

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 31, 2023**

The Wayne City Council met in special session at the Wayne Fire Hall on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Cale Giese called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Councilmembers Brent Pick, Terri Buck, Nick Muir, Brittany Webber, Clayton Bratcher, Jason Karsky, and Jill Brodersen; Attorney Amy Miller; City Administrator Wes Blecke; and City Clerk Betty McGuire. Absent: Councilmember Matt Eischeid.

Notice of the convening meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Wayne Herald, Wayne, Nebraska, the designated method of giving notice, as shown by Affidavit of Publication. In addition, notice was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council, and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and agenda is on file with the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the Council convened in open session.

Mayor Giese advised the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the northwest wall of the Wayne Fire Hall, as well as on the City of Wayne website and was available for public inspection. In addition, he advised the public that the Council may go into closed session to discuss certain agenda items to protect the public interest or to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public hearing.

The Council then discussed the following retreat topics:

➤ Park(s) Update

- **Bonding Projects** — The City does not have much debt on the general fund side, and is low on its debt levy, which means there is some room to do some things if the Council does not want to pay cash for park projects. Staff has met with the City's bonding agent, and what he thought would be a good idea or a good option for some of the projects coming up was a "Municipal Improvement Bond."

**New City Hall Project** — For budget purposes, staff will probably recommend bonding out the renovations. However, the purchase of the property will be in cash.

Council consensus was to bond out the Prairie Park, new City Hall and new park and rec building projects.

**Future Street Improvement Projects** — 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Centennial Road, 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Fairground Avenue from Main Street to Prairie Park.

The City's auditor will be able to advise the Council on what the dollar amount/threshold should be for the City on bonded projects.

- **Future Park Improvements:**

- Fund East Park playground equipment with Keno Funds (approx. \$110,000 - started receiving revenue in 2016). There is not any money in the Park Budget for park equipment. There is \$500,000 in the capital project budget for park improvements (Freedom Park and Prairie Park).
- Pursue more/additional grant funding options (Peter Kiewit, Sherwood Foundation, and Daugherty Foundation). Administrator Blecke will reach out to the City of Norfolk to see what they did.
- Install more handicapped accessible equipment (e.g. in-ground, wheelchair accessible merry-go-round).

- **Future Trail Expansion:**

- Extend the trail from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Hank Overin Field

- **Future City Hall Building:**

The City now owns the Ameritas building. Administrator Blecke is getting proposals from two architectural firms for design. Mayor Giese stated that Councilmember Eischeid advised him he would like to be in the building as soon as possible.

Discussion took place in regard to the current City Hall location. It was noted that the current City Hall building is in a redevelopment area, which means it would be eligible for tax increment financing. Council consensus was to start the process for soliciting requests for proposals for the old City Hall building, and to move quickly on the new City Hall building renovation project.

- **Library Addition (previous goal):**

At this time, the Library is utilizing the space at the Vakoc building recently purchased by the City for storing books, decorations, etc.

- **Community Betterment Projects:**

- Continue discussion on the feasibility of an indoor pool
- Continue discussion on a proposed skate park, ice rink and sledding hill
- Extend a sidewalk to the Dollar General on the east side of town
- Bring discussion on allowing chickens inside city limits back before Council

- Streets (4<sup>th</sup> Street/Centennial Road/21<sup>st</sup> Street)
- Additional Villa-type housing

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mayor Giese declared the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.