CITY OF BENKELMAN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY JANUARY 10, 2022

SPECIAL MEETING

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. for a special council meeting. Present: Mayor Robert Rhoades; Council Members JoAnn Decker, Barbara Pinkerton, Deb Stamm, Nicholas Baney; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt. Absent: City Attorney Jon Schroeder; City Superintendent James Summers and Acting Police Chief/Sheriff Nichols. Others Present: Tammy Buffington, Buck Menuez, Sharon Rhoades, Paul Higgins, Randall Raile, Mary Deyle, Diana & Merrel Martin, Megan Spargo, Trevor Horner, Pam Shaw, Tish Burrell, Gary Clark and Marily Chamberlain.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Mayor Rhoades called the meeting to order and stated that we follow the open meetings law, which is posted on the south wall by the main entrance.

Mayor Rhoades commented on the power outage on January 4th at Gavilon because of the high winds. City Superintendent will have an incident report for the regular meeting on the 17th. Mayor Rhoades also talked about a meeting he attended at the Benkelman Elementary School on the need of getting a daycare facility opened in the community; there is a huge need for this in the community.

Mayor Rhoades stated that the meeting was for the City and the CRA to get together for the CRA’s request for funds of $100,000 annually from the City.

Megan Spargo had put together a power-point presentation that she showed what the CRA is up to and what their plans are for the future.

Current: Negotiating Sale of The SWNRHF House, Negotiating Sale/Agreement of 1110 A Street Lot, Negotiating Sale/Agreement of Lot 15, Block 2, Collinsville Lot, and Dollar General TIF-Funds directed towards general DTR.

Future: Help with the implementation of an Economic Boost Plan as described in the most recent Housing Study compiled by Hanna:Keelan and Why: To allow Benkelman to be a thriving community-Address population and financial loss.

The CRA is limited to the Redevelopment Area which was designated in 2010

The CRA has been focused on Community Development since 2016

The projects that CRA have undertaken fall primarily under 3 filters:

Housing

Jobs

Town Aesthetics/Quality of Life

CRA Future: Potential Projects

Child Development Center

Demolition of the Old Greenhouse Property

Downtown Revitalization (Benkelman Bricks and Façade Improvements)

Housing

New City Park/Walking Trail

RV Park

Trade Show

Collinsville Development

Fire Mitigation (FEMA Grant)

A discussion was held by all parties present with no action taken at this time. Council member JoAnn Decker restated her opinion from the December council meeting that she would like to wait until the city has their audit report back.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Robert Rhoades, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk