

McCook City Council  
January 2, 2024  
5:30 P.M. Central

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

Present: Mayor Taylor, Councilmembers Calvin, Weedon, Rambali.

Absent: Councilmember Muehlenkamp.

Motion to excuse the absence of Councilmember Muehlenkamp. This motion, made by Calvin and seconded by Weedon, passed.

Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Muehlenkamp: ABSENT, Rambali: YEA  
YEA: 4, NAY: 0, ABSENT: 1

City Officials present: City Manager Schneider, City Attorney Mustion, City Clerk Doak, Assistant City Manager Koetter, Utilities Director Fawver, Fire Chief Harpham, Public Works Director Potthoff, Senior Services Director Siegfried, and Police Chief Hodgson.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the McCook Daily Gazette on December 28, 2023, 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 Taylor announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted by the entrance to the Council Chambers and available for public review. Councilmember Weedon provided the invocation. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

## **1. Announcements & Recognitions.**

There were no announcements or recognitions.

## **2. Consent Agenda.**

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

Muehlenkamp: ABSENT, Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Rambali: YEA  
YEA: 4, NAY: 0, ABSENT: 1

- 2.A. Approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 regular City Council meeting.
- 2.B. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-02, approving the updated City of McCook Public Transportation Drug and Alcohol Zero Tolerance Testing Policy.
- 2.C. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Compliance for the 2023 Maintenance Agreement between the City of McCook and the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

**3. Regular Agenda.**

- 3.A. Approve Resolution No. 2024-01 authorizing city staff to submit a letter of intent to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Civic and Community Center Financing Fund for preliminary planning purposes.

Matt Sehnert and Ronda Graff, representatives for the McCook Creative District, were present to address questions from the Council. Application for a Creative District was submitted by the Local Arts Council, with approval of the McCook Creative District in October 2023. The State has appropriated through NDED's CCCFF program to allow Creative Districts to plan for potential improvement projects within their districts. The City of McCook would be the applicant for the grant. The minimum grant award is \$100,000, with a match of \$100,000. The City, Community Hospital, MEDC, Graff Charitable Foundation, and the McCook Arts Council have met to discuss the proposed application. The group intends for each entity to donate \$20,000 toward the planning grant, alleviating the burden on the City to fund the match. A MOU will need to be executed outlining each parties' obligation. The entities will work to determine priority projects within the district to be included in the application. A preliminary application is due January 15, with the full application due February 15.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-01 authorizing city staff to submit a letter of intent to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Civic and Community Center Financing Fund for preliminary planning purposes. This motion, made by Calvin and seconded by Taylor, passed.  
Muehlenkamp: ABSENT, Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Rambali: YEA  
YEA: 4, NAY: 0, ABSENT: 1

**3.B. Council Comments.**

There were no council comments.

City Manager Schneider requested that Item 3.D. be considered before Item 3.C. to allow staff to meet previously scheduled family commitments.

- 3.D. An Executive Session may be held upon a majority vote of the Council for the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to real estate purchase for Sports Complex.

Motion to go into executive session for the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to real estate purchase for a Sports Complex at 5:51 P.M. This motion, made by Calvin and

seconded by Weedon, passed.

Muehlenkamp: ABSENT, Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Rambali: YEA

YEA: 4, NAY: 0, ABSENT: 1

Mayor Taylor stated for the record that at this time, pursuant to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a closed session will be held for the purpose of the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to real estate purchase for a Sports Complex. The Council will reconvene in public session following this closed session.

3.C. An Executive Session may be held upon a majority vote of the Council for the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to potential litigation - property located at 1111 East "H" Street, Cindy and Ron Sabin.

Motion to go into executive session for the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to potential litigation - property located at 1111 East "H" Street, Cindy and Ron Sabin at 6:23 P.M. This motion, made by Calvin and seconded by Taylor, passed.

Muehlenkamp: ABSENT, Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Rambali: YEA

YEA: 4, NAY: 0, ABSENT: 1

Mayor Taylor stated for the record that at this time, pursuant to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a closed session will be held for the purpose of the protection of public interest for a strategy session with respect to potential litigation - property located 1111 East "H" Street, Cindy and Ron Sabin. The Council will reconvene in public session following this closed session.

City Manager Schneider, City Attorney Mustion, Assistant City Manager Koetter, and City Clerk Doak.

Motion to come out of executive session at 6:57 P.M. This motion, made by Calvin and seconded by Weedon, passed.

Muehlenkamp: ABSENT, Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Rambali: YEA

YEA: 4, NAY: 0, ABSENT: 1

### **Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

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Linda Taylor, Ex-officio Mayor  
and Council President

ATTEST:

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Lea Ann Doak, City Clerk-Treasurer