

City of Gregory

City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday August 21, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

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

The Gregory City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Al Cerny presiding. The following members were present: Guhner Kepler, Darwin Grimm, Maurice Schlaht, and Cory Graber. Absent were Kristi Drey and Ashley Lozano. Also present were News Reporter Patty Connealy, Chief of Police Ryan Cook, City Attorney Amy Bartling Jacobson, GED Director Rachelle Bloom, Chamber Director Ana Smiley, Chamber delegates Sandy Smith & Liz Vanoverschelde, Finance Officer Trudy Waterman, and guest Ryler Stevicks.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

Motion was made by Maurie Schlaht, seconded by Darwin Grimm, to approve the agenda. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

Minutes

Motion was made by Darwin Grimm, seconded by Cory Graber to approve the regular minutes from August 7, 2023. All members voted aye; the motion carried.

Public Forum

Chamber Director Ana Smiley discussed the 60-day probationary period regarding the Chamber Director position, stating that she had already been in place past the 60 days and stated an interest in moving the position forward. Her request to be allowed to increase paid hours, included plans for those increased hours including, but not limited to, grant writing, increased art & entertainment events, help the GED and help the city of Gregory and Chamber member businesses in general.

Chamber Delegate Sandy Smith reiterated the 60-day probationary period and requested that the Chamber Director position be returned to the original agreed upon employment contract. Also cited were the promoting efforts, grants, and increased entertainment that Ana Smiley has already contributed and that this position is like other positions in the city of Gregory.

The Mayor, Al Cerny noted the comments and moved to discuss the Council's position during the regular meeting.

Department Head Reports

Police Chief Ryan Cook reported that there will be an Active Shooter Training Exercise with the hospital and local law enforcement and emergency services and that the first meeting for scheduling and planning is on August 24, 2023. No date is set currently for the exercise. Chief Cook also inquired about cameras on the East side of the Auditorium citing a few instances of vandalism and that that is only side of the auditorium without a clear view. There was also discussion regarding the fixing of a door latch in the auditorium and the need to establish set rules and hours regarding the usage of the auditorium. Finally, Police Chief Ryan brought up the Central Square or Zercher law enforcement software systems that would allow for quicker and more thorough searches into identities and criminal backgrounds using a central database and give the local police departments, City of Gregory Police Department, City of Burke Police Department, and the Gregory County Sheriff better up-to-date information. The three departments would also enter with a cost share agreement. This system is also used by the South Dakota Highway Patrol and most Police Departments in western South Dakota.

Committee Reports

Guhner Kepler reported that the Sunshine Park committee would like to have the roof of the park gazebo fixed. The committee understood that the roof was to be fixed, but the work has never been done. The mayor could find no record of a damage claim or payout regarding the gazebo. The mayor asked that a quote be presented to the council and that the repairs would be put into consideration.

Rachelle Bloom stated that the GED has been making plans for the new space now available on Main St after the demolition of the old building. The plans potentially include a portable skating rink for winter and some older teen and adult activities for the warmer summer months. There was also discussion of the upcoming Farm to Table fundraiser event scheduled for Sunday September 17.

Conflict of Interest

It was decided there were no conflicts of interest.

New Business

Economic Development (GED) Proposal

The GED also asked about deeding the empty lots on Main St to the Economic Development group, but the mayor stated that would need to be put on the next council agenda and brought up for discussion.

Bank Account Signature Cards

Motion was made by Maurie Schlaht, seconded by Guhner Kepler to remove former Finance Officer Alex Hamilton from the bank signature cards and add the new Finance Officer Trudy Waterman to the signature cards. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Transfer of Funds to Money Market Accounts

Motion was made by Cory Graber, seconded by Darwin Grimm to move funds from the general checking account to an interest paying Money Market account understanding that the money is fully accessible unlike a CD. All members voted aye; motion carried.

July Financial Report

General sales tax revenue is up.

3rd cent sales tax revenue is up.

Budget 2024

Mayor Al Cerny opened discussion regarding the funding related to the Chamber Position. Mayor Cerny proposed three options: no change, increase in hours with no benefits, or increase in hours plus benefits. Mayor Cerny also stated that as of now the Chamber does have enough funding from the 3rd Cent Tax to carry a full-time employee for the remainder of 2023 and 2024. Motion was made by Maurie Schlaht, seconded by Guhner Kepler to fully fund a full-time position with benefits. Maurie Schlaht and Guhner Kepler voted aye, Darwin Grimm and Cory Graber voted nay, and Mayor Al Cerny broke the tie with an aye, motion carried. Mayor Cerny then discussed moving the probationary period discussion to Executive Session.

Cory Graber discussed the Pool Committee's plans for a fundraiser that includes raffling off a car. Mr. Graber expressed an interest in discussing the possibility of the city helping with some of

the initial purchase of the car, and add the discussion to the next agenda, and wanted to mention the fact before the 2024 budget was finished.

Darwin Grimm suggested adding to the next agenda revisiting the city ordinance regarding loaded tractor trailers on streets not designated truck route streets. Chief Ryan Cook stated that the wording needed to be revised to help clarify the citations as well.

Claims

Darwin Grimm made a motion, seconded by Maurie Schlaht to pay the claims for 8-21-2023. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

| CLAIMS REPORT | | |
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| VENDOR | REFERENCE | AMOUNT |
| ACE'S CAR WASH | Car Wash Exp | 96.00 |
| APPEARA | mats/towels/coveralls/air f | 217.54 |
| B & F VARIETY | pool- batteries/posterboard | 4.28 |
| BUCHE FOODS | supplies | 56.60 |
| CHESTERMAN COMPANY | Water | 30.00 |
| CITY OF GREGORY | EQUIP REIM | 75.00 |
| DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT | CHILD SUPPORT | 505.92 |
| EFTPS | FED/FICA TAX | 4026.54 |
| ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES | Supplies | 502.11 |
| GREGORY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT | ROAD MAINTENANCE | 320.00 |
| GREGORY PUBLIC LIBRARY | Books & supplies | 398.42 |
| MARK JACOBSEN | Supplies | 273.00 |
| HAWKINS INC | Pool-chlorine | 70.00 |
| JIM'S GARBAGE SERVICE | Garbage pick-up | 1140.00 |
| KIM'S CLEANING SERVICE | CITY HALL CLEANING SERVICES | 600.00 |
| LONNIE KLUNDT | Ballfield care | 850.00 |
| MARTY JUNG | Water Dept - Reimbursement | 60.00 |
| OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER | Service contracts | 85.65 |
| WOLF ENTERPRISES | Porta-pots | 200.00 |
| REXWINKEL CONCRETE INC | Payment 1- St Shop edition | 60077.72 |
| RG SPRINKLERS | Park - LL sprinklers | 657.10 |
| ROSEBUD ELECTRIC COOP INC | ELECTRIC PAYMENT | 5938.12 |
| ROSEBUD FARMERS UNION | Gas/Diesel/Oil/Supplies | 4363.52 |
| VERIZON WIRELESS | Cell Phone Charges | 709.10 |
| WENGER ENTERPRISES LLC | Pool concessions- June/July | 1367.97 |
| Accounts Payable Total | | 82624.59 |

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|--------------------------|----------|
| Invoices: Paid | 4607.46 |
| Invoices: Scheduled | 78017.13 |
| Payroll Checks | 15667.68 |
| ***** REPORT TOTAL ***** | 98292.27 |

Mayor Al Cerny proposed an executive session to discuss police department hire and Chamber Director probationary period. Motion made by Cory Graber, seconded by Maurie Schlaht. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Executive Session

The council entered Executive Session on 7:15 p.m. Mayor Al Cerny took the City Council out of Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

Results of Executive Session

Results were a motion by Guhner Kepler, seconded by Cory Graber to offer the police position to the individual of choice. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Regarding the Chamber Director move to offer full-time hours (32), benefits and retirement to the Chamber Director. Motion was made by Maurie Schlaht, seconded by Guhner Kepler. Guhner Kepler and Maurie Schlaht vote aye, Cory Graber and Darwin Grimm vote nay, Mayor Cerny breaks the tie with an aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Darwin Grimm, seconded by Cory Graber. All members voted aye.

Al Cerny, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Trudy Waterman, Finance Officer