

Curtis City Council Meeting

May 8, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Mayor Brad Welch Calls the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mark Roblee, Jerrod Burke, Misty Lenz, and Tim Nicholson; all present.

Item 1: MEAN Contract Discussion

Nicole Kubic and Michelle Lepin from Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) were present to discuss the reasons for a modernization to the schedule M wholesale contract between the city of Curtis and MEAN. Joined NMPP in 1976 and MEAN shortly after. We currently do Utility Service Trainings, Mutual Aid, and other services. A slide deck from MEAN was presented with the background information leading up to the changes. One of the largest reasons for the changes was to set a defined term and offramp for members. One of the goals was to make a set contract for all members and not make one off agreements for each member of the community. Question from Mayor Welch on how the rolling 25 years would work. Michelle stated that it is a five-year window that triggers an automatic 25 year out offramp. Council Member Burke asked about the other side of it that would the city have protection about being forced out on the 25 years. It was said by MEAN reps that the question had never been asked before but that with it being member driven it would take a board vote to expel a member and force someone out that would trigger the 25-year offramp even still. Ownership-financial obligation of resources that exist in the portfolio in 25 years, owned resources, with outstanding financial obligations but the portion of the bonds and decommissioning and similar costs would still be an obligation for the members but in the legacy schedule M would also have those costs built into your existing rates going forward so there would not change and only encompasses resources going forward. Council Member Burke asked if signing the new agreement with the defined term if that helped in negotiating better pricing going forward. Pricing and working deals are still competitive no matter which. No farther questions.

Item 2: Pool Study Discussion

Discussing the pool study project going forward from the last public meeting. One question from the meeting was to look at an indoor pool. Larry Steele from Miller and Associates is working with an architect to help assign a closer estimate of costs. There is a timeline for the existing pool grant that ends in September 2024. Funding for the project has three tracks of timelines available starting fall 2024, special election, or look at the 2026 election periods to start securing funds. The council is being asked about if it fails do we start over? The answer is what funds exist then keep working on it and produce an option to start refining to finish the study and help produce renderings for the project to go forward. The council would like to see a refined option #5 with pictures, options, and costs. The pool Committee will look at it in more detail and work with Millers.

Item 3: NMC Cat Excavator Lease

New year lease for the Mini Excavator with NMC to extend one year.

Mark Roblee motioned to approve; Nicholson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: NMC – Generation Unit’s Contract

The city of Curtis has looked at adding 4mwh of capacity to our system. To continue moving forward on the project and getting the switch gear retrofitted we need to agree.

Motion to approve the NMC Generator and Switch Gear Proposal by Lenz and seconded by Burke. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Trail Grant – Engineering agreement

Motion to accept the engineering agreement from Miller and Assoc. For the trail grant project compliance.

Motion to approve by Lenz and seconded by Roblee. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 6: Armor Coat Projects

Several selected areas that could use armor coating were highlighted. Question on looking at a different surfacing for Raider drive. The council saw no problem with looking at the listed items.

Item 7: Foundation Agreement

We are looking for options to help fundraise for projects going forward and where to place those funds to help provide people with tax notices and a place to locate fundraising areas.

Item 8: Bill Stuffer Question

Question from a local business as to if they could put an advertisement in the city bills. The council has historically decided to only do this for non-profits. They have decided to maintain this stance.

Item 9: Property Update

A formerly burned house was said to have progress. The council is good at looking at the progress and seeing significant progress on the structural and electrical stuff within 60 days (about 2 months).

Item 10: Abatement Process

Motion by Burke and seconded by Lenz for the Council, mayor, Andrew Lee, Tanya Robinson, and Tanner McCall to go into closed session at 9:11 p.m. for pending litigation. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of closed session by Roblee and seconded by Burke at 9:19 p.m. motion carried 4-0.

Item 11: Schedule M Contract Revisited from Item 1

Discussion of the pros and cons of schedule M from Item 1. The costs if an entity wants to get out of will exist either way.

A motion by Nicholson to adopt ordinance 2024-1 on first reading and seconded by Roblee to accept the modernized Schedule M with MEAN. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Roblee to waive three required readings on ordinance 2024-1 and seconded by Lenz. Motion carried 4-0 with the notation that waiting could allow for other communities to provide feedback.

Item 12: Consent Agenda

Minutes, treasurer's report, and expenditures including late claims are all included.

Question about crabapple or grapple trees from landscaping grant.

Motion to adopt the consent agenda including late claims by Nicholson and seconded by Roblee. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 13: Utility Superintendent Report

Trash truck and street are the name of the game for Gerud. Question about roll-off fees. Sewer for Crook repair with Camera repair on May 21st to identify issues. The Ord water well was off for a week after an electrical line issue. Question about hydrant replacement. David spent about a week repairing and upgrading the Ord line from the well to 2nd avenue after the outage there that only affected the well house. Generator units have been in and out of testing and after next week with a full week of running we should be in good shape. Shelby has been trying to keep up with the fast-growing grass. They also got the east and west signs re-landscaped. Waiting for the paint for the pool. The cemetery project will begin on the 17th with WEC assistance. Question about the temperature measuring of the generation units. They have not been run long enough to measure.

Item 14: City and EDC Report:

Lifeguards are in good numbers; we are still exploring being closed on Sundays to accommodate staff desires. Cleanup on highway 23 properties has begun. The city has been invited to the governor's new regional economic development group meetings.

Item 15: Mayors Report:

An offer was given out for a new sheriff for the county.

Item 16: Community Center Report:

The banquet is coming up on June 7th and the pool committee will be a recipient group there. Miller and Assoc. Has offered up an item for the live auction for the pool committee.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:03 p.m. by Burke and seconded by Nicholson. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.