

Ralston City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 2019

The Ralston City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 6, 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 Fideline, Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Council member Sanchez 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 Greg Berger, Messiah Lutheran Church, 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 July 16, 2019 regular city council meeting and July 23, 2019 special city council meeting;
2. Claims; and
3. Department Head and/or Commission Reports.

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

Deputy City Attorney Ficene reported Verizon has requested to run fiber optic cable under the streets as well as install small cell towers. The cell towers are devices that would be attached to street light poles which would provide a higher capacity but for a shorter distance. They have jointly negotiated an agreement with Papillion, LaVista and Bellevue in order to extend fiber optic in those jurisdictions and are proposing the City of Ralston follow suit.

This may come up at the next council meeting for a vote to approve the agreement to install the fiber optic lines. It is a 10 year agreement that would provide for 5 percent occupation tax. The fiber optic will initially be installed on 84th and 72nd Streets. They are going to pursue additional commercial customers only.

Ficene said the legislature passed a new law that strictly regulates what cities can and can't do as far as licensing and permitting and regulating the small cells. Therefore, there will be some wording added to the Zoning Ordinance for approval first. The licensing agreement with Verizon to be able to install small cell towers may come up after that.

Leonardo reported the new police officer has been selected which brings the Police Department back to their fully authorized strength. The Police Department was recently

awarded a \$7,000.00 grant by the Nebraska Department of Transportation, Highway Safety for the purchase of two in-car cameras. The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety has also approved a \$3,000.00 overtime grant for increased patrols for the “Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign. The campaign runs from August 16, 2019 through September 2, 2019.

The Police Department also received an award letter from Project Extra Mile that Ralston Police Department will be receiving the Law Enforcement Agency Award for preventing alcohol-related harm in the community. Leonardo reported the new cruiser was recently received and will be ready soon. Leonardo reported he is still analyzing the traffic study on Highland Street, between 77th and 76th Streets.

Leonardo reported the Ralston Police Department used to be a part of the South Metro SWAT Team, which disbanded earlier this year. Leonard reached out to the Douglas County Sheriff and spoke with the Douglas County Attorney’s office. They wrote up an agreement to share services where if Ralston Police Department requested the SWAT Team, they will provide it. The agreement will be presented to the City Council in two weeks for approval. Also, Ralston did not have an agreement with any larger agency to investigate an officer-involved shooting. Therefore, an agreement was drafted through the Douglas County Attorney’s office for Douglas County Sheriff to investigate the officer-involved shooting. That agreement will also be presented at the next City Council meeting for approval.

Krajewski reported Mackie Construction has begun construction on the pavement project. Krajewski and his staff are currently working on completing the arena budget. Partnerships is close to closing deals for budget relieving services for janitorial services and groundskeeping. Buddy Guy and Kenny Wayne Shepherd is currently sitting at \$76,000 gross. The Zamora event had a net of \$29,000. Upcoming events include: Bargain Bash, Roller Girls, a Jehovah’s Witness Convention, Magnum Pro Wrestling, Dancing with the Stars in March and Disney’s Dancing on a Dream in March, Baby Shark Live. There are four holds in October 2020 for a country show.

Groesser opened consideration of appointment of Christopher Jepsen as Police Officer effective August 5, 2019 at an hourly pay rate of \$25.42.

Leonardo thanked Jepsen’s family for attending this meeting. Jepsen graduated from Blair High School and attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and UNO where he has almost completed his degree. Jepsen was hired by York Police Department in 2013 where he was employed until joining the Ralston Police Department.

Krause moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the appointment of Christopher Jepsen as Police Officer effective August 5, 2019 at an hourly pay rate of \$25.41. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Fidelity, Konwinski, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Sanchez. Motion carried.

City Attorney Klinker administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Police Officer, Christopher Jepsen.

Krause introduced Ordinance No. 1235. Russell read Ordinance No. 1235 by title only: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10-8 OF ARTICLE TEN OF THE RALSTON ZONING ORDINANCE DEALING WITH PARKING FOR PERSONAL AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES; TO REPEAL PROVISIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Groesser opened the public hearing and first reading of Ordinance 1235 at 5:50 PM. Rich Onken, Planning Commission Chair, said the City Administrator and Police Chief have received complaints about vehicles being parked in rear yards. The ordinance as written did not provide for action to be taken to advise people not to do that. The proposed ordinance is something that is workable.

There being no further comments, Groesser closed the public hearing at 5:51 PM. Kavanaugh moved and Krause seconded to approve Ordinance 1235 on first reading. Preis inquired about 10-8.c.1. pertaining to recreational vehicles being maintained in a clean/well-kept state being too vague. Klinker said it may be a common sense issue when presented to a judge. Ficenic indicated that section is part of the pre-existing ordinance and not part of what is being amended by the Planning Commission.

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

Groesser opened consideration of Medical Coverage Renewal with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Blue Pride-GPA 19 Gold for a 1 year period – annual premium \$581,680.20 and offer the employee option to choose from Premier Select BlueChoice, or Blueprint Health. There being no discussion, Konwinski moved and Kavanaugh seconded to approve the medical coverage renewal with Blue Cross/Blue Shield and offer the employee option to choose from Network Blue, Premier Select BlueChoice, or Blueprint Health. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Sanchez. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Renewal with OneAmerica (American United Life) for a 1 year period – annual premium \$3,682.20. There being no discussion, Konwinski moved and Krause seconded to approve the Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Renewal with OneAmerica (American United Life) for a 1 year period. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Sanchez. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of Long Term Disability Renewal with One America (American United Life) to include the maximum benefit duration of Classes 1 and 2 for a 2 year period – annual premium \$4,915.77. There being no discussion, Krause moved and

Preis seconded to approve the Long Term Disability Renewal with OneAmerica (American United Life) to include the maximum monthly benefit for Classes 1 and 2 with a 2 year rate guarantee. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Sanchez. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of Dental Coverage Renewal with Humana for a 1 year period – annual premium \$24,713.40. There being no discussion, Kavanaugh moved and Konwinski seconded to approve the Dental Coverage Renewal with Humana for a 1 year period. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Sanchez. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of Vision Coverage Renewal with Humana for a 1 year period – annual premium \$4,757.04. There being no discussion, Konwinski moved and Fidelity seconded to approve Vision Coverage Renewal with Humana for a 1 year period. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded on the electronic voting board. Aye: Konwinski, Fidelity, Kavanaugh, Krause, and Preis. Nay: None. Absent: Sanchez. Motion carried.

Groesser opened consideration of offering Voluntary Life with OneAmerica as an employee paid benefit, subject to 25 percent participation. Krause moved and Fidelity seconded to approve offering Voluntary Life with OneAmerica as an employee paid benefit, subject to 25 percent participation. Dan Myers, SilverStone Group, indicated 25 percent of the employees must participate to meet participation goals. This is a way for employees to buy additional term group life insurance at a very reasonable cost in addition to what the City provides in a basic life policy.

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

Russell indicated there will be an employee open enrollment meeting on August 8, 2019 at 1:00 PM in the council chambers.

Public comment: George Sevic, 8001 Main Street, presented a complaint about a property on the Northwest corner of 79th and Main Streets.

Amy Roeder, Chamber President, commented on the new teacher luncheon held today with 110 people in attendance. The Chamber and the Downtown Business Community are holding the Last Blast of Summer on August 29th in downtown Ralston. This will be the final Tunes in Town Square with food trucks and events for children.

Marlene Church, Terrace Homes Association Condos, commented on issues with City property located behind her. There are volunteer trees and she would like to get them taken out and have not been able to get some positive response. There are mulberry trees growing

over her fence towards her yard. Also at the corner of Lakeview and 84th Street, the area has not been mowed and the grass and weeds are very tall. Forrest asked her to meet with him to provide more information. Church also commented that she has a neighbor who would like to have some trees planted back onto City property near her home. Forrest asked that she have her neighbor give him a call.

Council comment: Konwinski thanked the Police Department for getting the grants to assist the City. Groesser commented on the new teacher luncheon and indicated that Dr. Adler is receiving the superintendent of the year award for 2019/2020. He congratulated Dr. Adler.

Groesser commented on the recent shootings. Ralston has a Police Officer at the school and Groesser wants to make sure the students and teachers are aware there is police presence. He urged everyone to be aware of their surroundings.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Next regular meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:30 PM. Budget work session Tuesday, August 20, 2019 immediately following City Council meeting.

Rosemarie D. Russell
City Clerk

Donald A. Groesser
Mayor

CLAIMS – 08-06-2019 – A & C Tree Service, 1,000.00, Tree Service; Above & Beyond, 5,540.00, Grounds Maintenance/Mowing; AFLAC, 856.56, Insurance; American United Life Insurance Company, 622.43, Life Insurance; Ameripride Services, Inc., 104.23, Building Maint/Rugs; Asphalt & Concrete Materials, 713.51, Hot Mix; Benefit Plans, Inc., 350.00, Participation Fee; BKD, LLP, 8,000.00, Keno; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska, 45,708.34, Health Insurance; BMI Janitorial Group, 325.00, Janitorial; Candlewood Suites, 323.61, Schools/Conferences; CCL Supply, LLC, 863.35, Supplies; Cengage Learning, Inc., 144.80, Books; Center Point Large Print, 89.28, Books; Century Certified Services, 28.00, Pest Management; Certified Transmission, 2,201.40, Repairs; City of Omaha Cashier, 55,771.48, Sewer Billing; City of Ralston-General Fund, 200,000.00, Transfer; City of Ralston Restaurant Tax, 4,144.41, Credit Card Pymts; City Treasurer, 120.00, Range; Cox Business Services, 1,177.67, Internet; Cues, Inc., 1,800.00, Software Support; Cummins Sales and Services, 244.40, Planned Maintenance; Daniel Bouska, 650.81, Payroll Replacement Check; Diamond Laundry Service, Inc., 74.85, Laundry Service; Doug Rutherford, 100.00, Lawn Mowing; DXP Enterprises, Inc., 27.17, Supplies; Eakes Office Solutions, 1,509.73, Office Supplies; Excel Physical Therapy, 25.00, New Hires; Fireguard, 206.00, Fire Sprinkler Inspection; First State Bank, 3,478.85, Loan Pymt; First Wireless, Inc., 1,304.00, Supplies; Fleek, Brianna, 240.00, Janitorial; Fraser Stryker, PC LLO, 147.50, Professional Services; Fraternal Order of Police, 660.00,

FOP Dues; Glatfelter Specialty Benefits, 2,435.12, Fire Dept Life Insurance; Great Plains Uniforms, LLC, 69.50, Uniforms; Great Western Bank – Pension, 17,430.67, Pension; Great Western Bank – Visa, 2,865.83; Grunwald Mechanical, 943.20, Ralston Arena Piping Project; Halbur, Bailey, 168.78, Reimbursement; Harm’s Concrete Inc., 325.00, Concrete; Humana Insurance, 4,905.44, Insurance; HyVee Accounts Receivable, 140.18, Supplies; Idemia Identity & Security, USA LLC, 1,900.00, Equipment; Infogroup, 310.00, City Directory; Integrated Solutions, Inc., 4,505.00, Computer Services/Equipment; JDW Midwest, 4,250.00, Professional Services; JEO Consulting Group, Inc., 7,950.00, Professional Services/Engineering; Klinker, Mark, 1,000.00, Retainer; Kubota of Omaha, 313.50, Equipment Rental; Lynne A. Farr, 100.00, Lunch & Learn; Manufacturer’s News, Inc., 111.90, Registration; Martin Asphalt, 177.60, Asphalt; Mary Matuszewski, 12.64, Reimbursement; Menards-Ralston, 43.92, Supplies; Metro, 538.00, Service Contract; MUD-Utilities; 4,129.74; Utilities; NASRO, 40.00, Services; National Association of Chiefs of Police, 60.00, Membership Dues; Nebraska Department of Revenue, 136,606.00, Sales Tax; Nebraska Iowa Supply Co., Inc., 3,299.68, Fuel; OCLC, Inc., 352.01, Cataloging and Metadata; Omaha Compound Company, 199.40, Janitorial Supplies; Omaha Public Power District, 18,676.25, Utilities; Omaha World Herald, 494.00, Subscription Renewal; O’Malley, Margaret, 596.75, Janitorial; Papillion Sanitation, 27,149.84, Trash Collection; Purchase Power, 1,489.63, Copiers; Quill Corporation, 143.88, Supplies; Radar Shop, 262.50, Equipment; Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce, 15.00, Membership Luncheon; Ralston Automotive, 134.72, Supplies/Services; Ralston Fire Dept, Inc., 16,443.00, Contract Services; Ralston Public Schools, 1,805.00, Parking Ticket Fees-2nd Qtr.; Ralston Volunteer Fire Dept, 16,250.00, Fire Protection Agreement; Recorded Books, 776.30, Books; Sapp Bros, Inc., 36.00, Propane; Sarpy County, 1,802.70, Animal Control; Sid Dillon Chevrolet, 13,103.24, 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe Initial Pymt; Sirchie, 123.61, Evidence Collection Kits; Southeast Library System, 50.00, Training; State of Nebraska Motor Fuels, 22.00, 2nd Qtr Fuel Tax; Suburban Newspapers, Inc., 832.06, Publications; TNT Cleaning, 500.00, Janitorial; Talx UC Express, 151.94, Quarterly Fee; The Daily Record, 16.10, Legal Publications; Three Rivers Library System, 15.00, Annual Meeting; Titan Machinery-Omaha, 149.06, Check Charge; Tractor Supply Credit Plan, 60.00, Supplies; USPS, 440.00, Postage; Verizon Wireless, 1,084.51, Cell Phones; Voya Institutional Trust Company, 2,600.00, Pension; Walmart Community, 78.75, Supplies; Watch Guard, 10,390.00, Equipment; Westlake Ace Hardware, 10.77, Supplies; Wex Bank/Shell, 147.22, Fuel; ZooBean, Inc., 995.00, License.