

Board of Public Works  
Regular Meeting  
March 31, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Public Works was convened in open and public session at 4:15 p.m. on March 31, 2020 in the City Council Chambers. Due to the current COVID-19 virus Board members Fossand and Porter attended in person and Board members Brown, Evertson and Coleman attended via Zoom. Also physically present were Power Plant Superintendent Terrill, Utility Clerk Klassen, City Treasurer Brower and City Clerk Terrill. Water Superintendent Sisk, Electric Superintendent Hinton, City Administrator Dean attended via Zoom Meeting. The public was represented.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Western Nebraska Observer. Notice of the meeting was given to the members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is on record at the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the members. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairperson Porter called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m. and acknowledged the posted Open Meetings Act poster.

The Board of Public Works reviewed the following items under the consent agenda:

1. Minutes from the regular meeting of February 26, 2020;
2. Claims;
3. Treasurer's Report from February 2020; and
4. Financial Reports from February 2020.

Evertson moved and seconded by Fossand to approve the consent agenda as presented in the packet. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded. Aye: Fossand, Evertson, Coleman and Porter. Nay: None. Absent: Brown. Motion passed.

Porter opened discussion to consider repealing Resolution 2019-01, increasing water and sewage rates. Porter stated instead of repealing the resolution, he suggested to wait until the current economic catastrophe is over and implementing processes as the board sees fit. Dean advised that the board could table repealing the resolution until a later date. Porter asked if it could be tabled indefinitely. Dean advised it could not be tabled indefinitely that it would have to be tabled to a date certain. Fossand stated if the board were to table it to a future meeting that the rate increase would go into effect on April 1, 2020. Evertson stated that the most expensive increase she saw on the data sent out was \$4.69 for 1,000 gallons.

Member Mitch Brown arrived at 4:28 p.m. via Zoom.

Coleman stated that the board should consider some sort of economic relief to the residents but repealing the resolution doesn't offer a lot of relief. Porter asked Coleman

what he had in mind. Coleman stated a 10% discount on the utility bills. Coleman said that there would be less money spent on travel and training for employees as everything is being canceled. Porter asked Brown his thoughts on repealing the resolution. Brown stated that he didn't think that rates needed to be increased. Discussion was held on the suggested 10% and the potential financial impact on the budget. Evertson stated that she is not in favor of repealing the resolution as there are water bonds and an aging infrastructure. She went on to say that the auditor repeated several times to watch revenues and to build cash reserves. Evertson suggested waiting a month to make a decision on the discount so that the board would have a better idea of the financial needs of the customers. Porter stated that if they were to repeal the resolution that it would go back to June 1, 2019 and that the City would have to refund customers. Porter asked Coleman if he could put together a financial report for the board to review. Coleman stated that he would work with the City to put something together. After further discussion, Coleman moved and seconded by Evertson to allow Resolution 2019-01 to go into effect. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded. Aye: Fossand, Brown, Evertson, Coleman and Porter. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion passed.

Porter opened discussion to consider COVID-19 relief options. Coleman stated that he is happy with a 5% discount and that the board should continue to keep this item on the agenda for the next few months. Mayor Prunty addressed the board stating that he thinks 10% would be more noticeable for customers. Fossand said it's hard to know if the City can absorb 10% without having actual numbers. Brown asked if it could be reviewed monthly. Coleman said he liked the idea of reviewing the situation on a monthly basis. He went on to say that it is easier to go up than down especially in the middle of a crisis. Porter asked Mayor Prunty if he liked the idea of starting at 5% and reviewing the situation again next month. Prunty stated he was in favor of that idea. After further discussion, Coleman moved and seconded by Fossand to provide customers with a 5% discount on utility bills for the April billing period as a COVID-19 Disaster Relief Discount. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded. Aye: Fossand, Brown, Evertson, Coleman and Porter. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion passed.

Dean reported to the board that Landfill Superintendent Schulte advised him that a tooth was broke on the transmission of the loader and that it is going to be expensive to repair.

Next regular meeting will be April 28, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. There being no further business, Fossand moved and seconded by Evertson to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. On roll call vote, the following votes were recorded. Aye: Fossand, Brown, Evertson, Coleman and Porter. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion passed.

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Chairperson

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City Clerk