

**March 9, 2020
Regular Meeting**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Halstad was duly called and held at the Halstad Telephone Company Meeting Room in said City on March 9, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Lori DeLong called the regular meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

The following council members were present: Darin Johnson, Brandon Mickelson, and Bruce Purrington

The following council members were absent: None

Others in attendance: Peter Jacobson, Dr. James Hess, Jackie Hellerud, and Larry Navarro

Motion by Bruce Purrington and second by Brandon Mickelson to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 10, 2020, the special meeting held on February 18, 2020, and the special meeting held on March 4, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruce Purrington and second by Darin Johnson to appoint Mike Trygg as the acting interim City Clerk/Treasurer. Motion Carried. Mike will serve as interim City Clerk/Treasurer until the general election on November 3, 2020. Mike took the Oath of Office before assuming his duties which began immediately after the Oath.

Larry Navarro was present for the public forum. Larry stated that he is concerned about drug use and drug trafficking in his neighborhood.

Motion by Bruce Purrington and second by Brandon Mickelson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried. The following items were on the consent agenda:

- a. Monthly claims for February 2020
- b. General checking bank reconciliation for February 2020

Peter Jacobson, Vice Chair of the NCW School District Board of Directors, and Dr. James Hess, Superintendent of the NCW School District, were present to speak with the City Council regarding the vacant school building in the City of Halstad. Mayor Lori DeLong asked them to attend the meeting to gain insight as to what the NCW School Board is considering doing with the vacant building. Dr. Hess and Mr. Jacobson discussed the possible demolition of the building, the cost of demolition, possible funding for demolition, the environmental hazards on the property, possible sale of the property, the proposal from the Halstad Business League for the purchase of the property, and salvage auction. It was made clear that the School District does not intend to simply "walk away" from the building and thus leave the City responsible for the building. The School District has not yet scheduled a salvage auction. The School District is still open to proposals from interested parties looking at purchasing the building and the surrounding property. The Council discussed the possibility of keeping the "south wing" from demolition for possible use by the City and the possible purchase of the surrounding property "green space" from the School District. This session with Dr. Hess and Mr. Jacobson was informational only. The City Council will take a tour of the school building. There will be a date and time set for the tour after review of the schedules of all parties. A Special Meeting will be posted when a date is scheduled. No further Council action was taken.

The bids for the Safe Routes to Schools project were opened on February 28, 2020 at the Halstad Telephone Company community room. There was one bid submitted. It was from Sellin Brothers Inc. The bid was higher than expected. Jon Pauna, of Moore Engineering, will follow up with the Norman County Engineer to discuss options for the implementation of the project. Jon will provide more information at a later date.

There were no updates regarding the Highway 75 road reconstruction project.

There were no updates regarding the levee recertification process.

Jackie Hellerud would like Halstad to become a Tree City USA city. She said the City would have to sign an Arbor Day Proclamation and enact a Tree Ordinance. There was discussion about the tree ordinance. No action taken.

The Planning Commission has an empty seat to fill. Council was asked to bring recommendations to the next meeting so someone can be appointed to the empty seat.

Lori DeLong asked the Council to consider Mail Balloting for the City of Halstad and its residents. Lori had some information about the pros and cons of mail balloting. The Council may be interested. The City Clerk will do more research and bring the findings to the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding property parcel #28-3382000-Lot 13 BLK 10. The Council will look into what it can do to have the property cleaned up or demolished as it feels it is a health and safety hazard to the community.

The Clerk will send out an Ordinance Letters to residents that are not keeping their garbage contained.

The Sunrise Apartments Wimmer Homes, and Utilities reports were reviewed. Darin Johnson, Halstad Municipal Utilities Commissioner, answered questions as Lucas Spaeth, City Superintendent was not present.

There was informational discussion regarding the Presidential Nomination Primary Election, the Pet Clinic which is scheduled for April 23, 2020, and City Spring Clean Up scheduled for April 21, 2020. There was also discussion regarding the Norman County 2020 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Meeting that Lori DeLong and Darin Johnson had attended on February 24, 2020 in Ada MN. The possible pending flood and the US Census was also discussed. No action taken.

Motion by Brandon Mickelson to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. with second by Bruce Purrington. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, April 13, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Lori DeLong, Mayor/Deputy Clerk