

MCCOOK CITY COUNCIL
April 15, 2013
7:30 P.M.

A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK, NEBRASKA convened in open, regular, and public session at 7:30 o'clock P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Berry, Councilmembers Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell.

Absent: Councilmember Hepp (excused).

City Officials present: City Manager Hancock, City Attorney Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Doak, Public Works Director Kyle Potthoff, Chief of Police Isaac Brown, Fire Chief Marc Harpham, Senior Services Director Sue Chipman, Library Director Jody Crocker, and Utilities Director Jesse Dutcher.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the McCook Daily Gazette on April 11, 2013, the designated method of giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Mayor and members of the City Council and a copy of the Acknowledgment of Receipt of such notice is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the Mayor and Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Berry announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted by the entrance to the Council Chambers and available for public review.

(1) INVOCATION - THE MCCOOK MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION - BRUCE LESTER - EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH.

Bruce Lester, pastor of the Evangelical Free Church was present for the invocation.

(2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Berry led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(3) CITIZEN'S FORUM.

No one was present for Citizen's Forum.

(4) MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITIONS.

City Manager Hancock informed the Council that the Planning Steering Committee scheduled for May 16 has been moved to May 30 at 5:15 because of a conflict with the Housing Summit and that Rex Nelson, Executive Director of the McCook Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will be presenting the Housing report and the status of MEDC projects at a future meeting.

It was the consensus of the Council to set Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. for a special City Council meeting for potential and/or pending litigation.

(5) APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 26, 2013 AS "ARBOR DAY"

IN THE CITY OF MCCOOK AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to approve the proclamation designating April 26, 2013 as "Arbor Day" in the City of McCook and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

(6) CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEM A APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2013 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2013 regular City Council meeting. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

ITEM B RECEIVE AND FILE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2013.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to receive and file the Financial Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2013. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

ITEM C RECEIVE AND FILE THE CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2013 AS PUBLISHED ON APRIL 15, 2013.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to receive and file the claims for the month of March 2013 as published on April 15, 2013. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

ITEM D RECEIVE AND FILE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2013 LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD AND THE FEBRUARY 20, 2013 BUILDING CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to receive and file the minutes of the February 13, 2013 Library Advisory Board and the February 20, 2013 Building Code Review Committee meetings. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

ITEM E APPROVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND EXPRESSIONS ON INTEREST TO (SHORT/LONG TERM) LEASE AND/OR DEVELOP THE 24,000 SQUARE FOOT MCCOOK MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to approve Request for Proposals and Expressions on Interest to (short/long term) lease and/or develop the 24,000 square foot McCook Municipal Auditorium. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

ITEM F APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM RED WILLOW COUNTY TO CLOSE WEST "F" STREET FROM NORRIS AVENUE WEST TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE ALLEY BETWEEN NORRIS AVENUE AND 1ST STREET WEST AND AUTHORIZE RED WILLOW COUNTY TO OCCASIONALLY CLOSE THE ALLEY GOING SOUTH FROM WEST "F" STREET TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARKING LOT FROM MAY 1, 2013 TO JULY 1, 2014 FOR THE PARKING OF TRAILERS AND THE STAGING OF OTHER SUPPLIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RED WILLOW COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER/JAIL PROJECT.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Calvin, seconded by Councilmember McDowell, the Council voted to approve the request from Red Willow County to close West "F" Street from Norris Avenue west to the east side of the alley between Norris Avenue and 1st Street West and authorize Red Willow County to occasionally close the alley going south from West "F" Street to the north side of the south entrance to the St. Alban's Episcopal Church parking lot from May 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 for the parking of trailers and the staging of other supplies for the construction of the new Red Willow County Law Enforcement Center/Jail Project. The motion passed upon the following roll call vote: YEA: Berry, Gonzales, Calvin, McDowell. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hepp.

REGULAR AGENDA

(7) HEAR AND DISCUSS A PRESENTATION BY JAMES UERLING ON "THE FUTURE OF MCCOOK - IS THERE WATER IN IT?".

James Uerling, Farmer/Rancher and MRNRD Director, gave a presentation on "The Future of McCook - Is There Water in it?". He stated that on April 2, 2013 surface water users in southwest Nebraska had their water use rights disregarded. Their water was released from area reservoirs by order of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources without consent or compensation. This will impact the dollars flowing through the local economy, tax revenue, tourism in McCook and surrounding area, and has impacted the rights we take for granted. He presented information regarding groundwater level changes in Nebraska and yearly historical inflow and precipitation and at area lakes.

(8) COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Councilmember Calvin inquired about the status of the Health Board meeting regarding safety and nuisance issues at the old St. Catherine's apartment building and expressed a need for signage directing the public to the Council Chambers.

Mayor Berry noted that the Choice Gas selection period is now through April 25. He encouraged all to make their selection. He congratulated County Commissioner Earl McNutt and the County for moving along with the construction of the new jail facility.

(9) ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Berry declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Dennis Berry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lea Ann Doak, City Clerk