

**ULYSSES CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
January 23, 2019**

PRESENT:

Mayor: John Battin

Council Members Present: Sam Guy, Ken Warner, Larry Velasquez,
John Duran, Jerry Jo Deckert, and Tim McCauley

Staff Present: Sarah Britton, Slade Loewen, and Dave Black

Visitors: Lara Tusten, Bill Bieck, Kristy Frazee, Jacob Frazee,
Kate Krug, Chad Krug, and Slade Loewen

Mayor John Battin called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor John Battin.

Pastor Jon Becker led the room in **Opening Prayer**.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Duran to approve the consent agenda. Council Members McCauley, Warner, Deckert, and Guy voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Visitors:

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that the city hired Bill Bieck last year as a consultant for the Golf Course, and that he is here tonight to go over some of the stuff that is happening at the Golf Course.

Bill Bieck explained that he is a retired Golf Course Superintendent in McCook Nebraska, and was a Superintendent for 45 years. Bieck stated that the first time that he came to the Golf Course in Ulysses he noticed the problems with the number one green and the plant health was not as good as it could be on the turfs, but with the biggest problem being the number one green and it needing to be rebuilt.

Bieck stated that the Administration decided to rebuild the number one green, and through city employees and voluntary help number one green has been rebuilt. Bieck explained to rebuild a green can be from \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00, and the city rebuilt it for \$5,000.00. Bieck also stated that the city employees and volunteers did a great job because they were under the gun to get the green built before weather changed. The green is built and hopefully can be played on in late Spring or early Summer.

Bieck stated that he is here now to help Golf Course Superintendent Slade Loewen, and he believes that he will be a fantastic superintendent. Bieck believes that Ulysses has a tremendous facility along with a parks system.

Golf Course Superintendent Loewen explained to the council everything that he has done since he started.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Blue Cross Renewal

Kelly Bliemeister with BlueCross BlueShield explained to the council the benefits of staying in the Grandfathered Plan verses if the city decided to choose another option.

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that he had City Treasurer Sheila Maxfield reviewed the numbers with the different options, and Sheila believes with reviewing the options the best plan for the employee's is staying with the Grandfathered Plan. Olson also stated that for 2019 the city budgeted for a 15% increase, and the increase for 2019 is 9.92%.

Motion by Council Member Deckert, seconded by Council Member McCauley to approve staying with the Grandfathered Plan with a 9.92% increase. Council Members Warner, Velasquez, Duran, and Guy voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

DuGood 5-K Run

Kristy Frazee with the DuGood organization explained that they will be having a Frost Your Fanny 5-K Run/Walk fundraiser on February 9, 2019 Frazier Park 9:00a.m.

Rock Bids

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that the city received two bids for 1/2 crushed rock.

Bid	Tons	Price
Huber Sand	3500	\$21.71 per ton delivered
Klotz Sand	3500	\$22.25 per ton delivered

Motion by Council Member Duran, seconded by Council Member Warner to approve the bid for Huber Sand for 3500 tons at \$21.71 per ton delivered. Council Members McCauley, Velasquez, Deckert, and Guy voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Vehicle Purchase

Interim City Administrator Olson stated the city has budgeted to purchase two police vehicles and a City Administrator vehicle for 2019. Olson explained that Dodge makes a special service vehicle it is the Dodge Durango, and the only upgrade that he did was add a V-8 engine. Olson stated that he budgeted \$63,000.00 for the police vehicles, and these vehicles are priced at \$31,153.45 per vehicle.

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that for the City Administrator Vehicle he could purchase another Dodge Durango under the same program, and we could use this vehicle for the police if in need of an emergency. Olson also stated that \$35,000.00 was budgeted for the City Administrator Vehicle.

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Deckert to approve the purchase of three Dodge Durangos. Council Members McCauley, Warner, Duran, and Guy voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Phone System City Hall

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that the city budgeted for 2019 \$8,000.00 for a new phone system in City Hall. Olson explained that Pioneer Communications has quoted the city a phone system voice over internet protocol. The start up for this system is \$1,569.63 then the monthly phone bill approximately is \$440.78. Olson also explained that the phones are leased for 36 months and then they become the city's property.

Motion by Council Member Duran, seconded by Council Member Guy to approve the purchase of the phone system for City Hall. Council Members McCauley, Warner, Duran, and Velasquez voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Clerk Britton stated that she needs a vote from the council so Public Works Superintendent Ruben Flores can be a voting delegate at the Water Conference.

Motion by Council Member McCauley, seconded by Council Member Deckert to approve Public Works Superintendent Ruben Flores a voting delegate for the Water Conference. Council Members Guy, Warner, Duran, and Velasquez voted yea. Those voting nay, none. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that Public Works Superintendent Ruben Flores is in Topeka at a conference regarding harmful algal bloom. Olson also stated that the railroad crossing on Stubbs road is being repaired.

Interim City Administrator Olson stated that Moscow has requested some assistance with their water and waste water monitoring while they are in the process of getting an employee certified. Public Works Superintendent Ruben Flores has indicated that he would be willing to help Moscow. Moscow will be willing to pay.

COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Duran stated that he is glad to back in Ulysses.

Council Member Guy stated that his comment is the same as last month that he would like the city study some options that will make the community a better place to live. Interim City Administrator Olson stated that he has not heard back from City Engineer Pete Earles.

Council Member Deckert asked who has noticed the new tiger banners on Main Street.

Council Member McCauley complemented the Council on sticking with the same insurance that the city had. McCauley believes the employees deserve this benefit, and he thinks that is the reason why the city has no turn over.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Velasquez, seconded by Council Member Deckert to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Motion carried, 6 yeas. Nays, none.

Mayor John Battin

Council Member Jerry Jo Deckert

Council Member Tim McCauley

Council Member Kenneth Warner

Council Member Larry Velasquez

Council Member John Duran

Council Member Sam Guy

Interim City Administrator Alan Olson

City Clerk Sarah Britton