

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SARGENT, NEBRASKA
Special Session
Sargent Community Center
March 2, 2009**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Sargent, Nebraska, met in Special Session at the Sargent Community Center on the 2nd day of March, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting was posted at the City Office, U. S. Post Office, First National Bank, Sargent Community Center and Sargent Corner Market on Friday, February 13, 2009. The following were present: Mayor Bernard Griebel; Council Members: Jan Oeltjen, Tim Leibert, Bob Nitchie and Mick Kozeal. Also present were City Administrator/Utility Superintendent, Mike Criss; and City Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Drake. Also present was City Attorney, Glenn Clark, and Engineers representing Tagge and Miller & Associate.

Mayor Griebel publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted on the east wall of the meeting room in the Sargent Community Center. Mayor Griebel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Oeltjen moved to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Nitchie seconded. Voting yea: Council Members Oeltjen, Leibert, Nitchie and Kozeal. Voting nay: none.

Phil Hargis, Geologist, from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Mike Reif from Terracon was present to give the Council an update on the water/ground contamination due to gasoline and high water table at Jerry/Dolly Grause and Georgia Kuklish residence. He stated that these were considered two different incidents with each being treated differently. He was there to talk specifically about the Jerry Grause property. He informed the Council that if the property did not have a basement, the file would be closed because of the low level of contamination now after treating. Due to it having a basement, it was on "life support" to keep the fumes from building up in the property when/if the water table raises. Prior to this contamination, Jerry and Dolly were going to sell the property and move into another house in Sargent, but because of this contamination, they will not be able to get a fair price for their house. Jerry had proposed to Phil that the DEQ purchase the residence from him and tear the property down. This was a procedure that had never been performed by the DEQ and before they would do something like that, they needed to have a guarantee from the City that there would never be a property allowed to have a basement put into the half block area that they had identified. If the City would give that assurance, DEQ would proceed with talking to the Grause's and see if something could be agreed upon. Phil and Mike answered questions put before him by both the Council and those that were attendance. After discussion amongst the Council, they decided to table making a decision until the March 9, 2009, meeting to allow them more time to discuss this and visit with Jerry Grause.

A workshop to discuss the water issues east of town on the Marty Riddle property was held with the following present: Robert Mohler, Lower Loup NRD; Kent Cordes, Miller & Associates; Bruce Raddatz, Tagge Engineering; Phil Johansen, Staff Assistant for State Senator Ben Nelson; Glen Gatz, USDA; and Marty Riddle, landowner. Robert Mohler started the workshop by briefly explaining the water situation to all present. The Council acknowledged their obligation to fulfill the contract between Marty and the City, but stated the problem was in finding the money to accomplish what was needed to be done. Glen Gatz explained the different loans and grants possibly available through the USDA, Kent Cordes stated that there were a couple grants through CDBG that may fit this and Robert Mohler felt that the NRD would be able to contribute some funding also. This whole grant/loan process will take approximately a year or more before any work would be able to start; but before it could start, a decision would need to be made on what was needed. There were many ideas, thoughts and suggestions mentioned by all parties

present. Council Member Kozeal moved that the City of Sargent authorize Miller & Associates and Tagge Engineering in conjunction with Nebraska Rural Development to proceed with an engineering feasibility study on the East Sargent Storm Water Project. Council Member Leibert seconded. Voting yea: Oeltjen, Leibert, Nitchie and Kozeal. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Council Member Oeltjen moved that the meeting adjourn. Council Member Leibert seconded. Voting yea: Oeltjen, Leibert, Nitchie and Kozeal. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk