

The Mayor and Council of the City of Fairbury met in regular session in the Council Chambers located at 612 D Street, Fairbury, Nebraska, on the 3rd day of May, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Ward called the meeting to order.

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Fairbury Journal News, Fairbury, Nebraska, the designated method of giving notice, as shown by affidavit of publication. The Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room and pointed out by Mayor Ward as required by law.

Roll call found the following Council Members present: Doug Brown, Rick Carmichael, Roger Bailey, Tim Polson, Phil Rogge, Ed Friesen, Brad Kuzelka, and Kelly Davis.

Mayor Ward called for the submittal of forms to request future agenda items. No forms were submitted during the meeting.

Mayor Ward read the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 2016.
2. Approval of claims.
3. Approval of the appointment of Curtis Arnold to the Safety Committee.

Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Carmichael. On roll call, Polson, Bailey, Carmichael, Brown, Friesen, Rogge, Kuzelka, and Davis all voted "yes". Motion carried.

Bailey moved to set the Public Hearing concerning the Proprietary Budget and Budget Summary for the City of Fairbury Utilities for May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017 for May 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Polson. On roll call, Polson, Bailey, Carmichael, Brown, Friesen, Rogge, Kuzelka, and Davis all voted "yes". Motion carried.

City Administrator Collin Bielser gave a presentation of the Economic Development Certified Community program. Bielser gave a brief background – back in January 2016 the Mayor hosted a round table with some of the larger employers in the community discussing what we need to do as a community to strengthen our community. There were four main topics that came out of that discussion – promotion and marketing, technology, education, and housing. Following the round table, Mayor Ward and Collin strategized to discuss how to address these four issues. Mayor Ward and Collin both attended a meeting in Plattsmouth where the state presented on the concept of the Economic Development Certified Community. The program is a joint effort between the Nebraska Diplomats and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED). The program is reserved only for those communities that are prepared to show economic readiness; i.e. to accommodate new business prospects and support expansions. The program will allow Fairbury to be part of the conversation with the state about programs and projects. There are currently thirty

eight communities in Nebraska that are already certified: Auburn, Falls City, Crete, Geneva, Wayne, etc. What is unique about this program is that it is not just a blanket approval by the State, it is a process that involves peer communities and other Nebraska Diplomats (which is a business association) evaluating your community, looking at what you have developed, and if it is something that they as a business would expect or anticipate from a community to offer them – it is unique in that aspect. Benefits of being certified: helps put Fairbury on DED's radar; we actually get to be part of the discussion with the Department of Economic Development. Also requires Fairbury to plan and organize as what we need to do as a community to encourage business growth and expansion. The program also allows Fairbury to start marketing the potential industry and other businesses. The State knows our community is active and trying to do something. NDED also allows communities to participate in reduced rates for marketing advertising and trade shows with other businesses international and national. Also receive additional points for state and federal funding through the State of Nebraska. Nebraska has a Site and Building Fund for speculative investment or existing infrastructure upgrades. The funds are limited and the funds are competitive. The Certification Process with the State takes at least a year to eighteen months to complete. The process is very intensive – requires a serious commitment from the community. The certification is good for five years, with annual reviews of the community's economic development website and information and how the community is promoting business and growth. The program requires Fairbury to organize and plan for the future. Some of the things that the State will look for in its requirements are: Fairbury will have to develop an Economic Development Strategic Plan (Collin has already talked to Black Hills Energy – they will help us to develop a strategic plan), develop an Economic Development Work Plan, identify economic development partnerships, create and develop a community website, develop business programs such as entrepreneurships, business retention and expansion programs. Requires the City to identify our current infrastructure and to identify obstacles to those infrastructure needs, have to evaluate our housing; we need to update our housing study and start implementing the housing study action plan. Moving forward, Mayor Ward has determined that implementing a Task Force to oversee the certification process for the community would be the appropriate approach. Representatives from each sector discussed earlier (education, marketing, technology, and housing) and one at large (5 members) will be identified to serve on this task force which is anticipated to be named at the next City Council meeting on May 17, 2016 for the City Council to consider. The Task Force will guide this development, be in charge of the strategic plan, be in charge of the city website, RFP's (Requesting for Proposals) for companies to develop, and selecting that and narrowing it down for the Council to approve as it will cost the City to do a website.

Rogge moved to adopt Resolution No. 1015 to levy and assess costs of nuisance abatement against certain properties. Motion seconded by Carmichael. On roll call, Polson, Bailey, Carmichael, Brown, Friesen, Rogge, Kuzelka, and Davis all voted "yes". Motion carried.

Polson moved to adopt Resolution No. 1016 to install two fifteen minute parking stalls on the north side of 6th Street in front of 611 6th Street in Fairbury, Nebraska. Motion seconded by Kuzelka. Bielser stated the two fifteen minute parking stalls will be located in front of Classic Cone. The Public Works Committee approved the signage at their meeting on April 19, 2016. On roll call, Polson, Bailey, Carmichael, Brown, Friesen, Rogge, Kuzelka, and Davis all voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Within the City Administrator’s report, Collin Bielser invited everyone to attend the Town Hall meeting this Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Community Building from 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. The Town Hall meeting is for the proposed Community Parks Master Plan and Pool Study. The engineers will give a presentation at approximately 5:30 p.m. The plans will be displayed and the public will have a chance to give their feedback regarding the proposed plans.

Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Rogge. On roll call, Polson, Bailey, Carmichael, Brown, Friesen, Rogge, Kuzelka, and Davis all voted “yes”. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Homer L. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST: Sharyl Preston, City Clerk