

Kimball City Council Special Meeting
Joint meeting with Kimball County Commissioners
August 11, 2021

A joint meeting of the Mayor and City Council and Kimball County Commissioners was convened in open and public session on August 11, 2021 at the Kimball County Transit Conference room. The purpose of the special joint meeting was to hear a presentation by Canterbury Park Holdings, developer of a proposed resort hotel and casino development, which will include a horse racing track, event center, restaurants and fueling station.

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 except as otherwise indicated.

Mayor Prunty called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Prunty and Council members Pike, Ingram, and Warner were present. Absent: Bright. Also present was City Clerk/Treasurer Brower, Deputy Clerk Barnwell. Also present were County Commissioners Larry Engstrom, Rich Flores and Carl Standard, along with County Clerk Cathy Sibal, Deputy Clerk Josi Morgan and County Attorney David Wilson. The public was represented.

Mayor Prunty acknowledged the open meetings act poster located just outside of the meeting room and acknowledged the rules for public comments following the presentation.

Mayor Prunty requested a motion to excuse Council member Bright's absence. Motion made by Ingram, seconded by Pike to excuse the absence. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Ingram, and Warner. Nay: None. Absent: Bright. Motion carried.

Mayor Prunty opened discussion for approval of the agenda and to authorize Council's signatures on the Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice of Meeting & Agenda. Motion by Warner and seconded by Pike to approve agenda and Council Signatures. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Ingram, and Warner. Nay: None. Absent: Bright. Motion carried.

Discussion began concerning a proposed resort hotel and casino development, which will include a horse racing track, event center, restaurants and fueling station. Chris Nielsen, from Omaha, told those present he was raised in Kimball and is a graduate of Kimball High School and son of the late attorney Randy Nielsen. He opened the presentation by stating his involvement in bringing the proposed economic project to

Kimball and stated he wanted to “bring something home” to improve economic opportunity in Kimball. The Nielsen family owns the land of the proposed development located in Section 33, Township 15N, Range 55W which is off Exit 22 off I-80 and Highway 71, southeast of Kimball, and they will retain ownership.

Mike Montross, representing Canterbury Park Holdings, addressed the officials and the members of the public, giving his background and that of Canterbury Park Holdings. He said the first step in the proposed project is to get input from the community and have Kimball’s support. He stated the initial project would cost approximately fifty to sixty million and would offer over two hundred new jobs. Montross discussed the revenue to the State, County and City and stated the estimated revenue has the potential to lower property taxes. The company plans to spend two million in marketing and make the project a true destination resort. Montross reviewed a slide presentation showing the plans for the proposed project. At the conclusion of this presentation, Montross noted it was the intent of the voters to allow gaming in Nebraska and stated Kimball County is in a great location because it borders two other states, Colorado and Wyoming. He opened discussion and addressed questions from the County Commissioners and City Council.

Each entity took action to approve a letter addressed to the Nebraska State Racing and Gaming Commission in support of the economic development project proposed for Kimball. Ingram motioned and seconded by Warner to approve and authorize the Mayor’s and City Council members signatures on a letter that stated, in part, the City’s support for a horse racing track, games of chance, and a true destination resort at the intersection of I-80 and Highway 71, in Kimball, Nebraska, and encouraged the State to approve the license application. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Ingram, and Warner. Nay: None. Absent: Bright. Motion carried.

Mayor Prunty opened the floor for public comments and reviewed the Rules for Public Comment that was acknowledged and posted by the Open Meetings Act Poster. Attorney Matthew Turman monitored the time for comments that was limited to two minutes. Several Kimball citizens addressed the members of both entities with the majority speaking in favor of the project. At the conclusion of the public comment period, Mayor Prunty thanked everyone for attending and for their input.

There being no further business, moved by Warner and seconded by Ingram to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Aye: Pike, Ingram, and Warner. Nay: None. Absent: Bright. Motion carried.

Keith B. Prunty, Mayor

Annette Brower, City Clerk