

Ralston City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

The Ralston City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 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, Fidelity, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Council member Alberhasky 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 City Council reviewed the following items under the consent agenda:

1. Minutes from the November 20, 2018 regular city council meeting;
2. Claims; and
3. Department Head and/or Commission Reports.

Konwinski moved and Fidelity seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Alberhasky. Motion carried.

Leonardo reported on the Click it or Ticket Program results. The Police Department had three officers working 30 hours of overtime. During this time, officers issued eight speeding citations; four driving under suspension; six no insurance citations; one MIP; four seatbelt violations; and one DUI with a child under 16 years of age in the vehicle. A total of 65 citations were issued with 84 contacts.

Eischeid presented the Ralston Fire Department Statistics for November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018. A total of 70 members responded to 660 calls and attended thousands of hours of training for a 16 percent increase in members responding from 2017. The department has taken proactive measures to recruit new members and retain current members. Over the last year, they have brought on 22 new probationary members in an effort to lower response times and help take the load off the current members of the department.

The Fire Department just completed the first year of a four year recruitment and retention grant received through FEMA. Training continues to be a top priority.

Eischeid said he is most proud to report that the Fire Department made it through another year with everyone going home after each call. There are Fire Chiefs across the country who are not able to report this as over 100 firefighters die each year in the line of duty. Eischeid thanked the City for the support provided.

Eischeid introduced the newly elected officers: Ben Burbridge, Assistant Fire Chief; Dakota Wilson, Training Chief; Kim Eischeid, Rescue Chief; Will Zeleny, Fire Captain; Jeremiah Omoto, Training Captain; Jason Banks, Rescue Captain; and Tradell Berry, President.

Benis reported the setup for the World Cup Curling event will begin tomorrow. The opening ceremony is tomorrow and he invited council members to attend the events. Lancers play on December 14th and 15th with a Lancers youth tournament the same dates.

Council member Alberhasky was not able to attend the meeting. Groesser read a proclamation declaring December 4, 2018 as Craig Alberhasky Day. Groesser read a plaque for Alberhasky thanking him for his service on the Ralston City Council.

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 5:42 PM.

Rosemarie D. Russell
City Clerk

Donald A. Groesser
Mayor

CLAIMS -12-04-2018 – AAA Rents, 335.50, Rental; AB Refrigeration, 1,040.74, Labor/Materials; Aflac, 962.04, Insurance; Ameripride Services, Inc., 96.53, Services; Baxter Auto, 808.00, Repairs; Benis, Stan, 65.55, Reimbursement; Black Hills Energy, 2,996.31, Utilities; Blake Carver, 160.00, Services; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NE, 61,103.76, Health Insurance; BMI Janitorial Group, 7,776.25, Janitorial; BOK Financial, 1,250.00, Services; Bryan Hanson, 162.28, Reimbursement; Carpenter Paper Co., 999.93, Supplies; CCL Supply, LLC, 378.20, Supplies; Century Certified Services, 125.50, Pest Management & Control; Chief School Bus Service, Inc., 5,070.75, Fall Craft Fair; City of Omaha Cashier, 71,977.27, Sewer Billing; Command Center, 587.41, Contract Labor; Concert Security Services, 489.00, Services; Cox Business Services, 288.77, Telephone/Cable; Eakes Office Solutions, 392.65, Supplies; Engineered Controls, 120.00, Repairs; Enviro-Master Services, 67.00, Janitorial; First Wireless, Inc., 1,266.00, Repairs; Fleek, Brianna, 100.00, Janitorial; Focus, 1,200.00, Advertising; Forklifts of Omaha, 8,000.00, Batteries; FP Mailing Solutions, 66.00, Postage; Fraternal Order of Police, 570.00, FOP Dues; Gale/Cengage Learning, 70.50, Books; Grainger, 363.96, Supplies; Great Western Bank-Pension, 25,471.36, Pension; Great Western Bank-Visa, 4,712.78, Supplies/Training; Halbur, Bailey, 20.51, Reimbursement; Hatcher Mobile Services LLC, 3,486.86, Parts/Labor; Helget Gas Products, 141.22, Supplies; Holiday Inn Express Ralston, 233.98, Services; Hometown

Leasing, 243.96, Leasing; Humana Insurance Co., 2,681.32, Insurance; HyVee Accounts Receivable, 25.36, Food; ICMA, 857.00, Dues; IIMC, 100.00, Dues; Jones Automotive, Inc., 209.64, Parts/Labor; Klabunde's Delivery, Inc., 32.00, Delivery Service; Klinker, Mark, 1,000.00, Retainer; La Rue Coffee, 806.34, Coffee; M & M Staffing, 1,051.95, Contract Labor; Marshall, Laurel, 22.42, Reimbursement; Menards-Ralston, 1,056.70, Supplies; Metro, 644.00, Service Contract; Micro Marketing LLC, 21.86, CD; MUD-Utilities, 169.39, Utilities; NCMA, 429.00, Dues; Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association, 20.00, Dues; Nebraska Iowa Supply Co., Inc., 2,793.60, Fuel; New Vision Window Cleaning, 550.00, Window Cleaning; Omaha Dispatch, 1,000.00, Advertising; Omaha Public Power District, 40,494.41, Utilities; O'Malley, Margaret, 379.50, Janitorial; OS Sales Co., Inc., 645.78, Food; Overhead Door Co of Omaha, 1,485.00, Parts/Labor; Pepsi-Cola, 437.46, Soda; Papillion Sanitation, 27,131.35, Garbage Collection; Pitney Bowes-PA, 140.01, Copier; Police Chiefs Assoc of NE, 50.00, Membership Dues; Prairie Life Fitness, 128.40, Participants Reimbursement; R Mechanical, LLC, 124.00, Boiler Alarm/Repair; Ralston Arena Operating Acct, 29,166.67, Sales Tax; Ralston Automotive, 194.12, Supplies/Services; Ralston Fire Dept Inc., 1,027.00, EMS Provider; Ralston Recorder, 36.00, Renewal; Ralston Volunteer Fire Dept, 16,250.00, Fire Protection Agreement; Rapid Graphics and Signs, 743.62, Supplies; Recorded Books, Inc., 148.38, Books; Reinhart Foodservice, LLC, 411.13, Food; Riekes Equipment Co., 680.00, Training; Rotella's Italian Bakery, 50.26, Bread; RYBA Construction, Inc., 2,862.50, Salt; S & S Pumping, 275.00, Services; Sarpy County, 1,802.70, Animal Control; Schemmer, 4,348.30, Professional Svcs; Slingshot Promotions LLC, 6,699.14, Marketing Svcs; Solution One-TX, 516.30, Copier; Spin Linen Management, 253.57, Linens; Stage Pay Services, Inc., 2,509.46, Contract Labor; Staples Advantage, 52.66, Supplies; TMS Production Integration, 446.95, Rental Agreement; Tractor Supply Credit Plan, 19.99, Services; Trede Electric & Lighting, Inc., 799.16, Labor & Materials; Trimark, 1,482.70, Equipment; U.S. Foods, Inc., 1,990.10, Food; United Rent-All, 1,309.22, Rental; Voya Institutional Trust Company, 4,300.00, Pension; Waldinger Corporation, 5,947.13, Services; Walmart Community, 156.94, Supplies.

Ralston City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

The Ralston City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:42 PM at Ralston City Hall.

City Attorney Klinker administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council member Brian Kavanaugh and re-elected Council members Jerry Krause and Michael Sanchez.

Roll was called with the following present: Mayor Groesser and Council members Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis.

Groesser opened discussion on the parks and rights of way mowing. Forrest commented on the map that was included in the council binders. The map indicates the park and street areas that are currently being mowed. Mayor Groesser, City staff, and members

of the Park and Tree Commission met for the purpose of discussing the amount of mowing that is currently done by the City of Ralston because there is an opportunity to reduce the amount of mowing. The consensus was that there are a number of locations where the City could allow the areas to return to a natural condition.

Freshman commented on the City's municipal code and allowing the grass to grow more than 12 inches and not violating City Code. In trying to do as much as is possible with what resources the City currently has, reducing the areas to mow is certainly a step in the right direction. Some people will embrace it and some people won't.

The green areas on the map, or the parks areas, were identified by Jon Speichinger and the orange areas are the right of way areas maintained by the Street Department. One of the big areas that was identified was by the trail behind Ponderosa in the creek area. Discussion was held on natural grass and the height of the grasses.

Forrest said not included on the map are some areas discussed with the Park and Tree Commission which include Oak Park and Wildewood Park along the trail. Some sections in those areas could be turned back to a more natural condition. Forrest also commented on the trail from 72nd Street through the heart of town.

Fideline said it is a good idea. Krause inquired about the benefit of doing this. Freshman said from a parks aspect, they are down a full-time employee, which would make up for that. He also commented on lengthening the mowing schedule and changing the cutting height. Forrest said it really doesn't make much sense to mow areas that the public doesn't use. There are opportunities to create a habitat for wildlife. There are so many benefits to doing this and Forrest just thinks it is a good idea.

After some discussion, Forrest said he would write an article to include on the website and/or the newsletter. Krause suggested the article state why this is being done as well as the benefits that will be realized.

Groesser opened elections for City Council President. Sanchez nominated Jerry Krause as City Council President and moved that nominations close. Seconded by Konwinski. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointments and reappointments to boards and commissions, as follows:

- a. Board of Adjustment: Dennis Tribbie, Mike Kennelly, Dennis Parsley, Bob Tourek, Scott Nigro (alternate)
- b. Civil Service Commission: Dennis Tribbie, Bradley Ryan (new appointment)
- c. Community Redevelopment Authority: Tom Kjar
- d. Library Board: Marci Carroll (new appointment)

- e. Park & Tree Commission: Tom Kjar, Bradley Ryan, Marty Saunders
- f. Planning Commission: Rich Onken, Gary Stephan, Jessica Saab (new appointment)

Krause moved and Fideline seconded to approve the Mayor's appointments and reappointments to the boards and commissions. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of JEO Consulting Group, Inc. as City Engineer. Lucas Billesbach, JEO, has been with JEO for 12 years and also serves as the City Engineer for the City of Fort Calhoun. He is excited to represent the City of Ralston.

Groesser indicated the City sent out a request for qualifications for City Engineer and received qualifications from two companies, JEO Consulting Group, Inc. and Schemmer Associates. Groesser said JEO could do an outstanding job for the City.

There being no further discussion, Krause moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of JEO Consulting Group, Inc. as City Engineer and send thanks to Schemmer Associates for all their assistance and authorize the Mayor to sign the Master Services Agreement. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of Maureen Konwinski to the Finance Committee. A Finance Committee was established last year and Council members Krause, Sanchez and Alberhasky served on that committee. With Alberhasky leaving, Konwinski said she would be willing to take his place.

Krause moved and Fideline seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Maureen Konwinski to the Finance Committee. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of Kevin J. Eischeid as Fire Chief. There being no discussion, Konwinski moved and Fideline seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Kevin J. Eischeid as Fire Chief. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of his appointment of Ben Burbridge as Assistant Fire Chief. There being no discussion, Fideline moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Ben Burbridge as Assistant Fire Chief. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski,

Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Konwinski introduced Ordinance No. 1230. Russell read Ordinance No. 1230 by title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 117 OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE RALSTON MUNICIPAL CODE DEALING WITH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; HOURS OF SALE; TO REPEAL PROVISIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Groesser opened the public hearing and third reading of Ordinance 1230 at 6:01 PM. Groesser indicated this ordinance changes the Sunday alcohol sales time from 12:00 PM to 6:00 AM. There being no comments, Groesser closed the public hearing at 6:02 PM.

Sanchez moved and Preis seconded to approve Ordinance 1230 on third reading. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: Krause. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of the City of Ralston Personnel Policies Manual. Krause moved and Konwinski seconded to approve the City of Ralston Personnel Policies Manual. Krause said there have been numerous meetings on the manual. There are some significant changes but the employees are being dealt with fairly. Krause commented on the new alternative sick leave program where current employees can opt in within 30 days to be granted additional sick leave in the case of a serious health condition. This takes away payment for unused sick leave and offers a much better policy for anyone who has a serious illness.

Another change pertains to the employment years before receiving retirement health benefits. Krause said there are some changes for new employees and the new personnel manual is very fair. The City of Ralston has a very good benefits package for their employees.

There being no further discussion, Groesser called for the vote. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. Groesser thanked Krause and Sanchez for their work on the personnel manual.

Groesser opened consideration of the quote from Clover Construction for \$12,319.00 for additional street work. Freshman said he is not asking for any more money than the \$550,000 he requested at a previous meeting. There is a double storm inlet in need of repair and concrete replacement on 75th Avenue and Polk Street. There are also two street blow-ups; one on Harrison Street and one on 84th Street. These areas will not last through the winter. Freshman negotiated with the concrete subcontractor from the milling and overlay project to extend quantity pricing to those areas.

Freshman hopes that council will allow him to get these areas done and stay below the \$550,000. This was outside the scope of the mill and overlay. They will only repair the

worst areas. If the areas are not addressed at this time, the cost will be significantly higher in the spring.

Konwinski moved and Fideline seconded to approve the quote from Clover Construction for \$12,319.00 for additional street work. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fideline, Kavanaugh, Krause, Sanchez, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Groesser inquired about the sealing of the asphalt that was just done and Freshman indicated that is still to be done. Freshman also stated the barricades on 84th Street are down but will go back up in the spring so the contractor can finish the punch list items.

There was no public comment.

Council comment: Konwinski said the Fire Department report was very well done. Kavanaugh thanked Alberhasky for his service and is looking forward to the challenges ahead. Groesser wished Mrs. Fuller a happy 95th birthday on December 7th and all in attendance sang Happy Birthday to her.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

Next regular meeting Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM.

Rosemarie D. Russell
City Clerk

Donald A. Groesser
Mayor