

McCook City Council
January 4, 2021
5:30 PM Central

A MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK, NEBRASKA convened in open, regular/audio conferencing, and public session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Gonzales, Councilmembers Calvin, Weedon, Muehlenkamp, Rambali.

Absent: None.

City Officials present: City Manager Schneider, City Attorney Mustion, City Clerk Doak, Deputy City Clerk Burkey, Fire Chief Harpham, Senior Services Director Siegfried, and Police Chief Smith.

Present via audio conferencing means: Library Director Crocker, Utilities Director Dutcher, and Public Works Director Potthoff.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the McCook Daily Gazette on December 31, 2020, 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 Acknowledgement 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 Gonzales announced that pursuant to the executive order issued by Governor Ricketts on December 1, 2020, City Council members and the public may attend in person. Additionally, the meeting is open to members of the governing body and the public via audio-conferencing means. We welcome your attendance via audio-conferencing means and ask that you mute your microphones so as not to disrupt the meeting progression.

In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for public review at the entrance to the Council Chambers and on the City of McCook's website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Gonzales called the meeting to order.

1. Citizen Comments.

Dawson Brunswick, McCook Chamber of Commerce President, thanked Public Works Director Potthoff and his staff for their help with Santa Claus Lane, without them it would not have happened.

2. Announcements & Recognitions.

City Manager Schneider informed the Council that a Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, January 7, 2021 at noon.

3. Consent Agenda.

Mayor Gonzales requested that Item B be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Weedon and seconded by Muehlenkamp, passed.

Gonzales: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

- 3.A. Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 regular City Council meeting.
- 3.C. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Compliance for the 2020 Maintenance Agreement between the City of McCook and the Nebraska Department of Roads.
- 3.D. Approve the renewal of Maintenance Agreement No. 17 between the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Municipality of McCook and authorize the Mayor to sign.

4. Regular Agenda.

- 3.B. Approve a request from MEDC to allow Vision McCook funds to be used for promoting the community.

Mayor Gonzales noted that \$387.23 was the City's portion of the \$1,307.98 left in the Vision McCook account and that the funds will be used in the same manner as the original marketing and promotional program.

Motion to approve a request from MEDC to allow Vision McCook funds to be used for promoting the community. This motion, made by Gonzales and seconded by Calvin, passed.

Gonzales: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

- 4.A. Presentation from City Attorney Nathaniel Mustion regarding LB424, legislation amending the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act allowing all Nebraska communities to acquire, clean, maintain, and dispose of nuisance property.

City Attorney Mustion gave a presentation regarding LB424 which amended the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act allowing communities to acquire, clean, maintain, and dispose of nuisance property.

Discussion included how it would be funded; possibility of utilizing ACE funds for McCook's portion of the funding; the last large demolition project for McCook was completed using

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant funds; will the proposed communities be able to afford the funding; should the proposed area be larger, more of SW Nebraska; checking with Loop City to see how many communities/counties are included in the proposed area, the status of the proposed land bank program, and if it was funded; possibility of utilizing Mr. Mustion's legal firm as the administrator, they have expertise in the various areas required for administration of a land bank and paying them as needed versus an entire staff would be more cost effective.

Andy Long, McCook Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, encouraged the Council to think bigger. A bigger service area would provide a larger pool to build up the needed initial capital for completion of projects.

It was the consensus of the Council to have Mr. Mustion contact other communities to see who would be interested in joining a land bank and bring back to the Council at a later date as an action item.

4.B. Discussion regarding potentially rescheduling a capital improvement strategic planning meeting.

The Council set February 18, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. for a capital improvement strategic planning meeting. Locations considered were the auditorium, the upstairs conference room at the Municipal Center, and the Senior Center.

4.C. Council Comments.

The Mayor wished all a Happy 2021 and stated he had a citizen inquire about the red and white reflective tape on the posts of several stop signs.

Public Works Director Potthoff stated the tape has been placed on the posts of stop signs at several of the busier intersections and that it brings more attention to them when driving at night.

Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gonzales declared the meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

Michael D. Gonzales, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lea Ann Doak, City Clerk-Treasurer