

McCook City Council
February 3, 2025
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, Muehlenkamp, Rambali.

Absent: None.

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

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the McCook Daily Gazette on January 30, 2025, 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. Invocation was provided by Jeff Kelley, Memorial Methodist Church. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

1. Announcements & Recognitions.

City Manager Schneider informed the Council that a Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025 at 5:15 P.M. and a meeting of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance Committee is scheduled for February 27, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the upstairs training room.

2. Consent Agenda.

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

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

2.A. Approve the minutes of the January 20, 2025 regular City Council meeting.

- 2.B. Schedule the 4th meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for February 27, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
- 2.C. Accept the minutes of the October 22, 2024 Senior Center Advisory Board meeting.
- 2.D. Ratify the Mayor's appointment to the Senior Center Advisory Board, appointing Ron Jacobs, term expires September 2028.

3. Regular Agenda.

- 3.A. Update regarding the sports complex project.

City Manager Schneider gave an update of the sports complex project. Meetings have been held with Mammoth Construction and Miller and Associates regarding the design of the complex and surrounding area and a meeting was held with Paul Grieger regarding the bond for financing of the project.

- 3.B. Update and discussion on the sports complex project regarding Mid-Plains Community College.

City Manager Schneider read the information contained in his City Manager's Report for this meeting.

Mid-Plains Community College President Ryan Purdy and Vice President of Student Affairs Kelly Rippen were present as representatives of the College to address the colleges desire to maintain ownership of the two collegiate fields. Mr. Purdy gave a review of the meetings, conversations, and negotiations with the city, including ownership, naming rights, not being part of the selection of Mammoth Construction for the design of the complex, concerns with lack of community between the City and the College, that the College has committed \$1,000,000 to the project, and maintaining loyalty to donors. Mr. Purdy questioned if it was possible to schedule a meeting of the MPCC Board that would meet the City's timeline.

Others representatives of the college present were Kim Korgan, District 1 Representative on the Mid-Plains Board of Governors, President of the McCook Community College Foundation Pam Gaston, and staff members - Jon Olsen, Mike Mendenhall, Darin Morgan, and Brian Obert.

John Walters, previous owner of the land purchased for the complex, stated that he was contacted by the City in December 2023 regarding the purchase of this property with plans for a sports complex, retail, and housing. He agreed to sell to the city for these uses. He expressed concerns with having separate owners of the complex property.

McCook Public Schools Superintendent Grant Norgaard and Community Hospital President and CEO spoke in support of the project and maintaining the complex city-owned.

- 3.C. Establish the user fees for the McCook Aquatic Park for the Summer of 2025.

Mayor Taylor suggested the following fees:

4 and under - Free, 5 - 17 \$4 or \$5, 18 - 54 \$6 or \$7, over 55 - \$4 or \$5, family day pass \$15 or \$20, Season passes - single \$60 or \$70, family of 3 - 4 \$150, 5 or more \$200, babysitter pass with purchase of a family pass - \$40, lap swimming \$3 per day or \$45 for season.

Discussion also included a grandparents pass and discount/financial assistance.

3.D. Discuss proposed LB 354, which would eliminate state equalization funding for Cities of the First Class.

Discussion included a cell phone occupation tax, increasing the hotel occupation tax, a food and beverage tax, and tax on food trucks.

3.E. Ordinance No. 2025-3095 amending the City of McCook Code of Ordinances, Title IX, Chapter 91 - "Fire Prevention; Fireworks; Poisonous or Flammable Gas; Explosives", Section 91.37 - Prerequisites and Qualifications for Issuance of Sales Permit and Section 91.43 - Discharge of Fireworks Generally.

Mayor Taylor asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2025-3095 by title.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK, NEBRASKA AMENDING THE CITY OF MCCOOK CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 91, ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION; FIREWORKS; POISONOUS OR FLAMMABLE GAS; EXPLOSIVES" IN TITLE IX "GENERAL REGULATIONS", SECTION 91.37 - PREREQUISITES AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF SALES PERMIT AND SECTION 91.43 - DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS GENERALLY, AMENDING THE PERMIT FEE AND THE DATES AND TIMES OF DISCHARGE; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE MADE A PART OF THE CITY OF MCCOOK CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION THEREOF.

Ordinance No. 2024-3095 has been read by title and I move to approve upon its second of three readings. This motion, made by Muehlenkamp and seconded by Rambali, passed.
Taylor: YEA, Calvin: YEA, Weedon: YEA, Muehlenkamp: YEA, Rambali: YEA
YEA: 5, NAY: 0

3.F. Council Comments.

There were no council comments.

Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Taylor declared the meeting

adjourned at 6:56 P.M.

Linda Taylor, Ex-officio Mayor
and Council President

ATTEST:

Lea Ann Doak, City Clerk-Treasurer