**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PERU, NEBRASKA ON January 18, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Dave Pease called the meeting to order and informed the public of the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Present were: Mayor Dave Pease, and Councilmembers Ethan Coatney, Spencer Vogt, Quentin Kieler, and Marty Peregoy. Upon roll call by the City Clerk, a quorum was declared.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the December 20, 2021, regular Council meeting and Council Member Peregoy made motion to approve the December 20, 2021 minutes. Councilmember Coatney seconded the motion; Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: “Abstain”; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 3-1

Councilmember Vogt made the motion to approve the claims already paid pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-01. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Peregoy; Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember S. Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0

Councilmember Peregoy made motion to approve the claims still needing to be paid. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney; Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

NMC Rental - $1,101.28 (wtr); WesTech - $13,400.00 (wtr); JEO-$68,438.72(wtr,swr,sts); OPPD-$2,544.90(gen,sts,p&r,wtr,fr,res,rurfr); Verizon-$40.01(wtr); Casey’s Business Mastercard - $521.34; Card Services -$95.96(rurfr,res,gen); Black Hills Energy - $269.89 (gen,rurfr,fr,res); Access Systems-$6.90(gen); Peru Rescue Squad - $485.00(res); Board of Public Works - $7,665.74(wtr,swr); Utility Service Co. -$3,460.47 (wtr); Municipal Pipe Service - $6,800.00(wtr); Auburn Auto Center - $735.01 (sts); Quick Med Claims - $235.49 (res); Titan Machinery - $4,261.46(sts); Napa Auto Parts - $8.67 (rurfr); The Flower Shoppe - $59.00 (gen); One Call Concepts - $1.92(wtr,swr); Heather Pemberton, cpa - $485.00 (gen); Xpress Bill Pay - $58.75(wtr,swr); American Recycling and Sanitation - $2,240.80 (san); Midwest Laboratories - $276.00 (swr); 1st Class Plumbing & Heating - $462.00 (gen); Purchase Power - $240.51 (gen); Pitney Bowes - $254.97 (gen); United Life Insurance - $67.62 (gen); Macqueen Emergency - $2,248.46 (fr,rurfr); Hamilton Equipment - $5,500.00 (sts); Solutions Computer - $126.37 (gen)

General(gen), Streets(sts), Water(wtr), Sewer(swr), Parks & Rec(p&r), City Fire(fr), Rural Fire(rurfr), Rescue(res), Grant(grnt), Sanitation(san)

The City Clerk reported that January 2022 Hwy Allocation totaled $6,305.27, October 2021 City Sales Tax was $4,413.93 and 2nd District Municipal Equalization totaled $25,747.47.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Pease stated the water report can be found in the Clerk’s office. Pease also noted that several water leaks had been isolated and repaired. Water usage has decreased therefore the percentage lost should also decrease within the following month.

For the Mayor’s Report, Mayor Pease informed the public that the city was approved for further SRF funding for the water main project. 5th Street Improvement project is working on the right of way issues. SENDD suggests that the city file an extension for the streets grant. Council was in agreeance that an extension could be filed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** After a brief discussion Council Member Vogt made motion to elect Quentin Kieler as Council President. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 2.** The mayor made his 2022 Committee Appointments as identified within the City Council Meeting Packet with the following changes: Animal Humanity and Control will now consist of Marty Peregoy, Dorothy Chase, Theresa Westfall, and Animal Hospital. City Attorney, Angelo Ligouri requested to sit on Ordinances. Mayor Pease added Angelo Ligouri and Angela Allgood to ordinances and removed himself and Charlotte Carpenter. Mayor Pease then added Angela Allgood to the Housing Authority and removed Charlotte Carpenter. After no further changes or discussion roll call vote as follows: Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 3.**  Councilmember Coatney made motion that the city appoint JEO Consulting Group as the 2022 City Engineer for the City of Peru with a beginning date of January 1, 2022. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Vogt. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 4.** Council Member Kieler made motion to appoint Evan B. Wickersham (License Number 1139 having a Class A License) as the 2022 Street Superintendent for the City of Peru with the type of appointment being in the form of consultant and with a beginning date of January 1, 2022. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 5.** Council Member Peregoy moved by Resolution 2022-01 that Council President Quentin Kieler, City Clerk /Treasurer, Charlotte Carpenter, and Deputy Clerk, Angela Allgood, be approved as authorized representatives and signers for all the city bank accounts and investments held at Mainstreet Bank, Peru, NE. Motion was seconded by Council Member Vogt. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 6.** Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve the Annual Engagement Letter with city accountant Heather Pemberton, CPA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 7.** After brief discussion, Councilmember Peregoy made motion to approve direct deposit for payroll at the cost of $5.00 per pay period. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kieler. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 8.** Deborah Solie presented updates on flood-recovery projects to the Council via phone. Updates include the submission of quarterly reports to NEMA for all ongoing FEMA projects. The city is working on a quarterly request for reimbursement. The City received approval for SRF funding, which will provide interim financing for the pipeline contract and easements. Solie discussed the possibility of taking the second step in the application process for USDA revolving loan fund but did not recommend this if SENDD could not assist with oversight. SENDD is assisting with the City’s application for funds from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund for new playground equipment at Sid Brown Memorial Park. Solie also reported the Governor has included $5 million in his proposed budget for the Peru levee.

**Item 9.** Councilmember Peregoy made motion to approve Allan Hauptman’s application for the Fire Department. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Coatney. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 10.** City Council reviewed the Pipeline Crossing Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Co. Discussion took place in regards to the termination notice. After brief discussion, Councilmember Peregoy made motion authorizing the City Mayor to approve the Pipeline Crossing Agreement based on an agreement reached with Union Pacific after consideration of proposed amendments by City of Peru legal counsel. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kieler. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “AYE”; Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Motion Carried 4-0

**Item 11.** Council discussed the options for the proposed right of way (ROW) through Peru State College (PSC). Peru’s City Attorney spoke with the attorneys for PSC and their main concern is that the city street improvement doesn’t disrupt their improvements which are mainly parking/paving. PSC feels they would be okay with the ROW option 2 which would be a 46-foot-wide ROW with a temporary 66-foot-wide ROW during the construction period. Councilmember Kieler expressed concern that the city is spending money on something that we would then not have full control of. Councilmember Peregoy would like to know that the city can get reassurance that a temporary 66-foot-wide construction easement would be granted. Mayor Pease noted that he prefers option 2 along with the temporary easement. After further discussion, Councilmember Vogt made motion to approve option 2 – 46-foot-wide ROW (covers street, utilities & sidewalks) with a temporary construction easement of 66-foot-wide ROW. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Peregoy. Discussion, Roll Call Vote as follows: Councilmember Coatney: “AYE”; Councilmember Kieler: “NAY”; Councilmember Peregoy: “AYE”; Councilmember Vogt: “AYE”; Motion Carried 3-1

**Item 12.** Council reviewed the draft of maintenance employee duties. Councilmember Kieler would like to add a section in the water operators’ job description. Councilmember Peregoy noted that some of the items were added because she was under the impression that the maintenance shop had some form of heating/cooling. After further discussion, it was agreed upon to have the maintenance employees review the draft job description and provide feedback before the next council meeting. No formal action was taken by council.

**Item 13.** Council discussed the lack of proper fire control within City Hall. Peregoy would like to see an automated system that calls 911 since City Hall isn’t occupied 24/7. After further discussion, it was decided that the City Clerk will reach out to Bennett’s Fire Protection Sales and Services for guidance on having a fire alarm system installed.

**Item 14.** Parking issues on 6th street were brought to the Council’s attention. It was discussed whether or not the Nemaha County Sheriff’s Department would be interested in contracting with the City of Peru to enforce parking. Discussion also took place on what steps it would take to bring on a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. After further conversation council concluded that a Code Enforcement Officer is key. The City Clerk will reach out to other communities that have a Code Enforcement Officer and draft a job description for the regular March council meeting. No formal action was taken.

**Item 15.** The workable areas in the east maintenance shop and the main maintenance shop were discussed. Neither building has adequate heating or cooling nor do they have restrooms or a sink. Councilmember Peregoy would like to see these conditions improved so the City Maintenance employees can complete tasks themselves instead of sourcing them out. The City Clerk will reach out to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator to see what types of grants are out there to assist with a project like this. No formal action was taken.

**Item 16.** With there being no further business, Council Member Vogt made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Coatney seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote as follows, Councilmember M. Peregoy: AYE; Councilmember E. Coatney: AYE; Councilmember Q. Kieler: AYE; Councilmember S. Vogt: AYE; Motion Carried 4-0.

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Dave Pease, Mayor

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Charlotte Carpenter, City Clerk-Treasurer