

**MINUTES  
CITY OF FALLON  
55 West Williams  
Avenue Fallon, Nevada  
July 27, 2021**

The Honorable City Council met in a special meeting on the above date in the Council Chambers, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada.

**Present:**

Mayor Ken Tedford  
City Councilman James Richardson  
City Councilwoman Kelly Frost  
City Councilwoman Karla Kent  
City Attorney Mike Mackedon  
Deputy City Attorney Trent deBraga  
Public Works Director Brian Byrd  
Deputy Public Works Adrian Noriega  
Deputy Public Works Kevin Gulley  
Judge Mike Lister  
City Engineer Derek Zimney  
Captain Ron Wenger  
City Clerk-Treasurer Sean Richardson

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tedford at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Tedford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tedford inquired if the agenda had been posted in compliance with NRS requirements.

City Clerk-Treasurer Sean Richardson advised that the agenda was posted in compliance with the NRS requirements.

Mayor Tedford presented awards to Jim Barbee and Shannon Ernst. We have a presentation we would like to make. We Want to thank you on behalf of the City. (Mayor Tedford read award being presented) Shannon Ernst thank you for your commitment to making our community safer during this unprecedented time through your unwavering COVID-19 vaccination effort – City of Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford, Councilman James Richardson, Councilwoman Kelly Frost, and Councilwoman Karla Kent. (Mayor Tedford read award being presented) Jim Barbee thank you for your commitment to making our community safer during this unprecedented time through your unwavering COVID-19 vaccination effort – City of Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford, Councilman James Richardson, Councilwoman Kelly Frost, and Councilwoman Karla Kent. During this time, these two have been a spear through all this COVID time and throughout the vaccinations, and we just stayed back behind the scenes Pete, and me. Thank you so much for coming in.

## Public Comments

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments. He noted that comments are to be general in nature, not relative to any agenda items. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

Mr. Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place greeted the Council. I am a thorn in the government's side because I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and our government is not following God's standards, whatsoever. It is an issue in our state. I would like to read on Psalm Chapter 2, verses 1-5: Why do the nations rebel, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and His Anointed One: "Let us tear off their chains and free ourselves from their restraints." With that said, I would like to welcome everybody. This is one of the few times we get a lot of people in the room, welcome. When you are facing today, in our infiltration of communism, and it's true. This is the story of this nation with them, and they take God out of government. Morality of our nation and in this City, and in this County, have become so indifferent and so confused. They are forced under legal obligation for our perversions to persist. I want you to really understand that as constituents and as a citizen of this City, we need to come back to God. Our children being educated with our communist agenda like the PB, it's called positive behavior. Our state is bringing Critical Racial Theory into the system, and where are we? Oh, we have nothing to do with the County schools. Oh, yes you do. You can write an amendment to the next Legislation to stop it. That's what you can do. But no, I get totally ignored because I am the only one here, and to speak does a ton of difference. People can't show up. I am retired, so I get to be here. I want you to understand that this should be your guide, not this state that kills marriage. They changed it and bring it to the voters. They say you can marry the beach; you can marry the tree, you could marry your dog. That's how corrupt it is. Because of equality under the law, even though it kills human life, it kills humans. But where is the City? You are worried about sidewalks, worried about "slurrying" the streets. We spend beyond our means and rely on the Federal Government which can change every aspect of our lives, but the power of this state, under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment, but the state itself is making laws to follow the federal government that kills human life, and slowly. They bring people into our administration but look at the moral standard, not much about the education, but the moral standards. But things are going to get a lot worse. Jesus says, in Matthew 24: "Lawlessness shall abound, and people's hearts will grow cold." My god, I see it out there. The other day I got a finger right behind me because it says, "Jesus Saves" on the back of my car, and he flips me off. I get one on the street with my dog, and he yells, "Hail Satan!" People's hearts have grown cold because God is being removed from the government because the government doesn't care because of persuasion because they want God out of it because it will stop the killing of human life. Please, think about what you are doing today. Think. Is it of God's standards?

No further comments were noted.

## **Appointment and possible confirmation of Michael O'Neill as Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer.**

Mayor Tedford addressed Council this is a position, Council that you all know that we have been trying to fill for quite some time. We go back to Gary Cordes's days as City Clerk-Treasurer, and the Audit Committee at that time was Bob Erickson and Mike Mackedon. Mike

had recommended to me that we try to find a position that could do other things in the Clerk's office, and we started trying to find someone at that time, and we were not able to find anyone. Gary retired, and Sean Richardson took over, and we started again on that process. It was interesting, Sean would ask, "Who does this?" I would tell him that is what Elsie Lee does. As you know, Elsie is the Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer. Sean would ask me again, "Who does this?" I would tell him; well Elsie does that. We found that Elsie was doing a lot of things in that office and was being spread quite thin and carrying a major burden there. We would go on, and I would keep responding with, that is what Elsie does. The other thing we always had in mind for this position, at my insistence, that someone else would be able to learn more about the Electric Department. At the time, if we go way back, Steve King, who was the Deputy City Attorney and had so much knowledge, and everyone else was of lesser knowledge and I thought that person in the Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer's office would be able to learn that. Steve left, and Robert Erquiaga came on board, and learned a vast amount about our Electric Department and our workings with UAMPS. He was the one with that vast amount of knowledge, and now we have transferred that to Lem Mackedon, who is gaining that knowledge. We still only have 1 person. It is our idea, that this person will also learn a lot about that Electric Department, which for us \$11.5 million a year in billings relative to the City, let alone the capital investment that we do in that department alone. It is a key appointment that we have been looking for, and I will read you the background of Mike, and you will see why I hit on the right person that Sean was able to find, and why this position is so key to the City. We feel as though we need some more help, and get a better computer strategy. We are going to come, in the next coming weeks, up with a firm that can help us do that. We are going to need one person, in-house, that can liaison to that firm for our 100 workers that have problems with their computers. Mike has that ability as well, and if I were to ask you who does that in the City, I would tell you Elsie. It is overwhelming for her to try and handle all, but the PD, so if we take the PD out our number, we would be at 70 people that are coming to her with computer issues. That is also a key component here. Let me go through Michael's background and tell you why I am going to offer him to you for Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer, which is almost, I hate to say it, but it has been about 10 or 12 years we have been thinking of what we can do. Finally, we are coming to a point where we are able to do this. Michael, if you would come up and sit at this table, and take any questions the Council may have, I know you have had some discussions with them prior in more depth, but in case something comes up. Michael O'Neill moved to Fallon from Reno with his mother while in grade school when she became the Accounting Manager for Fallon Ford Toyota. After graduating from Churchill County High School, he attended the University of Nevada, Reno earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Major in Accounting. While at the University of Nevada he served a term as president of the University's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an international honorary organization for financial information professionals. Michael has worked in finance and accounting for over twenty years beginning his career as a Staff Accountant in public accounting with Grant Thornton LLP, a leading organization in independent audit tax, and advisory services. He spent time as Development Regional Assistant Controller with Intrawest as a Regional Development Controller helping navigate the Great Recession in the early 2000's. While with Intrawest Michael Helped establish Oasis Academy Charter School where he served on the Board of Directors, eventually leaving Intrawest to serve as the school's Comptroller. After working to support the success of Oasis Academy Charter School for four years, Michael took a position with Banner Churchill Community Hospital as a Business Analyst. He worked with Banner Churchill Community Hospital for seven years, the last three serving as the facility's Finance Director. Michael is married to Bree (Fisk) O'Neill who works as an Independent

Cosmetologist in Fallon. They live in the City of Fallon with their two children - Evelyn (16) and Macray (15). It is with great pleasure that I appoint Michael O'Neill as Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer and bring him before the Council for our consideration and confirmation. At this time, I would open it up to Council for any questions you might have of Michael.

Councilwoman Frost stated that she doesn't have any questions because she had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. O'Neill last week. His education background and his involvement in the community, I am very pleased with your appointment Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there was any public comment.

Ginny Bragg approached the podium and stated, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mike because he taught her son in football. So, I am not coming to you as press, but I am coming to you as a mom. He really changed my son's life after we moved here from Chicago. He has been my son's football coach for 3 years, and he is one amazing guy. I, as a mom, would love for him to be working for our community.

Mayor Tedford thanked Ms. Bragg. I appreciate that.

Mr. Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place approached the podium. I don't know you personally. I got the background that is written, and stuff, and we had a little side conversation. I do want to reflect that you went to a university that hates God. I preached on that campus; I went to school on that campus. A lot of the children have come out of there born into a denomination, or a belief, and they come out totally different. In a position that you are having, I would just say that believe in God truthfully, and not let the school system define who you are. You talk about the qualifications. Oh, they sound wonderful, but I want to know the standard morality. What you are going to be facing is tough decisions when the main Clerk is gone, you are going to be lead, and there is going to be political decisions, supposedly on their legal obligation. But you have to come from your heart instead of just going through the mechanics of the job. You should reflect on what your spirituality is and what your morality is. From what you told me; I don't want you. You let the school system define who you are. My representative, she is going to raise her hand, no matter what I say. I really have nothing against you, but it is your system and how you've been trained. I don't want you in this position. Thank you.

Mayor Tedford stated that he would reflect on what Mr. Knell said. I am the CEO of the City, and when I make appointments, I interview people and I take a great exception to what was just said, a great exception. I was a Councilman from 1987-1995 and interviewed many appointees. I have been a Mayor from 1995-2021. Every decision I make is made based on and ask all my members of Cabinet that have been confirmed by this Council or Councils prior to that, are based on morals, character, and values. Those Cabinet members get reminded of that, probably monthly. Nobody that has been appointed from 1987-1995, under prior Mayors, or 1995-2021 have lacked morals, character, or values. This candidate doesn't lack it either. Now, does everybody agree with me, in those 30 years politically? Probably not. That doesn't mean that the government hasn't run well. Like it or not, the City of Fallon isn't a political entity for all kinds of issues that we see in our country and our world today. We aren't faced with those right now, fortunately. Will we in the future? We might be. Right now, we are not, and I am thankful for that. We are in essence, right now, a boring City. We do the things that were mentioned earlier. We do infrastructure, and spend a lot of time on sewer, water, landfill, garbage, sidewalks, streets, Airport, Convention Center. These kinds of things that are boring and mundan, but that is what our citizens elected us to do. Now, like it or not Item #8 is required by the State Government. We are controlled by the State and Federal Government, whether we like it or not. Yes, we must do certain things for them. Do I like that? I am going to say, on the record, that I don't like that. Is there more of that now in 2021, compared to

1987? No, it was just as bad then. We do not have to face, right now, a lot of the things that are out in the world, that we are seeing in other places. I am not saying they aren't coming, but that office is not making political decisions. That Clerk-Treasurer, sitting there, is never going to make a political decision. It is going to be made right here. I am the CEO of the City, it lays at my desk first, and foremost. This City has been historically run, all on that wall, by mayors who are conservative both fiscally and politically. Nothing has changed today. If you go all the way down that wall. Very fiscally conservative, very politically conservative on social issues. Nothing has changed. These mayors are from this community. We are made up of who we are. I am from the people that are who this town is, a very conservative town. When an issue comes up it is likely to be handled very conservatively. There is no doubt to the people in this room that I am a Christian, and I live it. This is my life; this is how I live it. I am a Christian, and I don't hide from the fact. I don't live it for just one day. Ask Mike Lister back there, he has known me 68 years. That is how I live my life, and that is how I am and probably going to handle an issue. That is why people have elected me for so many years because that is how they know I am. If they want some other guy that is not, they are going to elect him. I have sat here for many weeks being told I am not one, and that I like the other way people live, and that is not true. I am certainly not going to appoint someone who is wild and crazy, that has no morals, no values, and no character. I take a great exception to that. I pick men and women who are because I know that is what this Council wants. I know they are elected by people who want that. The day they don't want that they will not elect me or these same people. I don't know what happens in the County, I don't know what happens in the State, and I don't know what happens in the Country. I do know what happens within this 3.8 square miles of the City. I know it well. I know these people. I love these people in the City, and I know them well. This man is going to be a fine Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer, and he has my full support, as do all these other department heads do. When they mess up, what has happened in the past? They aren't here anymore, and I say that with a heavy heart. Enough said about this issue. I do not, for a shred of a moment, stand on the other side of this podium every Council meeting and doubt my salvation, as a Christian. I know what I believe, and I know where I am going, and you all need to know that. No more public comment. We are back to the Council for discussion and or motion to affirm my appointment of Michael O'Neill as Deputy Clerk-Treasurer.

Councilwoman Frost motioned to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Michael O'Neill as Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer; seconded by Councilman Richardson and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

Mayor Tedford stated that he is now ready to swear Michael in. Come on up here. If you would raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Michael O'Neill, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and government of the United States, and the Constitution and government of the State of Nevada, against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State notwithstanding, and that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties of the office of Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer on which I am about to enter; so help me God. Welcome aboard.

**Consideration and possible action to establish the salary for Michael O'Neill as Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer at Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$96,000.00) per year.**

Mayor Tedford inquired if Council had any questions or comments.  
No comments were noted.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

No comments were noted.

Councilwoman Kent motioned to establish the salary of Michael O'Neill as Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer at Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$96,000.00) per year; seconded by Councilwoman Frost and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

### **Appointment and possible confirmation of Bob Erickson as Chief of Staff.**

Mayor Tedford asked Bob to take a seat near the Council. As you know, we have had this position vacated since Robert left to pursue his legal career. We have had a gap there with all the stuff going on right now that this has become necessary, in my mind, that we fill this position. I have talked to Sean and Mike about it, and it feels like it is time to try and fill it. I have had some people in my mind that I have thought about filling it. I realized that if some of the people I have thought about, that were younger, they didn't know the City at all. We would be talking about possibly a year to train them. This isn't the time to try and train someone, and the one that I was thinking about having train them, I thought of Bob. I thought well, why don't I ask Bob if maybe he would be able to fill this for a few years, and then bring someone in after a few years, and have him train them, a younger person. Then they would have time to come up to speed on all those enterprise accounts we have. I talked to Bob to see if he would be able to do it. He said that he would be happy and excited about doing it. Let me read Bob's background, and you will get the idea of why I think he is the right guy to do this job. Bob Erickson graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. While at Nevada, Bob honed his leadership skills as a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. Later, Bob furthered his education by attending the Pacific Coast School of Banking at the University of Washington. Having served the City of Fallon as Mayor, City Councilman, and lobbyist, Bob has been either directly or indirectly involved in the City's government and financial enterprises for over thirty years. Mr. Erickson began his service to the City as a Councilman from 1983-1987 before being elected Mayor and serving two terms from 1987-1995. Later, Bob rededicated himself to service as a Councilman from 2005-2019. During this time as a Councilman, Bob diligently served on many committees including the Senior Center Board, the Tourism Board, the Economic Development Board, the Insurance Committee, and the City's Audit Committee. Bob is also intimately familiar with Fallon's thriving small business climate as he and his wife, Mary Beth, owned and operated Fallon Theaters for decades. In all his years of service, Mr. Erickson has sought nothing more than to represent the citizens of the City of Fallon to the best of his ability. Bob is married to Mary Beth, who graduated from Oregon State and has toiled quietly, almost always out of the limelight, as she prefers, in service to the City. The Erickson family are also very proud of their adult son Ryan, who lives in Chicago. It is with great pleasure that I appoint Bob Erickson as Chief of Staff and bring him before the Council for your consideration and confirmation. Council, at this time, if you have any questions for Bob in this position, I will entertain them, as would Bob. Please go ahead.

Councilwoman Frost stated she has no questions for Mr. Erickson. I consider him part of the "Big 3" when it comes to knowledge of the City, along with you Mr. Mayor, and Mike Mackedon. I think this is a great appointment with his knowledge of the City, his character, and I have had the privilege of serving with him on the Council for, I can't remember for how many years, but I always knew that he did his homework and knew the issue well inside, and out. I would truly support this appointment. Thank you.

Councilwoman Kent stated she concurred with Councilwoman Frost. Bob has also been

very helpful to me learning, so far, what I have about the City. He is very knowledgeable and very valuable, and I appreciate that Bob.

Councilman Richardson stated that he echoed the same comments. I have served along with Bob, I have lost count, but 12 years. Bob is more than qualified; he has a lot of knowledge and knows the ins and outs of the City and is a perfect person for what the City needs right now with all the items that are coming. Bob would be the perfect fit for that period.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

Mr. Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place greeted Council. Mr. City Attorney, do you think it would be a conflict of interest since he was ordered a contract. It is interesting, and I have known him, on and off, and see him on the street and wave at him, stuff like that, that's about it. You know, I am going on 23 years living here in the City of Fallon, right here in Churchill County. It took me a long time to get stop signs to get put on our street. Having that mindset when John Tewell was my representative, predecessor, said someone has to die to get something done. I do have a little problem with...you aren't going to further your company, are you?

Bob Erickson stated that he is unsure what he is referring to, as his company.

Mr. Knell stated that when he had a contract awarded. Your name was on it, I was here. When it was presented.

Bob Erickson responded that this action supersedes that contract. That contract will no longer be in effect.

Mr. Knell asked Bob if he is going to favor because of his specialty.

Bob Erickson stated that he doesn't know what he is talking about when he refers to "favoring."

Mr. Knell stated that he sees how it is. Thank you.

Mayor Tedford stated that we are going to answer the question. You always talk in nebulous terms until we try to have you point at a fact. Mr. Erickson had a consulting agreement for \$2,500.00 a month on business affairs. That contract will no longer be in effect, it will be gone when he is hired in this position. There is nothing to favor, he has no other company. He was retired. There was a contract, we pulled him out of retirement to help with financial affairs for \$2,500.00 a month. That contract, Mr. Mackedon will tell you this is true, and is no longer in effect. He will get a salary to be the Chief of Staff. The contract is gone, there is nothing for him to favor.

Mr. Knell thanked Mayor Tedford for the clarification. I also would say that he has been in a position, in the City for a while and it took me 22 years to get something done. That is pretty unsatisfactory. I, in fact, had to make a commotion about it. Now, with your new position will it be any better? Now, unless you are listening to your constituents and have an oh well, oh well, attitude. Even from your predecessors. I am just really concerned. Have you been effective at your job?

Bob Erickson stated that he can assure him that he has worked with these people for many years. The number one thing that the Mayor, and each and everyone of these Council members, has constituent service. Constituent service in this community is far superior to anything you would get in the state of Nevada, and I would hope that you can recognize that. I don't know the details of your stop sign, but there is a process for placing stop signs.

Mr. Knell interrupted Bob Erickson. I get that, I understand that.

Mayor Tedford interjected. Mr. Knell (Mr. Knell continued speaking over the Mayor inaudibly), Mr. Knell. You asked him a question, and he gets to answer it.

Mr. Knell interrupted Mayor Tedford and stated that Mr. Erickson is lecturing him.

Mayor Tedford stated that Mr. Knell doesn't get to interrupt him.

Mr. Knell responded to Mayor Tedford that he does.

Mayor Tedford stated that Mr. Knell does not.

Mr. Knell stated that he has his 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right.

Mayor Tedford stated that Mr. Knell doesn't have a 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right that allows him to interrupt.

Mr. Knell asked Mayor Tedford if there was Open Meeting Laws. Mr. Attorney, explain to him.

Mayor Tedford stated that Mr. Knell does not get to be argumentative. Mr. Erickson needs to finish his answer, and then you need to talk.

Mr. Knell interrupted Mayor Tedford. You need to read the 2020 Open Meeting Laws.

Mayor Tedford stated that he has been doing this a lot longer than he has.

Mr. Knell responded with, yeah, and it took me this long to get a stop sign. I did it, I went through the system, and I don't trust this man. I am done.

Mayor Tedford stated that he now gets to talk. You don't stand for election 3 times and get reelected by the public if you don't get things accomplished. I want to talk about John Tewell as well. You don't stand for election if you aren't getting things accomplished, by the public, 3 times. If one person doesn't get something accomplished, it doesn't mean that you aren't getting things accomplished in your community. There are probably citizens that have elected me, many times, that someone might not like me because I didn't get something done, or I did something that they didn't like. I just spoke at John Tewell's service. John and I were very close, as he was close with Mr. Erickson. John came to me, one time and said, you aren't doing anything to pave streets in Ward III. I told this story at his service. I told John, I really think we are paving some streets over there, quite a bit of them. I am going to ask Gary Cordes how much money we spent in Ward III. I asked Gary, and I went back to John, and put my arm on John's shoulder and I said, John we spent \$11 million dollars over there. John laughed and said, I think you are doing okay Kenny. It is easy to have misconceptions of what does and doesn't get done. I bristle at the fact that someone that is elected 3 times, by his fellow citizens, doesn't accomplish anything. Any other public comment?

No further comments were noted.

Councilman Richardson thanked the Mayor and motioned to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Bob Erickson as Chief of Staff; seconded by Councilwoman Frost and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

Mayor Tedford asked for Bob to approach the dais to be sworn in. Raise your right hand. I, Bob Erickson, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and government of the United States, and the Constitution and government of the State of Nevada, against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State notwithstanding, and that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties of the office of Chief of Staff on which I am about to enter; so help me God. Thank you, Bob, I appreciate it.

**Consideration and possible action to establish the salary of Bob Erickson as Chief of Staff at One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year.**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any questions or comments.

No comments were noted.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

Mr. Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place stated that the salary is a little too much. It really is, come on, I live on less than that. Just the salary is too high, thanks.



No further comments were noted.

Councilwoman Kent motioned to establish the salary of Bob Erickson as Chief of Staff at One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year; seconded by Councilwoman Frost and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

### **Consideration and possible approval of Fiscal year 2021 Debt Management Policy, Indebtedness Report and Capital Improvement Plan.**

Mayor Tedford stated that this is required yearly by the State of Nevada.

Clerk-Treasurer Sean Richardson thanked the Mayor. The agenda includes a copy of our Debt Management Policy, Capital Improvement Plan, and the Indebtedness Report. The Debt Management Policy and the Indebtedness Report was compiled by JNA Consulting Group and reviewed by City staff. Their Capital Improvement Plan was compiled by City staff. The Debt Management Policy was created to fill requirements of NRS 350.013. This policy discusses the outstanding debt of the City, its ability to afford such debt, and other items related to the issuance of bonds by the City. As of June 30, 2021 the City has \$2,021,398.00 of medium-term obligation general debt outstanding. This includes interfund loans and medium-term bonds issued this past fiscal year. We also have \$7,057,443.00 in general obligation revenue supported bonds, which includes \$5,890,000.00 outstanding from our sewer bonds and \$1,167,443.00 outstanding from our two water fund bonds. All together we have \$9,078,841.00 of general obligation debt, as of June 30, 2021. We also have other debt which includes, \$5,560,000.00 of electric system revenue bonds which was refinanced this past year with a low interest rate. Lastly, we have \$268,644 of lease purchase obligations related to equipment purchased in the general and sanitation funds. Included with the Debt Management Policy is a five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The first fiscal year of 2021 and 2022 matches the capital outlays submitted to the state in May in the current, final budget. If approved, I will be forwarding our Debt Management Policy, which includes the Capital Improvement Plan and Indebtedness Report to the Department of Taxation, as required annually per statute. I will present our Debt Management Policy on August 18<sup>th</sup> at the next Churchill County Debt Management Commission meeting. If there are any questions, I can answer them now.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any questions from the Council.

No comments were noted.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

No comments were noted.

Councilwoman Kent motioned to approve the Fiscal year 2021 Debt Management Policy, Indebtedness Report and Capital Improvement Plan; seconded by Councilman Richardson and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments. He noted that comments are to be general in nature, not relative to any agenda items. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

Mr. Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place stated that he doesn't hate them. I just don't like the system that you are using. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment it says we have the right to grievance against our government. I am not being heard. Look, we have the most people we have had in

this place, ever because of the time and you get away with stuff. We are in debt servitude; we should be getting out of it. Come on. Mr. City Attorney you need to read them the Open Meeting Laws from 2020. I have been reading a quote here. I am going to read this, I heard this, and I would like to quote it. It says, I am quoting you now from the United States Supreme Court Case, New York Times Company v. Sullivan, a 1964 decision. In this country, this is a Constitutional Case Law. I am going to quote you, from the United States Supreme Court. The judge wrote, 'This nation is founded on the profound national commitment to the principle that debate of public issues shall not be uninhibited, robust, and wide open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials.' This is Constitutional Case Law in this nation. I don't have to be nice to you. Nobody behind me, has to be nice to you. If you don't like living in the United States of America, you can all move to Russia, Cuba, or China. And a reminder, this is the 1st Amendment. By golly, you know I sound negative and stuff. I challenge the government. You just spend way too much money. Morality of this nation, you are letting the state government to control every aspect. You said it Mr. Mayor, we are under control of the Federal State Government. It is we the people, it is the lack of government. They can just shove it. I see the influence in our City, in this County. The spending of the County Government. Gosh, I like to give praises. I'd even say give a pay raise to an employee, and very nice to meet her. But here, you are out of control. You give this guy a hundred, a lot, for what? Does it include what, travel? Travel expenses, or are you given more on top of that? It's just too absorbent. And Mr. Deputy, whatever his position is, that's, I live off a lot less than that. Does that include travel? People, I don't hate you, it's your system, and you are allowing higher government, than we the people. I could read the preamble of the Declaration of Independence, and take you out, verbally, elections, whatever it may take. Gosh, wake up, wake up. Listen to your constituents, and I am seeing only one. Why is that? Because people don't care. I will close with this. Hillary Clinton supposedly made this statement; I am going to read it out of a book. It says, 'The average democrat is stupid.' They can be manipulated, and that's the easy part. I have seen it here, and you are falling for it, and you call it legal obligation, wake up. Not woke up, wake up. Thank you.

No further comments were noted.

### **Council and Staff Reports**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any Council or staff reports.

Mike Mackedon thanked the Mayor and stated that he is in full agreement with the appointment of Mr. Erickson and Mr. O'Neill. I don't know Mr. O'Neill, I don't have personal knowledge. What I know of him and his reputation and trusting the Mayor and Council's knowledge of his background, I believe it is an excellent appointment, and I have every reason to be confident that the addition of Mr. O'Neill to the Clerk's office will fulfill a need that Mr. Erickson and I, and you Mr. Mayor, have felt for many years. Our current Clerk-Treasurer and Elsie has the additional assistance of a person with Mr. O'Neill's qualifications that, it is my personal opinion, and I believe that the facts will bear this out and the future will tell us that his salary will be repaid many times in the effectiveness that the addition of someone as qualified as Mr. O'Neill will make to this office, and the time is well past due when we needed, a person of his qualifications, in that office. I would also, although I don't think it is necessary Mr. Mayor, but I would also have to tell the people here, and the Mayor and Council, that I am very confident that the appointment of Mr. Erickson is going to contribute to the effectiveness of this City, and he will earn his salary many times over. He has

proven that in the past and the City happens to be on the threshold of some very major projects. In my opinion, and I believe the Mayor and Council would agree, that we will have redound to serious public benefit for generations in this City. With a Chief of Staff, in addition to the good staff we have, and the leadership of the Mayor and Council, I think today's actions enhance the effectiveness of the City and that the citizens of the City will be well served. It is a major achievement, in my estimation. I would also offer this, and I will be quick about it. This Sullivan case that has been quoted here, which I am well acquainted with, of course. This would not apply to a forum like the City Council meeting, which is not a public forum; like a public street, or a park, where the free speech is celebrated in every respect, but it is an opportunity or a place where the public's business is conducted. The Mayor, of the City, as the leader in the meeting, or the person in charge of the meeting has every right to, as a matter of role, to limit discussion on the part of anyone to matters that advance the business of the public. With that said, I congratulate the Mayor and the Council for the appointments that they've made, and I look forward to working with them both. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Tedford thanked City Attorney Mike Mackedon.

Mayor Tedford stated that he would like to go a little further into this matter. For those of you that are new here today. The way that I have operated, and have learned to operate Council meetings, we have a loose operation under the Robert Rules of Order, but under great civility in here. We have had some meetings that have been very tense at times, and it has served us well to maintain order and kindness in meetings, even when the size differs greatly in how they think and feel. That is by allowing people to finish answers, and allowing the other person to speak, and then allowing the other persons response. We don't allow interrupting speakers when you are talking, even when it is not in the same discourse as this morning. People don't yell from the audience, or on the speaker interrupting. We just allow people to slowly get their discussion in. That was my point this morning, we allow the speaker to answer, a speaker to question, and they can be very hard questions on occasion, but they get answered. Sometimes, they don't answer them very well, but they get to answer them, and then the speaker gets to drill down on them more, if they wish. They don't get interrupted, they get to finish their thought, and certainly that is well with any confines of civility and how we operate our meetings, and I will continue to do that. I would never interrupt a speaker unless they were beyond these ranges.

No further comments were noted.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Tedford tabled the executive session, as it was not needed at this time.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Tedford adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Attest:

  
Sean C. Richardson, City Clerk-Treasurer

  
Mayor Ken Tedford