

Ralston City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

The Ralston City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 5:30 PM at Ralston City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll was called with the following present: Mayor Groesser and Council members Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Council member Fidelity was absent. The agenda was available at City Hall for public inspection and posted prior to the meeting. The legal notice for the meeting was published in the Ralston Recorder. Claims listed are approved and part of these minutes.

Pastor Lynette Janssen, Ralston United Church of Christ, gave the invocation. Mayor Groesser welcomed the press and guests. Groesser said the meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted at the rear of the Council Chambers.

The following building permits were approved: #10780 to Trinity United Methodist Church, 8009 Q Street – Electrical for Remodel - \$18,500.00; #10781 to Christopher R. Foien, 4900 S. 78th Street – Install New Deck - \$10,000.00; #10782 to Peggy A. Metz, 8328 State Street – Install New Furnace - \$2,800.00; #10783 to Leonard R. Bybee, 5131 S. 83rd Street – Remove & Replace Sunroom - \$33,269.00; #10784 to Angel Arreola, 5030 S. 80th Street – Remove and Replace Roof - \$10,000.00; #10785 to Zlad S. Sahawneh, 7566 Polk Street – Replace Furnace & Humidifier - \$2,109.00; #10786 to SoDo Properties, 5510 Miller Avenue – Complete Electrical for Sign - \$116.81; #10787 to Bedi Sukhdarshan, 6710 S. 73rd Circle – Install Furnace, AC, Humidifier - \$3,200.00; #10789 to Emily K. Wlaschin, 8300 Park Drive – Remove & Replace Roof - \$8,969.00; #10790 to Andrew T. Pfeiffer, 8205 Wildewood Drive – Replace Furnace and A/C - \$8,363.00; #10792 to Richard J. Prochaska, 6327 S. 73rd Avenue – Add Deck - \$15,000.00; #10793 to Mark S. Krzemien, 8203 Morton Street – Replace Roof and Gutters - \$9,825.65; #10794 to William F. Haas, 7528 Maywood Street – Replace Roof and Gutters - \$11,417.04; #10795 to Leonard R. Bybee, 5131 S. 83rd Street – Complete Electrical for Remodel - \$500.00; #10796 to Braavos Properties LLC, 7216 Main Street – Inspect Water Heater Install - \$163.00; #10797 to Platinum Real Estate Group, 7628-7630 Main Street – Install New Electric Service - \$7,000.00; #10798 to Patricia M. Young, 5033 S. 79th Avenue – Replace Furnace - \$5,000.00; #10800 to Seranco Enterprises LLC, 5515 Woodlawn Avenue – Remove and Replace Roof - \$5,000.00.

Groesser is changing the order of the meeting in order to review the action items first. Council member Fidelity's wife passed away yesterday so he is not in attendance and there are two more Council members that will need to leave the meeting.

The City Council reviewed the following items under the consent agenda:

1. Minutes from the December 3, 2019 regular city council meeting;
2. Claims;

3. Monthly Financial Report; and
4. Department Head and/or Commission Reports.

Krause moved and Konwinski seconded to approve the Consent Agenda with the changes to the items as mentioned by the Mayor. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of Donald F. Ficenec as City Attorney. Konwinski moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Donald F. Ficenec as City Attorney. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of Brian Kavanaugh to the Pension Committee. Konwinski moved and Krause seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Brian Kavanaugh to the Pension Committee. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Krause introduced Ordinance No. 1242. Russell read Ordinance No. 1242 by title only: AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE AND AMEND ARTICLE 11 OF CHAPTER 11 OF THE RALSTON MUNICIPAL CODE, ZONING-SIGN REGULATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL PROVISIONS OF THE RALSTON MUNICIPAL CODE WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO AUTHORIZE THAT SAID ORDINANCE BE PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Groesser opened the public hearing and second reading of Ordinance 1242 at 5:33 PM. There being no discussion, Groesser closed the public hearing at 5:33 PM. Groesser indicated this is the sign ordinance that has been reviewed many times by the Planning Commission and City Council. Konwinski moved and Krause seconded to approve Ordinance 1243 on second reading. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Krause moved and Kavanaugh seconded to waive third reading of Ordinance 1242. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Krause introduced Ordinance No. 1243. Russell read Ordinance No. 1243 by title only: AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE AND AMEND CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 624 OF THE RALSTON MUNICIPAL CODE, PARKING-DESIGNATED SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES, TO INCLUDE THE RALSTON VILLAGE PUD; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL PROVISIONS OF THE RALSTON

MUNICIPAL CODE WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO AUTHORIZE THAT SAID ORDINANCE BE PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Groesser opened the public hearing and second reading of Ordinance 1243 at 5:35 PM. Groesser indicated this is to add the Ralston Village area to the snow emergency routes. There being no further discussion, Groesser closed the public hearing at 5:35 PM. Krause moved and Konwinski seconded to approve Ordinance 1243 on second reading. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Kavanaugh moved and Konwinski seconded to waive third reading of Ordinance 1243. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of Resolution 2019-19 to authorize the Mayor to sign the year-end certification of City Street Superintendent form for 2019. Russell indicated the form is the basis for determining Ralston's calendar year 2019 incentive funds. Ralston receives \$3,000 in highway incentive funds every February.

There being no further discussion, Krause moved and Konwinski seconded to approve the following resolution.

RESOLUTION

SIGNING OF THE YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENT FORM 2019

Resolution No. 2019-19

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, sections 39-2302, and 39-2511 through 39-2515 details the requirements that must be met in order for a municipality to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment;

Whereas: The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each incorporated municipality must annually certify (by December 31st of each year) the appointment of the City Street Superintendent to the NDOT using the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form;

Whereas: The NDOT requires that such certification shall also include a copy of the meeting minutes showing the appointment of the City Street Superintendent by their name as it appears on their License (if applicable), their License Number and Class of License (if applicable), and type of appointment, i.e., employed, contract (consultant, or interlocal

agreement with another incorporated municipality and/or county), and the beginning date of the appointment; and

Whereas: The NDOT also requires that such Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form shall be signed by the Mayor and shall include a copy of a resolution of the governing body authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent form by the Mayor.

Be it resolved that the Mayor of Ralston is hereby authorized to sign the Year-End Certification of City Street Superintendent Form certifying that Daniel C. Freshman, License Number S-1136, was the appointed Street Superintendent for 2019.

Attest:

/s/Rosemarie D. Russell, City Clerk

On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Klinker commented on the public hearing and first reading of Ordinance 1244 to provide for the purchase of real estate. He suggested this item be moved forward to a January council meeting as further research needs to be done.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of Richard Hoppe as City Administrator effective December 30, 2019. Krause moved and Konwinski seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Richard Hoppe as City Administrator. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Fidelity. Motion carried.

Groesser indicated that Hoppe was the Chief of Staff for Mayor Beutler in Lincoln and prior to that he worked in the legislature for a number of years. Hoppe has many years of experience to bring to the City and Groesser welcomed him aboard.

Krause left the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Bohling reported the field work for the annual audit was finished last week. Bohling has received the pension plan retirement actuarial valuation which will be reviewed by the Pension Committee in January. Bohling has received a draft of the audited Keno activity and this will be brought before the City Council next month after it is finalized.

Halbur reported the Library monthly report is included in the council packets.

Krajewski reported on the arena events including Cody Jinx and Hillsong Worship Gospel Show.

Russell reported on the filing period for the 2020 election. The filing deadlines are Tuesday, February 18, 2020 for incumbents and Tuesday, March 2, 2020 for non-incumbents. Ralston offices to be elected in 2020 are: Ralston mayor and City Council member for Wards 1, 2 and 6.

Grosser opened discussion on the undermined west bridge in Wildewood Park. Lucas Billesbach, City Engineer, reviewed the report submitted by JEO Consulting Group summarizing the bridge inspection and findings for the west bridge in Wildewood Park. The main issue is the east abutment where there has been a significant amount of erosion. The erosion has created a void under the east approach slab/abutment cap. The erosion has also created a void under the east approach slab along the wingwall. This has caused a four-inch settlement at the east approach to the bridge. Due to the undermined east approach slab, the Bridge Engineer, City Engineer and Public Works Director recommend closing the bridge/trail until repairs can be made. The repairs will require removal of the slab, backfilling the area and redirecting the runoff that is coming down the hill.

Grosser presented a key to the City to outgoing City Attorney Mark Klinker. Klinker recognized his family and his colleagues in his law firm. He expressed his gratitude for the experience as serving as City Attorney for the past 27 years and expressed his appreciation to the current and former Mayors. Klinker spoke about the Independence Day parade and that Ralston is Independence City. There have been hugely important and significant economic development events in the City and he is honored to have been a part of them.

Klinker has had the pleasure of serving along great individuals on the City Council and they have all been dedicated public servants. Klinker addressed the current City Council members.

Konwinski has been on the City Council nearly as long as he has been City Attorney. She has and continues to make great sacrifices to serve on the City Council. Konwinski left the meeting at 5:57 PM.

Fideline has always had Ralston's best interest at heart, whether being a member of the Ralston Fire Department, on the Planning Commission or on the City Council. He brings common sense and plain-spoken resolve in everything he does and Klinker hopes Fideline continues to serve for a long time.

Klinker commented on Preis becoming the Fideline of his generation. He expects that Preis will learn that there is life after baseball and looks for him to be the bridge between the young guys and the seasoned veterans on the City Council.

Kavanaugh is well-equipped to be a leader in the City and Klinker spoke about Kavanaugh's community service and work ethic.

Sanchez makes a lot of sacrifices to serve on the City Council and he is one of the smartest individuals that Klinker knows.

Krause is also one of the smartest individuals that Klinker knows. Krause weighs the pros and cons of the decisions. Krause has extraordinarily good judgement and wisdom and is an excellent parliamentarian.

All of the development that happens in the City starts at the Planning Commission. Klinker said he has been privileged to serve with Rich Onken, a great public servant and a man with uncommon wisdom. Klinker thanked Bill Haas, who serves on the CRA and the Community Foundation and the Hinge Committee and is involved with the Chamber. Haas is a great citizen of Ralston. Klinker has had the great privilege of knowing and working with Chamber executives through the years, Linda Platt, Marlene Hansen, Tara Lee and now Amy Roeder. They are go getters and great Ralstonites. Klinker has worked with great City Clerks, Alice Morrison, Dolores Costanzo and now Rosie Russell. Klinker commented on working with Police Chiefs Bill White, Ron Murtaugh and Marc Leonardo. Klinker said that Public Works Director Dan Freshman is an incredible resource for the City and commented on Freshman's work ethic and loyalty. Finance Director Tim Bohling might be a wizard because he does amazing things with numbers. Bohling is a great addition to the City. Klinker thanked Bailey Halbur as the Library Director. Klinker said that Brian Krajewski is doing a great job at the arena. Klinker welcomed Rick Hoppe to the City of Ralston.

Klinker thanked the citizens and businesses of Ralston. He applauded the people who are involved and come to the meetings. He mentioned in particular Mrs. Fuller, George Sevick, Rich Shively, Dave Cotton and Scott Nigro.

Klinker commented on the City Attorney position and said that Ficenecc will do a good job. It is the right time and the right circumstances for him to retire as City Attorney. The City is poised to do new, great things. Klinker told Ficenecc that he is leaving him two things: one is a messy desk and the second is a Roberts Rule of Order. Klinker explained the gong that is in the Council Chambers as being used to remind individuals that it is Independence Day and not the 4th of July.

Klinker is grateful to have served the Mayor and City Council and Boards and Commissions. It has been a very rewarding experience.

Groesser related Independence Day experiences of Klinker and commented on Klinker's junior high school track record. Groesser expressed his appreciation to Klinker.

Klinker administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed City Attorney, Don Ficenecc.

Ficenecc commented on the people in his office and that he could not have fallen in with a better group of people to associate with professionally. Klinker is the wise old sage in that office and always makes the time to meet with him. Ficenecc said that Klinker's experience and level of knowledge is irreplaceable and Ficenecc still plans to rely on his advice, wisdom and guidance. Ficenecc introduced his family members in attendance.

Groesser invited everyone to stay for cake in honor of Klinker.

Public comment: There was no public comment.

Council comment: Kavanaugh thanked Klinker for his service to the City of Ralston and looks forward to working with Ficenec. Sanchez thanked Klinker for everything. He has been a tremendous mentor to him and his leadership and wisdom has meant a lot to him. Sanchez commented that Klinker has a place in his family history where he helped Sanchez's grandparents establish a corporation that became Maria's. That was the first step that changed everything for his family for entire generations and many people and for himself. Those moments Klinker spent with his grandparents have greatly affected Sanchez's life and Sanchez thanked Klinker. Preis welcomed Ficenec and Hoppe. He thanked Klinker for everything he has done. He commented on the Lee Fideline comparison. Groesser thanked Klinker for all his work and is looking forward to working with Ficenec. Groesser welcomed Hoppe and said there are some exciting times ahead. Hoppe has already been working very hard behind the scenes. Groesser commented on a press announcement to be made on Thursday morning at 10:00 AM at City Hall and invited all to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Next regular meeting Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Rosemarie D. Russell
City Clerk

Donald A. Groesser
Mayor

CLAIMS – 12-17-2019– AA Wheel and Truck Supply, Inc., 485.58, Parts; Access Systems Leasing, 2,667.92, Printers/Copiers; AED Zone, 711.25, Supplies; Agrivision Equipment Group, 52.10, Parts; Amazing Lawn & Lighting, 200.00, Decorations; Ameripride Services, Inc., 106.23, Services; Axon Enterprise, Inc., 148.50, Equipment; Baker Plow Service, 130.00, Parts; Baxter Auto, 404.23, Parts; BKD, LLP, 18,000.00, Audit/Professional Services; Book Page, 348.00, Subscription; Caselle, Inc., 1,151.00, Caselle Support; Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, 550.00, Professional Services; CCL Supply, LLC, 61.00, Supplies; Cengage Learning, Inc., 23.25, Books; Century Certified Services, 39.00, Pest Control; City of Omaha Cashier, 79,105.04, Sewer Billing; City Treasurer, 60.00, Range-1/2 Day; CompChoice, 420.00, DOT Testing; Cornhusker International Trucks, 160.70, Parts; Cox Business Services, 1,891.86, Telephones; Diamond Laundry Service, Inc., 49.90, Laundry; Display Sales Co., 1,331.00, Decorations; Doug Rutherford, 100.00, Lawn Mowing; Eakes Office Supplies, 3.59, Supplies; Echo Group, Inc., 832.68, Parts; Dude Solutions, 6,617.91, Services; Engineered Controls, 630.40, PSA/Repair; Experian, 27.00, Services; Fireguard, Inc., 2,090.10, Fire Alarm Services; Fleek, Brianna, 120.00, Janitorial; Global Spectrum, 130,000.00, Funding Shortfall/Professional Services; Great Western Bank-Jackpot, 3,276.38, Jackpot Funding; Great Western Bank Wealth Management, 15,598.81, Pension; Great Western Bank-Visa,

891.26, Dues/Office Supplies; HDR Engineering, Inc., 8,316.80, Hinge Planning & Design; Integrated Solutions, Inc., 5,996.00, Computer Support/Equipment/Professional Services; J P Cooke Co., 20.80, Supplies; JEO Consulting Group, 1,046.25, Professional Services; Klinker, Mark, 5,450.00, Professional Services; Menards-Ralston, 35.64, Batteries; Michael Todd & Co., Inc., 2,526.08, Supplies; Mid-American Benefits, Inc., 45.00, Admin Fees; Nebraska Air Filter, Inc., 85.24, Air Filters; Nebraska Iowa Supply Co., 743.95, Fuel; Nebraska Salt & Grain Co., 1,763.13, Ice Control Salt; Nebraska-Iowa Ind Fasteners, 45.28, Parts; OCLC, Inc., 365.21, Cataloging and Metadata; Omaha Douglas Publishing Comm, 8.75, Parking; O'Malley, Margaret, 255.75, Janitorial; Oriental Trading Co., Inc., 70.53, Supplies/Decorations; Papillion Sanitation, 2,601.51, Sanitation Services; Pitney Bowes-PA, 231.96, Copier; Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce, 445.00, Membership Dues; Ralston Automotive, 96.10, Services; Ralston-Byers Insurance Agency, 40.00, Notary Bond; Recorded Books, Inc., 1,774.96, Books; Ridder, Justine, 33.05, Reimbursement; Suburban Newspapers, Inc., 567.23, Legal Publications; Travelers Insurance, 34,462.33, Insurance Premiums; Unique Management Services, Inc., 8.95, Placements; Walker Consultants, 14,082.55, Parking Study; Woodhouse Lincoln-Mazda, 740.80, Vehicle Service Inspection; World Book, Inc., 1,988.00, Encyclopedias.