



SPRINGFIELD

NEBRASKA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Springfield City Hall
170 North 3rd Street

CALL TO ORDER

- Public announcement that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law is posted in the entry to the meeting room
- Roll call
- Pledge of Allegiance

CONSENT AGENDA

All consent agenda items are approved in one motion unless removed by a Council Member. Removed items will be placed under the Regular Agenda for consideration and action by the Council.

1. Approve Minutes of the March 5, 2024, Council Meeting
2. Approve Claims
3. Approve Treasurer's Report

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Jamie Wilson and Jacob Hoskins, SYAA Recreation Softball and Baseball Commissioners – Discuss concerns with new batting cages at City Park
2. Discuss Bryan Cherry's annual review and consider a proposed merit increase
3. Discuss Tyler Holdorf's annual review and consider a proposed merit increase
4. Discuss possible litigation

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Water & Sewer Department – Mike Neitzel
2. Library & Community Building – Michael Herzog
3. Parks Department – Kacie Murtha

4. Street Department – Dan Craney
5. Mayor’s Report – Bob Roseland
6. City Staff Reports

The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to adjourn into executive session per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Springfield, Nebraska was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at City Hall. Present were Mayor Bob Roseland; Council Members: Mike Neitzel, Michael Herzog, Kacie Murtha. Absent: Dan Craney. Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting in three public places, one of the designated methods of giving notice. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to the Mayor and all Council Members and a copy of their receipt of notice is attached to these Minutes. 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 convened meeting was open to the public. The Mayor publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Herzog, seconded by Neitzel, to approve the Consent Agenda. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

Agenda Item 1. Jamie Wilson, 435 N. 10th Avenue, Springfield, Nebraska, Springfield Youth Athletic Association (SYAA) Softball Coach, spoke on behalf of the SYAA Baseball/Softball Organization in regard to the newly constructed batting cages located at Springfield City Park, 600 Cedar Street, Springfield, Nebraska. Wilson thanked the City Council for the batting cages and commented they are aesthetically appealing. She further commented from a safety perspective several conditions that SYAA would like to see addressed, evaluated and improved upon. Wilson commented that the rocks on the bed of the batting cages pose safety concerns such as balls could likely take a bad hop striking a player, kids throwing rocks, balls getting gashed when hitting the rock base and concern players will have poor footing. Wilson and SYAA feel artificial turf will be more functional and aesthetically appealing. Mayor Roseland informed Wilson that it is a budget concern for this current year. He suggested SYAA present a quote to add artificial turf to the cages for next budget year. Wilson suggested the possibility of parents donating the cost completely for either artificial turf or concrete. Kathleen Gottsch, City Administrator, informed the Council and the public that the project started years ago when Ron Alexander, Platteview High School Vice-Principal and Athletic Director at the time, presented cost estimates to the city for materials and concrete flooring for new batting cages. Unfortunately, these quotes were two to three times less than what actual quotes came in at. Quotes for synthetic turf were estimated at \$12,000. The city and school opted to initially start with rock base and sharing the cost. Gottsch provided several options for Council to review stating that placing turf over rock would allow for adequate drainage. Tyler

Holdorf, Parks Director, informed the Council that concrete wasn't an option not only because of the cost but because of logistics. A pump truck would have to be rented for the concrete since a line of trees creates an obstacle for a truck to get closer. He commented it would take three people to operate the hose and the city currently doesn't have staff to perform the project. Holdorf will obtain a bid from Travis Moore Construction for concrete. Gottsch informed the Council that Travis Ryley, SYAA Baseball Director, submitted a bid from Nate Skwarek for \$8,800 for concrete only; however, they could not provide business insurance, including worker's compensation insurance, and a W-9 form for tax purposes. Gottsch stated that the city is ultimately responsible even if all materials and labor were donated. Murtha inquired if we could do turf now. Holdorf stated it would be a matter of screwing the turf into the rock. Wilson will discuss the possibility of SYAA helping with costs but will also research the option of obtaining turf at no costs. Neitzel asked if used turf would be a possibility. Holdorf responded it would work if the turf was in good condition. The batting cages are 15' x 140'. Murtha asked Wilson for turf bids for next year's budget. Gottsch asked to have the budget items submitted as early as possible and to make sure to include multiple quotes. Wilson inquired who would be responsible if someone was to get injured at a City Park. Council informed her people are at the park for various reasons and at their own risk. Bill Siedler, City Attorney, stated cities are protected under the Nebraska Liability Act, which limits the city's responsibility.

Agenda Items 2, 3, & 4. Motion by Herzog, seconded by Neitzel, to move agenda item 2 regarding Bryan Cherry's annual review, item 3 regarding Tyler Holdorf's annual review and item 4 to discuss possible litigation to executive session. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Agenda item 1. Neitzel reported Heath Shemek is working with staff on water projects. .

Agenda item 2. Herzog reported the library and community building are operating smoothly.

Agenda item 3. Murtha reported she and staff are working with the Springfield Baseball Association (SBA) to be sure both entities are on the same page. She will work with Holdorf to arrange another meeting with SBA. Murtha commented that the Buffalo Park baseball field looks great. Gottsch is working on the agreement between the city and SBA. Murtha reminded the Council of the upcoming Mason's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024, at Buffalo Park.

Agenda item 4. No Department Report from Craney.

Agenda item 5. No Department Report from Mayor Roseland.

Agenda item 6. No additional city staff reports.

Executive Session

Motion by Herzog, seconded by Neitzel, to enter into executive session at 7:31 p.m. for the purpose of personnel and legal matters. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Herzog, seconded by Neitzel, to leave executive session at 7:59 p.m. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Herzog, seconded by Neitzel, to approve a 4% merit increase for Bryan Cherry, Street Commissioner. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Murtha, seconded by Neitzel, to approve a 4% merit increase for Tyler Holdorf, Parks Director. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Herzog, seconded by Murtha, to adjourn. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. AYES: Neitzel, Herzog, Murtha. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

I, the undersigned, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Springfield, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Mayor and Council on March 19, 2024; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting; and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to members of the public, posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.

Andie Ledenbach, Assistant City Clerk