

City of Bennet, Nebraska
City Council
Minutes February 28, 2024
Emergency/Special Meeting

The Bennet City Council (the "Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held an *Emergency/Special Meeting on February 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM, at the Bennet Legion Hall, 970 Monroe Street in the City, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, and having set forth (a) the time, date and place of the meeting; (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of the public; and (c) that the agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk and posted at the City Office, Post Office and First Nebraska Bank.*

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Michele Lincoln conducted roll call. Council Members in attendance were Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg, Steve Bettendorf, Justin Dorn, and Mayor Ryan Cheney. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public.

Zieg moved and Bettendorf seconded a motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting. Roll call vote: Simmons, Zieg, Bettendorf, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

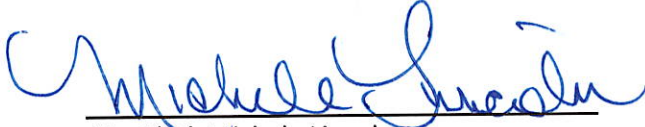
Mayor Cheney announced that this was a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the issues with the Garbage Transfer Site and whether curbside service would be a more beneficial cost alternative for the community. The Council would first have their discussion and then welcome public comments from those that signed in with their name and address and they would have a 3-minute time limit.

Mayor Cheney stated that we were having staffing issues with the Transfer Site and that we were now down to one maintenance person. Over the last few months, the Utility Committee had been reviewing the Master Fee Schedule and determined that the residential rate for the Transfer Site needed to be raised from the \$14 set in 2016 to \$20. With no applicants to work at the Transfer Site they investigated having Uribe Services Inc. to provide curbside service citywide. Uribe was able to offer a \$22 rate per month versus the \$26 a month they currently charge. If they chose this route, they would keep the brush and compost piles, regulating them with security cameras.

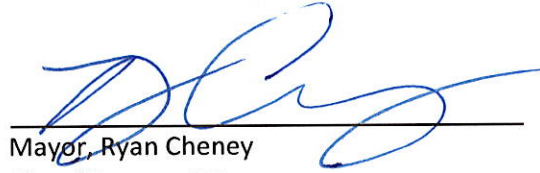
Approximately 60 members of the public attended the meeting and eleven signed up to address the Council. All that formerly addressed the Council were against closing the Garbage Transfer Site. Some of the sentiment shared included that the City did not put enough effort into advertising for the Transfer Attendant position outside of Bennet and suggested temp agencies and contacting the high school; to pay a higher hourly wage; cut down the number of days the dump was open; concern about individuals on a fixed budget; and that they were okay with the increased fee for the service. As the Council attempted to discuss the subject with the comments received chaos ensued with many comments and criticisms being made by the attendees without having the floor. Simmons moved and Zieg seconded a motion to advertise for the Transfer Site Attendant on a broader scale and to raise the hourly wage. Roll call vote: Simmons, Zieg, Bettendorf, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

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Zieg moved and Bettendorf seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:41 pm. Roll call vote: Simmons, Zieg, Bettendorf, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.



City Clerk Michele Lincoln
City of Bennet, NE



Mayor Ryan Cheney
City of Bennet, NE