

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of West Point, Nebraska was convened in open and public session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. on February 2, 2021 at the Nielsen Community Center, 200 Anna Stalp Ave, West Point, Nebraska.

Present were: Mayor Schlecht; Councilmembers: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Absent: None.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and stated that in accordance with State Statute Section 84-1412 the Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the room for public information. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Moved by Stokely, seconded by Penrose, to approve the following consent agenda:

1. City appointed volunteer boards and commissions - none.
2. Fire & rescue departments – approve the membership of Derek Grovijohn to West Point Volunteer Fire Department, Company #1.
3. Approval of minutes of the January 5, 2021 and January 20, 2021 meetings.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Claims.

Voting Yea: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried.

<u>CLAIMS</u>		
Payroll		156,477.92
Hugo Plumbing & Heating	Serv/Supplies	3,871.17
Rutjens Construction	Wilderness Ridge Project	204,242.25
Western Area Power Administration	Power	9,027.96
BCBS of Nebraska	Health Ins.	57,279.55
City of West Point Payroll Tax Fund	Employer FICA	6,232.08
First National Bank of Fremont	Retirement Contributions	3,926.64
Black Hills Energy	Service	66.12
Central Valley Ag	Service	357.13
PetroMart	Service	26.49
Sapp Bros.	Service	878.47
Wagner Tire	Service	2,716.46
West Point Travel Plaza	Service	2,086.82
Kellee Osborne	Loan/Grant	50,000.00
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales Tax	28,572.93
John Will	Loan/Grant	20,000.00
MEAN	Power	321,608.25
City of West Point Payroll Tax Fund	Employer FICA	5,943.09

First National Bank of Fremont	Retirement Contributions	3,999.40
Companion Life	Life Ins.	264.91
Advanced Consulting	Prof Services	11,005.67
Auto Value Parts	Supplies	242.88
Black Hills Energy	Service	1,376.26
Bomgaars Supply	Supplies	604.33
Border States	Supplies	3,775.17
Bound Tree Medical	Supplies	143.11
Bracht Law	Prof Services	95.00
Cardmember Service	Service	1,822.52
Century Link	Service	1,032.75
Constellation NewEnergy	Service	1,539.96
Core & Main	Supplies	695.38
Creative Xpressions	Service	26.85
Cuming County Clerk	Election Costs	1,397.90
Cuming County Rural Water	Service	126.00
Cuming County Public Power	Wheeling Service	5,509.07
Danko Emergency	Supplies	433.00
Dinslage Small Engine	Service	44.85
Dutton Lainson Co.	Supplies	2,996.32
Electronic Contracting Co.	Service	1,128.00
Engelhardt TV	Service	571.45
Ernesti Tree Service	Service	1,650.00
Gall's Inc.	Supplies	551.59
L. P. Gill Inc.	Tipping Fee	8,880.04
Gill Hauling	Hauling Fee	3,500.84
Graybeal's Food	Supplies	70.02
Hawkins Inc.	Supplies	2,217.71
Heiman Fire Equipment	Supplies	502.35
Ingram Library Service	Books	1,126.74
Jackson Services	Uniform Service	909.10
John A Stahl Library	Cash Adv	115.00
Logemann Auto Parts	Supplies	280.38
Matheson Tri-Gas	Supplies	201.63
MicroMarketing LLC	Books	741.40
Midwest Labs	Service	278.35
Midwest Tape	Supplies	35.98
NE Public Health Environmental Lab	Service	60.00
Nebraska Vet Services	Service	200.00
OCLC, Inc.	Service	44.85
OfficeNet	Service	106.28
One Call Concepts	Service	75.96
Overdrive, Inc.	Service	16.99
Presto X	Service	315.00
Quality Printing & Supplies	Supplies	550.79
Quick Med Claims	Prof Services	1,499.24

S & W Welding	Service	63.65
St. Joseph's Hillside Villa	Meal Service	2,366.00
Skywave Wireless	Service	263.10
Smidt's Sanitation	Service	177.00
Sparklight	Service	33.00
Special Roads Fund	Mechanic Chgs	444.09
Sunrise Excavating Co.	Snow Removal	3,077.00
Verizon Business	Service	87.38
Verizon Wireless	Broadband	120.03
Verizon Wireless	Service	334.64
West Point Library Foundation	Cash Adv	926.50
WPLW	Service	37,375.40
WPLW Operating Fund	Cash Adv	2,357.79
West Point News	Publication Costs	23.96
West Point Rescue	Ambl Charges	865.00
West Point True Value	Supplies	369.94
Woerner's Garbage Service	Service	267.00
Best Point Development	Hosting Fee	480.00
Blue 360 Media	Supplies	83.75
History Nebraska	Subscription	35.00
Hofeling Enterprises	Storm Damage-grinding	15,143.62
Hydro Optimization	Serv/Supplies	5,141.44
Jack's Uniforms & Equipment	Supplies	43.99
NE Loess Hills	Membership	200.00
Norfolk Daily News	Ad	37.50
Peterson Body & Paint	Service	604.38
Platte Valley Communications	Service	282.89
Quadient Inc.	Supplies	66.75
Sunset Law Enforcement	Supplies	1,860.00
Wahoo Utilities	Storm Damage	2,938.79

Mary Jo Mack, Library Director, appeared before the Council and presented the annual report on the John A. Stahl Library. She was also excited to report on a project that she had been working on for several years and which the Library Foundation has now received a grant from the Nielsen Foundation, for digitalizing the issues of the West Point News from 1881 to 2020. This will give people with internet access to do a search of all the issues.

The City Administrator gave an update on the water stating that work continues at the plant with the remaining old filter being removed; pouring a portion of the backwash for the new filter and HOA continues to work on the controls and communications for the operation. The high-pressure side of the system was flushed last month and the system cleaned up fairly quickly. However, in

the past week, several calls were received about dirty water.

Ken Halvorsen, System Specialist with the Nebraska Rural Water Association, appeared before the Council concerning the City's water system assessment which is required because of the City obtaining funding for the Water Plant Improvement Project and Water Main Improvement Project from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds. Mr. Halvorsen presented the Initial Financial-managerial Water System Assessment to the Council and answered any questions.

The City Administrator advised the Council that Casey Lund has inquired about leasing the land east by the wastewater treatment plant, being approximately 9 acres, which had previously been leased to Rick Grovijohn. He intends to plant hay or alfalfa and the rent would be \$150 per acre. It was moved by Penrose and seconded by Swenson to enter into a Lease Agreement between the City and Casey Lund for one year with cash rent in the sum of \$1,350.00 for 9 acres and authorizing the Mayor to sign said lease. Voting Yea: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried.

In 2016 the Legislature passed the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act which provides for an income tax credit for volunteer emergency responders. Necessary forms must be completed and submitted to the Nebraska Department of Revenue. These forms must be completed by a certification administrator who has been approved by the governing body. West Point Rescue has a new certification administrator of Anna Wimer who needs Council approval. It was moved by Hugo and seconded by Smith to approve Anna Wimer as the certification administrator for West Point Rescue. Voting Yea: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed the budget of the Sunshine Center for fiscal year 2022 to be submitted to the Area Agency. It was moved by Stokely, seconded by Buse, to approve the budget for fiscal year 2022 to be submitted to the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging. Voting Yea: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The next item was to update the Council on the easement agreement with the Cuming County Ag Society regarding the construction of a berm along the levee system by the Army Corp of Engineers involving property owned by the Ag Society. Brian Meiergerd was present representing

the Ag Society. After the Council's meeting on February 20, 2021, a proposed agreement was drafted whereby the City would: (1) pay \$50,000 to the Ag Society for granting the Levee Easement and Temporary Easement Area (for storing materials); (2) install up to sixteen light and/or utility poles with electrical hook-ups, which poles would be 40'- 45', and (3) transfer of approx. 3.8 acres to the Ag Society no later than March 1, 2021. It was agreed by both parties that this date may need to be changed to accommodate for the surveying of the easement parcels, and the parcel being transferred. Mr. Meiergerd requested that the Army Corp of Engineers not do construction during the days of the Cuming County Fair. It was stated that these dates have already been given to the Corp. Following discussion, it was moved by Smith and seconded by Stokely to approve the Easement Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign said agreement. Voting Yea: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Swenson introduced a resolution to approve the following change orders and payments to Rutjens Construction:

1. Water Treatment Plant Project – Change Orders No. 1 and No. 2 and Payment Request #7 for \$350,197.97;
2. Water Main Improvement Project – Payment Request #1 for \$25,698.06;

and authorize payment in the total amount of \$375,896.03. Stokely seconded the motion. Voting Yea: Stokely, Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried and said resolution adopted.

The Mayor reported on the cost of the ice storm that happened on November 11, 2020. Four communities sent linemen to assist along with Schmader Electric to restore power and JP Electric and Kaup Electric helped to repair the service lines. Plus the cost of food and lodging for the linemen, grinding of the tree limbs, material, and city labor. The total cost was approximately \$103,000.00.

The City Administrator stated that he has been informed that Southwest Power Pool is raising the rates on the transmission of electricity, which will affect the City through the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, resulting in an increase to the City of \$43,000 per year. With the cost of the storm damage and the increase in the transmission rate, he did not see a need to increase the electrical rates at this time. He also noted that the last rate increase was in November, 2016.

Moved by Penrose, seconded by Swenson, to adjourn at 6:05 P.M. Voting Yea: Stokely,

Penrose, Swenson, Buse, Hugo, and Smith. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mary Kempf, MMC
City Clerk

Publish: West Point News
February 24, 2021