

**Council Minutes**  
**Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

The Freeman City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm at City Hall in Freeman. Mayor Michael Walter called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Charles Gering, Blaine Saarie, Clifford Tjaden, Elizabeth Waltner and Steve Waltner. Also attending were Finance Officer Lisa Edelman, Duane Walters, Jay Slevin, Jesse Tschetter, Todd Graber and Jon Pike.

**Minutes**

S. Waltner moved to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2024 regular meeting as presented. Saarie seconded the motion. All votes aye.

**Vouchers**

Tjaden moved to approve the vouchers listed below. Gering seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

|   |         |  |          |
|---|---------|--|----------|
| PAYROLL – FINANCE                       | 2957.70 | FREEMAN REGIONAL HEALTH, nursing staff | 234.31   |
| PAYROLL – POLICE                        | 9273.84 | FREEMAN SHOPPING CENTER, supplies      | 481.60   |
| PAYROLL – PUBLIC SAFETY                 | 89.54   | GOLDEN WEST, telephone service         | 1027.89  |
| PAYROLL – STREETS                       | 1617.52 | KLEINSASSER’S, repair                  | 64.56    |
| PAYROLL – SEWER                         | 6881.33 | KLEINSASSER HTG, repair                | 42.50    |
| PAYROLL – REFUSE                        | 5582.15 | LESLIE KEIERLEBER, cleaning            | 560.00   |
| PAYROLL – RECYCLE                       | 2862.46 | MATHESON, amb supplies                 | 80.97    |
| PAYROLL – WATER                         | 6009.99 | MATT RIGO, CPR class cards             | 64.00    |
| PAYROLL – AMBULANCE                     | 4795.94 | MEDICARE, overpayment                  | 518.54   |
| PAYROLL – PARK/POOL                     | 1279.92 | MR G’S, repair                         | 33.90    |
| PAYROLL – GOLF                          | 1400.40 | NAPA, repair                           | 59.99    |
| PAYROLL – LIBRARY                       | 6235.53 | NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, electric & gas    | 11385.60 |
| MERCHANTS STATE BANK, 941 deposit       | 9338.98 | PITNEY BOWES, postage                  | 602.77   |
| ACH FEES, payroll & utilities           | 30.00   | PLUNKETT’S, pest control               | 99.50    |
| APPEARA, rugs                           | 116.76  | REBECCA ALBRECHT, notary stamp         | 27.89    |
| BARNES & NOBLE, library books           | 76.75   | RURAL MFG, repair                      | 445.36   |
| B-Y WATER, water purchase               | 5245.16 | SAARIE AUTO BODY, repair               | 1112.93  |
| B-Y WATER INTEREST                      | 3168.00 | SANITATION PRODUCTS, repair            | 1228.67  |
| CARDMEMBER SERVICES, supplies           | 3349.85 | SD DANR, water exam fees               | 120.00   |
| CHS, fuel                               | 702.03  | SD DEPT OF HEALTH, testing             | 30.00    |
| CITY OF FREEMAN, utilities              | 43.50   | SD DEPT OF REVENUE, sales tax          | 969.86   |
| CITY OF MITCHELL LANDFILL, garbage fees | 3169.44 | SECOND CENTURY, publishing             | 180.83   |
| CNA SURETY, notary bond                 | 97.50   | SIOUX INTERNATIONAL, repair            | 719.11   |
| CUMMINS SALES, repair                   | 1281.60 | SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC, electric        | 2202.94  |
| DAKOTA PUMP, repair                     | 9326.21 | SQUARE, monthly subscription           | 35.00    |
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL, supplies             | 214.45  | STERN OIL COMPANY, fuel                | 815.19   |
| FIRST NET, police cell phones           | 107.08  | STRYKER, power load system             | 26897.79 |
| FREEMAN LUMBER, supplies                | 128.85  |  |          |

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| VOUCHERS                  | 86437.86  |
| SALARIES                  | 48986.32  |
| TOTAL VOUCHERS & SALARIES | 135424.18 |

**Financial Report**

Saarie moved to approve the financial report as presented. Tjaden seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

**Police Grant**

Jon Pike with the South Dakota Department of Public Safety provided information regarding the highway safety grant that can be used to assist in purchasing equipment and overtime reimbursement. The council requested more information to review before making a decision.

**Golf Course Rates**

Todd Graber updated the council on the recommended rates by the golf course board for the 2024 season. E. Waltner moved to approve the rates with the recommended adjustments. Saarie seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

**Golf Course Equipment**

Todd Graber informed the council that the greens mower that was ordered the beginning of 2023 is in and the cost is \$42,189.00. He also had quotes for financing the mower for 5 or 7 years. Tjaden requested this be tabled to the next meeting so the city’s debt limit can be presented to the council.

**Golf Course Irrigation System**

Todd Graber & Jesse Tschetter presented another cost estimate to repair the golf course irrigation system. The second company is recommending the city hire a diver to see what the situation is at the bottom of the pond. Tjaden moved to hire a diver to inspect the intake system and the bottom of the pond. Saarie seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

**B-Y Water Rate Increase**

The council reviewed a letter received from B-Y Water that will increase the city’s price by \$0.10 per thousand gallons. Tjaden moved to adopt the following resolution amending the water rates with an increase of \$0.10 per thousand gallons effective June 1, 2024. Saarie seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

**RESOLUTION 2024-02**

Resolution amending water rates in the City of Freeman, South Dakota

**WHEREAS**, the City of Freeman adopted Ordinance 2023-07 dated 11/21/2023 which allows for the amending of water rates by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the B-Y Water District has elected to raise the City of Freeman’s water rate .10 per 1000 gallons effective June 1, 2024; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Freeman hereby raises the following water rates that will be effective June 1, 2024.

1. For any amount up to 1,000 gallons, the sum of \$17.25 per month which shall be the minimum charge; provided however that users who are certified to be a recipient of fuel assistance under the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) shall after application to the Municipal Finance Officer pay a monthly minimum charge of \$10.25 for the first 1,000 gallons;
2. From 1,000 gallons to 499,999 gallons per month, the sum of \$5.22 per 1,000 gallons together with the above rate;
3. For usage of 500,000 gallons and over per month, the sum of \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons, which rate shall be for all gallons used, and not cumulative with the above rates.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Officer

### **Ambulance Surplus**

Tjaden moved to surplus 2 Lifepak 15 cardiac monitors per recommendation from the ambulance chief Matt Rigo. Gering seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

### **Tractor Lease**

A rental lease agreement was presented for the 2024 season from C & B Equipment. S. Waltner moved to approve the rental agreement for a 2023 John Deere 5095M utility tractor in the amount of \$3,750.00 plus insurance coverage. E. Waltner seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

### **Annual Report**

Tjaden moved to accept the annual report as presented. S. Waltner seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

### **Resolution 2024-01 – Northwestern Assignment**

E. Waltner moved to adopt the following resolution acknowledging the assignment of NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation. Saarie seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

## **RESOLUTION 2024-01**

Resolution acknowledging the assignment of Ordinance 2006-08 from  
NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation

**WHEREAS**, the City of Freeman adopted Ordinance 2006-08 dated 11/20/2006 (the “*Franchise Ordinance*”) authorizing NorthWestern Corporation to operate a gas distribution system within the City of Freeman; and

**WHEREAS**, as of January 1, 2024, NorthWestern Corporation’s South Dakota and Nebraska assets and related contractual obligations transferred to a new entity named NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy consistent with a corporate reorganization authorized by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Docket No. GE22-002) and the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Docket No. NG-114); and

**WHEREAS**, other than the above-reference transfer there is no change to the terms or conditions of the Franchise Ordinance or performance thereto;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Freeman hereby acknowledges and accepts the assignment of Ordinance 2006-08 from NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Officer

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2024-01**

Council gave 1<sup>st</sup> reading to Ordinance 2024-01 to amend the flood damage prevention ordinance.

### **Other Business**

S. Waltner: Reported that the internet issue at the community center has been repaired.

Saarie: Informed the group that officer Nankivel is at the police academy and will be back in Freeman on weekends to help with patrol. Asked if a crosswalk can be put on the street by the pool and then a sidewalk along the baseball property so there are less kids walking and biking on the road in that area.

Walters: Update the council on the GPS mapping project and other projects that the street employees are working on.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Freeman City Council will take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

### **Executive Session**

S. Waltner moved to go into Executive Session at 7:59 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel and SDCL 1-25-2(4) contract negotiation. E. Waltner seconded the motion. All votes aye.

S. Waltner declared out of executive session at 9:04 pm.

Saarie moved to hire Rory Hermsen as clubhouse manager for the 2024 season at a salary of \$650.00 per week at 35 hours per week plus 10% of net profits. S. Waltner seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

S. Waltner moved to limit golf cart rental or operation to individuals age 16 and over due to liability issues. Tjaden seconded the motion. All votes aye.

### **Adjournment**

Tjaden moved to adjourn at 9:07 pm. Gering seconded motion. All votes aye.

Lisa Edelman, Finance Officer

Michael Walter, Mayor