

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NELIGH MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
May 23, 2017

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Neligh was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 12:00 P.M. at the City Council Chambers. Present were Council Members Leonard Miller, Dale Wilkinson, Ted Hughes and Steph Wanek. Mayor Hartz was absent. Also in attendance were Attorney Joe McNally, Economic Development Director Greg Ptacek, news reporters Joan Wright and Carrie Pitzer and City Clerk Danielle Klabenes. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in four public places on May 16, 2017. A copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Council President Hughes presided over the meeting and noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Law, located on the east wall of the Council Chambers is available for the public. Clerk Klabenes recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR CANDIDATE**

Director Ptacek reported his office received 18 applications for the Economic Development Director position. He reported 8 candidates were selected for initial interviews before personal interviews with 3 finalists. He reported the hiring committee recommended Gabriel Steinmeyer and an offer was extended to Steinmeyer which was accepted contingent upon the City Council approval. Ptacek reported Steinmeyer was from Spearfish, South Dakota and had roots in Hebron, Nebraska. Ptacek reported Steinmeyer would attend a developer's regional event on June 1<sup>st</sup> and begin in the Economic Development office on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He reported the salary offered was \$46,000 and though not discussed in the offer, Ptacek recommended extending 1 week paid vacation during the first year of employment as the same was extended to Ptacek when he began employment. It was noted that Steinmeyer possessed global economic background. Discussion was held that starting Steinmeyer at a higher salary than the current director may not provide an automatic pay increase in the first year. Ptacek also requested consideration for extending full city benefits following completion of the probationary period. *Wilkinson moved to accept the recommendation of the hiring committee to hire Gabriel Steinmeyer for the Economic Development Director position at a salary of \$46,000 per year with one week of paid vacation after probationary period.* Seconded by Wanek. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Wanek, Hughes, Wilkinson. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held for drafting a contract for Steinmeyer with the employment offer made as the same as was done for Director Ptacek at the time of hiring. *Wanek moved to authorize the City Attorney to write a contract of employment for Gabriel Steinmeyer.* Seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Hughes, Wilkinson, Miller, Wanek. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GUIDELINES**

Economic Development Director Ptacek reported the city was previously awaiting a response from the state after the state's review of the proposed guidelines for the grant. He reported the state returned a response with no corrections and requested the City Council approve the guidelines by resolution. *Wanek introduced and moved for passage Resolution 2017-7 to adopt the downtown revitalization program guidelines for the Neligh Old Mill District Building & Façade and Fix the Bones Building Improvement Programs.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Wilkinson, Wanek, Miller, Hughes. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**OLD MILL DISTRICT SIGNAGE**

Director Ptacek reported 3 signs were considered for directing tourism to the Old Mill District as part of Downtown Revitalization. He reported the 7 foot by 2 foot signs from Love Signs were estimated at a construct and install cost of \$13,000 from downtown revitalization grant funds. He reported the locations considered were the intersection of Highway 14 and Wylie Drive, Trail of Tears and the Antelope County Courthouse lawn. He reported with highway frontage, a permit with the Nebraska Department of Roads was required and a lease with Antelope County to discuss the conditions of the signage such as length of time to

display the sign. Discussion was held for the elevation drop along Highway 14 and Wylie Drive and to possibly consider the north side of Wylie Drive with permission from the property owner or the intersection of Highway 14 and Highway 275 at McNally Law Office. *Wanek moved to enter into discussions with Antelope County for a lease to place a sign on the Antelope County Courthouse highway frontage and upon approval of the lease to pay Love Signs a 25% down payment of \$3,250.* Seconded by Wilkinson. Roll call votes in favor were Miller, Hughes, Wilkinson, Wanek. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**SWINGING BRIDGE**

Attorney Joe McNally presented plans for a swinging bridge for City Attorney Jim McNally. He reported the plans offered a similar structure to the previous Riverside and Russell Park swinging bridge with intended financing and un-official cost estimates. He reported the cost may be reduced with use of city utility personnel labor and donations. He reported the structure would be ADA compliant on both sides of the bridge even though the Fire Marshall did not have to review the plans. Discussion was held for the weight bearing load during high traffic events such as the county fair. Attorney McNally reported the plans were presented for further review and consideration for support of the project. Discussion was held for obtaining firm cost estimates before project commitment was made. The matter was tabled. No action was taken.

There being no further business to conduct Council member Wilkinson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Miller. Roll call votes in favor were Wanek, Wilkinson, Hughes, Miller. Opposed: None. Thereupon Council President Hughes declared the meeting adjourned. Time: 12:35 P.M.

City of Neligh

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Ted Hughes, Council President

(ATTEST)

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Neligh, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Council on May 23, 2017 that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

(SEAL)

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Danielle Klabenes, City Clerk