

MINUTE RECORD

FRIEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING February 4, 2025

Mayor Knoke called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. Advanced notice of the meeting was given by publication in The Sentinel, the appointed method for giving advanced notice. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Judith Knoke presided, and Deputy City Clerk Heather L. Varney recorded the proceedings. The following Councilmembers were present: Kristen Milton, David Sladek, Phyllis Schwab & Jeremy Collier. Absent none. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly convened, the following proceedings were had and done.

Mayor Knoke led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

As required by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Mayor Knoke announced that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act has been posted on the south door of the City Hall meeting room for all in attendance to review.

Motion by Sladek, seconded by Schwab to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2025 Regular meeting. On roll call voting aye Collier, Schwab, Sladek, and Milton. Nays none.

Motion by Sladek, seconded by Milton to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2025 Special Meeting. On roll call voting aye Schwab, Sladek, Collier, and Milton. Nays none.

Motion by Collier, seconded by Sladek to approve the January Treasurer report. On roll call voting aye Milton, Sladek, Schwab, and Collier. Nays none.

Motion by Milton, seconded by Sladek to approve the claims and payroll, except payment to Nebraska Sign. On roll call voting aye Schwab, Collier, Sladek, and Milton. Nays none.

No Hospital Financial report.

The claims approved were as follows: January Payroll, 21213.86; Ameritas, 2398.53; EFTPS, 6368.43; NE Dept of Rev SWH, 1117.22; Architectural Design Assoc, se 17895.00; Aqua-Chem Inc., su 6165.86; Baker & Taylor Books, su 108.47; Barco Municipal Products, su 1587.97; Beatrice Concrete Co., Inc., se 894.66; Birds & Blooms, su 11.00; ; Black Hills Energy, se 3255.06; Blue Cross Blue Shield, fe 3059.25; Blue360 Media, LLC, su 296.08; Bound Tree Medical LLC, su 178.74; CLIA Laboratory Program, se 248.00; Center Point Large Print, su 191.76; City of Friend, se 370.00; Jacob & Johnathan Clouse, fe 1700.00; Community Redevelopment Authority, fe 14167.99; Country Compost LLC, fe 4000.00; Crete veterinary Clinic, se 154.00; Culligan Water Service, se 179.75; Depository Trust Corp. fe 5715.00; Drake Refrigeration, se 263.18; Eakes Office Solutions, su 343.53; Farmer's Union Cooperative Co., su 360.40; Food Network magazine, su 19.97; Friend Country Club, se 1275.00; Gale, su 292.38; Generations Insurance Group, se 45.00; HGTV Magazine & Food Network Magazine, su 19.97; Holiday Inn of Kearney, fe 124.95; Hometown Leasing, fe 191.22; IIMC, fe 235.00; MMC

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Consulting, se 2775.00; MacQueen Equipment, su 195.91; Mastiff Systems, se 397.50; Matt Friend Truck Equipment, su 129.00; Chris Michl, se 436.80; Midwest Laboratories Inc, se 697.69; Midwest Living Magazine, su 7.00; Mutual of Omaha, fe 220.26; NE Public Health Environmental Lab, fe 55.00; ; NE Rural Water Assoc, fe 445.00; NEMSA, fe 520.00 NE Dept. of Environment and Energy, su 280.00; Norris Public Power District, fe 8836.00; Diane Odoski, re 150.44; One Billing Solutions, LLC, se 48.00; One Call Concepts, Inc. se 4.92; ; Postmaster, se 283.36; Principal Mutual Life Ins. Co., fe 47.88; Qwik 6, su 1494.19; Reader's Digest, su 13.92; Reminisce Books, su 42.78; Rico's Mexican Restaurant, su 450.00; Sargent Drilling, se 1687.00; Schindler Elevator Corporation, se 198.12; Seward County Independent, fe 497.24; Southeast Nebraska Development Dist., fe 6446.82; Stutzman Digging & Excavating LLC, se 8276.00; Time Magazine, su 15.00; Taste of the South, su 49.98; US Cellular, se 507.80; USA Blue Book, su 225.56; Verizon Wireless, se 213.32; Visa, su 2913.18; Waste Connections of Nebraska, se 6433.91; Total Claims Approved: 139.141.81

Paul Johansen brought his itemized invoice and spoke about the City reimbursing him for his plumbing bill from Sudrla Water Service. Motion by Collier, seconded by Schwab, to deny city payment of bill. On roll call voting aye, Milton, Sladek, Schwab, and Collier. Nays, none.

Motion by Collier, seconded by Schwab, to hire Steve Osmon as Police Chief pending reactivation test on February 18th. Because he must be hired before testing, he will start at a rate of \$15/hour, without getting hours, and upon passing his wage will increase to a salary of \$55,000/year. On roll call voting aye, Milton, Schwab, Collier, and Sladek. Nays none.

Discussion about Mayor's recommendations for appointments to boards & committees. Motion by Milton, seconded by Sladek for approve appointments. On roll call voting aye Collier, Sladek, Milton, and Schwab. Nays none.

Mayor read 2025 Proclamation for March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Motion by Collier, seconded by Sladek to approve proclamation. On roll call voting aye Milton, Sladek, Schwab, and Collier. Nays none.

Motion by Milton, seconded by Collier, to pay same amount as last year (\$20.00) to Arbor Day Foundation as membership dues. On roll call voting aye Collier, Schwab, Sladek, and Milton. Nays none.

Motion made be Collier, seconded by Sladek, to approve payment of \$450.00 to Rico's Mexican Restaurant for catering City Appreciation Dinner. On roll call voting aye Schwab, Sladek, Collier, and Milton. Nays none.

Motion by Schwab, seconded by Collier, to table discussion of Employee Benefits & Vacation Days until later in the meeting. On roll call voting aye Milton, Collier, Schwab, and Sladek. Nays none.

Motion by Collier, seconded by Schwab to postpone discussion of Notification Proposals; TextMyGov and UpAhead until have had more time to review. On roll call voting aye Sladek, Milton, Schwab, and Collier. Nays none.

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Jared Chaffin gave Friend Healthcare Systems report. No Action.

Building Inspector – No report.

Stanley Krause gave Fire Department report. No Action.

Rescue Squad- No report

Police report- given by Saline County Sheriff's office

Pool Report- Motion by Milton, seconded by Collier to post ad for Pool Manager & Assistant Manager for 2 weeks beginning March 1st, and then running ad for lifeguards. On roll call voting aye Sladek, Schwab, Milton, and Collier. Nays none.

Billy Baugh Public Works Supervisor gave his report. Discussion to pay Burton Asphalt for paving they've already done, and then remaining balance once finished. Motion by Collier, seconded by Schwab, to approve payment of \$9712.00 for paving already finished, and remaining \$3788.00 upon completion. On roll call voting aye Milton, Collier, Sladek, and Schwab. Nays none.

Discussion about employee paid time off and benefits. No action taken.

No further business to come before the City Council, motion by Schwab, seconded by Collier, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call voting aye Schwab, Collier, Sladek, and Milton. Nays none. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST



Heather L. Varney, Deputy City Clerk

Judith K. Knoke, Mayor

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I, the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Friend, Nebraska, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Council on February 4, 2025; 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 Clerk; 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 and were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days; that all news media requesting notification concerning meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.


Deputy City Clerk

NOTICE OF MEETING CITY OF FRIEND, NEBRASKA

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Friend, Nebraska will meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025**, at the City Hall, which meeting will be open to the public. Agenda for said meeting is kept current and is available in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours. Request to be on the agenda must be in the City Clerk's office 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Heather L. Varney, Deputy City Clerk