updated to remove the residency requirement, except for public safety and public works employees. Motion was made by Darwin Grim, seconded by Maurice Schlaht, to change and approve the residency requirement in the personnel handbook to read as the following: Residency with the city or a distance in which the employee can reach the city within 15 miles shall be a condition of employment for public safety and public works employees. An application, however, shall not be discriminated against because of non-residency in the city. Public Safety and Public Works employees shall be given a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 6 months, if hired, to establish residency within the city or make arrangements to meet the 15-mile requirement. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

### Financial Report for June

Mayor Al Cerny presented the council the June 2023 financial report which included a balance sheet and a revenue and expense report. Preliminary budget work for 2024 has been started.

### Claims

ACE'S BACKHOE SERVICE LLC	WATER SLEEVE FOR NEW SHOP BLDG	1,010.21
APPEARA	MATS/MOP/TOWELS/COVERALLS/AIRF	198.85
ARNOLD POOL COMPANY	WA TESTING REAGENTS/CLARIFIER	144.05
AXON ENTERPRISE INC	PD TASER 7 CARTRIDGES	690.80
B & F VARIETY	POOL POSTERBOARD	3.96
BRUCE KLEINSASSER	2023 LG INST REVIEW J WINTERS	185.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS	CODE ENFORCEMENT FEES	316.62
CORE & MAIN LP	CURB BOXES	268.22
CYBERTEK SYSTEMS	MANAGED IT/PHONE SYS/PD AXON	607.83
DAKOTA PUMP LLC	WHITTECAR LIFTSTATION CONTROLS	478.32
DOUG CATTS	REIMBURSEMENT FOR GAS	57.54
FEDEX	PD SHIPPING/EVIDENCE RETURN	17.68
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE/INTERNET SERVICE	906.89
GREGORY BUILDING CENTER	CULVERT/LUMBER WEIGHT RM STEPS	1,666.23
GREGORY TIMES-ADVOCATE	COUNCIL PUBLISH/FO AD/SWIM LESSONS	432.39

GUNNER HANZEL	MEAL REIMBURSEMENT/TASER TRAIN	25.98
HARRY K NAPA	BATTERY/SEAFOAM/FILTERS/GREASE	398.56
KEN'S BODY SHOP	REPLACE PD WINDSHIELD MOULDING	139.23
KIM'S CLEANING SERVICE	CITY HALL CLEANING SERVICES	600.00
KIRWAN DESIGN & LANDSCAPING LLC	10 SPRINKLER HEADS	798.54
LONNIE KLUNDT	FERTILIZE/SPRAY BALLFIELDS	850.00
MARTY JUNG	REIMB FOR BALLFIELD SPRINKLERS	64.19
MR. AUTOMOTIVE	BELT DRIVE TENSIONER/PULLEY	155.79
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER	CARTRIDGES/SERV CONTRACT/PAPER	441.14
ON SIGHT LLC	BUTTES VID STREAMING/KELOLAND	639.00
WOLF ENTERPRISES	PORTA POTS PARK/BOWLING ALLEY	800.00
ROSEBUD FARMERS UNION	TIRE/FUEL METER/GAS/DIESEL	3,104.06
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC.	FITTINGS/CAULK/CABLE TIES/OIL	393.25
SOUTH DAKOTA 811	LOCATE TICKETS	67.20
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE CHARGES	492.66
WENGER ENTERPRISES LLC	POOL CONCESSIONS	808.55
Accounts Payable Total		\$16,762.74

The claims were presented for approval. Motion was made by Cory Graber, seconded by Cory Guhner, to approve payment of the claims as presented. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

#### Executive Session

Motion was made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Maurice Schlaht, to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Council went into executive session at 7:02 p.m. At 7:26 p.m., Mayor Cerny removed the council from executive session.

#### Results of Executive Session

##### Finance Officer Position

Motion was made by Kristi Drey to offer the finance officer position to an applicant at a rate of pay of \$22.00 per hour, seconded by Cory Graber. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

##### Chief of Police

Mayor Al Cerny appointed Ryan Cook to the Chief of Police position at a rate of pay of \$25.00 per hour. Motion was made by Cory Graber, seconded by Maurice Schlaht, to approve the appointment of Ryan Cook to Chief of Police at the \$25.00 per hour rate of pay. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

##### Adjourn

Motion was made by Kristi Drey, seconded by Darwin Grim, to adjourn. All members voted aye; the carried.

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Al Cerny, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Keegan, Assistant Finance Officer