

Harvard City Council Minutes
February 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Harvard City Council was held at the Harvard Community Room on the above date. Notice of the meeting had been given by publication in the Clay County News. Roll call showed the following to be present: Council Members: Nate Brown, Leann Wessels, Frank VanCampen, Misty Pair, Bruce Smith, Dean Winchell and Mayor Keith Ljunggren.

Mayor Ljunggren called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. stating the Open Meetings Law Poster is on the Southeast wall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Pair to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Aurora Coop/Fuel	\$2,077.54
Big G Ace/Shop Supply	\$119.99
Business World/Plaque	\$55.00
Cardmember Services/Webpg,ClrkSchl,Nuisance	\$548.57
Central Ne Bobcat/Supplies for Equip	\$239.45
Clay County Clerk/General Election Costs	\$276.50
Clay County News/Publish	\$77.75
Cornerstone Bank/Water Bond & Fire Bond Pymts	\$45,040.00
Friesen Auto/Trailer Repair	\$233.38
Hometown Leasing/Copier Lease	\$239.07
International Institute of Municipal Clerks/Dues	\$210.00
Kully Pipe/Tools & Supply	\$995.31
LCL Truck Equip/Equip for Trailer	\$65.00
Logan Contractors Supply/Tar for Streets	\$3,051.14
Macqueen Equip/Sewer Jeter	\$31,770.00
Matheson/Shop Supply	\$352.37
Menards/Shop Supply,Sewer,Janitorial	\$218.87
NAPA Hastings/Shop Supply	\$75.63
NMC CAT/Motor Grader Repair	\$1,024.35
PowerPlan-Murphy Tractor/Loader Repair	\$114.60
Solheim	\$1,417.50
Sutton Auto/Sand Spreader	\$122.95
Uline/Gloves for Sewer	\$71.69
Utility Service/Water Tower Maint	\$3,489.96
Verizon/Cell Phones	\$138.40
Village Uniform/Mat Exchange and Janitorial	\$171.02
Windstream/Phone Bill	\$903.22
Woodwards/Disposal & Sanitation	\$5,998.54
January Payroll Totals	\$45,260.99

Public Comment:

Mike Hiatt apologized to anyone he may have threatened.

Mayor Ljunggren read the following statement he wrote concerning nuisance and abatements:

Nuisances and Abatements

February 14, 2023

We have several listed here tonight. We had some last meeting so there will probably be some next meeting. Nuisances are piles of junk or inventory or junked and abandoned cars that have no license plates. Nuisances are stuff around your house that makes your property look unkempt. Everyone in this room knows this. If we as citizens of Harvard allow property owners to trash their property and not maintain a clean appearance, statistics show our crime rate will go up. We do not want more crime and vandalism. And we don't want to invite the criminal element into our town. Every town has to have someone that addresses these unsuitable properties. In Harvard, Chief Alley is the person that addresses the nuisances. But it could be you or anyone who cares about our town. Some towns hire a company to look at property and charge fees to look at your junk. Another option is to form a committee of property owners to help our Chief identify the properties that have nuisances. This is probably the road we need to look at to take the load off of Chief Alley. Everyone in this room could do that. Another issue we have is that we are updating our Harvard Code Book and there are some options that conflict in the code book regarding nuisances and abatements. Our attorney is here to help us resolve these issues. The bottom line is—you know the stuff on your property that needs to be cleaned up. If you cannot physically do it, call a neighbor or friends to help you with the task. Don't blame Chief Alley for pointing out your junk. Take care of it. We want our town to have a cared for appearance. Some of you have the attitude that you aren't going to clean up your property, if your neighbor is not going to clean up their property. You look around and think their property looks worse than yours. Somebody has to start the clean-up process. Everyone is responsible to try to help clean up the town, not just Chief Alley and the City Council. It's all of us. The dump will open April 1. If you have stuff that needs to go to the dump, I have made a mayoral decision with the attorney to give you 45 days to clean up your property. If you have an abandoned car or an unlicensed vehicle, get them towed or licensed and do it now. You have no reason to wait for the dump to open. Let's keep our town presentable and it is all your responsibility—not just a few of us—and it is not to blame Chief Alley for pointing out your junk—it's your junk—clean it up.

Keith Ljunggren, Mayor

Motion by VanCampen, seconded by Brown to accept a bid from The Housing Development Corporation to complete a Nuisance Abatement for 105 Pine St., in the amount of \$750.00. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Ruby Adam and Diane Uken spoke on behalf of the Community Club, requesting financial assistance to purchase souvenirs for the 150th celebration. They also asked if the city could purchase more chairs for the Community Room.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Wessels to allow the Harvard Fire Department to use the City Logo on Cornhole Boards for a fundraiser. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Brown to enter into an Abatement Hearing for 212 N Harlan at 7:56 p.m. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried. The resident was not present but Chief Alley described the nuisance. Motion by Brown, seconded by VanCampen to leave the hearing at 8:00 p.m. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Brown, seconded by Pair to extend clean-up time until April 15, 2023. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Abatement Hearing for 705 N Clay was canceled due to the nuisance being cleaned-up.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Brown to enter into an Abatement Hearing for the 803 N Clay Ave., at 8:01 p.m. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried. The resident was present and asked for more time to get his property cleaned up. He said he is making an effort. He requested to keep the large totes he has in his yard. Motion by Brown, seconded by VanCampen to leave the property hearing at 8:06 p.m. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Brown, seconded by Smith to extend clean-up time until April 15th, 2023. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

After some discussion a motion by Winchell seconded by Wessels that all the Abatements listed on the agenda be postponed until there is better clarification from the city attorney on the process. The following properties are 212 Olive, 300 Pine, 307 Cedar, 208 Maple, 407 N York, 106 S Hamilton and the property legally described as 514-521, O.T. Harvard. Roll call: Ayes, Brown, Wessels, VanCampen, Pair, Smith, Winchell. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Smith to advertise for a Maintenance position. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Brown to hire Patricia Niemoth for the pool manager for 2023. Roll call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report; None, Ben was absent.
Police Report by Chief Alley
Mayor Comments: None
Committee Comments: None
Complaints: None

Pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act an Emergency Executive Meeting was called to discuss personnel.
Motion by Brown, seconded by VanCampen to enter into executive session at 8:35 p.m. Roll call: Ayes. VanCampen, Winchell, Smith, Wessels, Pair, Brown. Nays, none. Motion carried.
Motion by Smith, seconded by Winchell to leave executive session at 8:55 p.m. Roll call: Ayes, VanCampen, Winchell, Smith, Wessels, Pair, Brown. Nays, none. Motion carried.

As there was no further business, motion by Brown, seconded by Smith the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Keith Ljunggren, Mayor

Cheryl Walker, City Clerk