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## CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Crete City Hall, 243 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street

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### MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was given by posting, the appointed method for giving notice as shown by the attached notice, at the following locations:

City Hall, 243 East 13th Street

Post Office, 1242 Linden Avenue

City Bank and Trust, 1135 Main Avenue

Advance notice of the meeting was also given to committee members. Pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the City has posted a current copy of the Open meetings Act, Laws of the State of Nebraska, in the back of the council chambers. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

#### 1. Open Meeting

#### 2. Roll Call

Kyle Frans: Present

Ashley Newmyer: Present

Dale Strehle: Present

Present: 3.

#### 3. Items of Business

##### 3.A. Discussion on Municipal Equalization Funding

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the Municipal Equalization Fund and as it is now we were notified that the City of Crete will lose 80% of funding. That's almost \$640,000 that we will lose next year. Ourada has talked with three state agencies on this and they have noted there is no authority to deviate from statute and changes would require going to the legislature.

The City of Crete's levy lowered a significant amount of over \$0.06 last year. The changes in assessed values were raised considerably last year for residential property. We had a static budget that didn't raise appreciably necessitating a joint public hearing or post card

notification. Ourada stated that here is a case of us being significantly under the state average for property taxes penalizing us for very conservative spending. We are at \$0.22 this year and to qualify for 100% MEF (Municipal Equalization Fund) we would have to be 28 ½ cents and that would be \$0.065 cent levy increase. When we looked at it last year we had about \$10,000 that wasn't committed but \$0.01 is about \$24,000. We couldn't do anything with that \$7,000. If we raised it by 6 ½ cents that would be like \$160,000 that we would raise across the entire community. People would see that we are raising it because we would have to participate in the joint public hearing and we would have to send out the postcard. Ourada stated that we will have to do that no matter what. We have a few options to help get through year 1 and possibly year 2 if we raise the levy. If we don't raise the levy then we would have to take very drastic measures fundamentally cutting about 18% of the budget.

### **3.B. Consider amending the Master Fee Schedule**

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that the amendments include adding some library services for the laser usage and the amendments for the solar and wind cogeneration avoided cost rates.

Recommend to the City Council amending the Master Fee Schedule Carried with a motion by Dale Strehle and a second by Ashley Newmyer.

Kyle Frans: Aye, Ashley Newmyer: Aye, Dale Strehle: Aye

Aye: 3, No: 0

### **3.C. Discussion on Business Registration**

There was no time to have a discussion on Business Registration.

## **4. Officers' Reports**

## **5. Adjournment**