

City

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- a 1 percent increase in wages, which represents an additional \$72,974 annual expenditure for the city;
- a one-step increase in the step plan;
- making President's Day a paid holiday;
- a 10-cent per hour increase in shift differential pay;
- incorporation of a working-out-of-class pay clause;
- an adjustment in language associated with on-call pay;
- a reimbursement for training and certifications; and
- residency requirements for on-call positions.

The wage increase was negotiated for one year, while the rest of the measures are agreed upon for three years.

The contract is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Nelson explained a couple of the changes, such as the working-out-of-class pay clause.

"If you were to step into somebody else's position for a period of longer than two weeks, you could apply for working-out-of-class pay," she said. "That would be in the case of, for example, a maternity leave situation or if somebody needs an extended leave."

Nelson has the ability to grant such requests.

She also explained the reimbursement for



New commission member Chris Ferdig (left) consults with City Attorney Ross Den Herder after being sworn in to office.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

training and certifications.

If the city hires someone for a position that requires a CDL, for example, the individual can be reimbursed for earning that certification.

"The reimbursement, however, would not

occur until after their probationary period so we're not training somebody we're not going to get to keep," Nelson said.

The commission unanimously approved the agreement, except for Commissioner Chris Ferdig, who abstained because his mother is a city employee.

The same wage and step plan increase was approved for non-union employees.

Ferdig was one of three commissioners sworn in for three-year terms Monday. The newcomer joined Jake Hoffner and Craig Sommer in taking an oath of office.

Ferdig now occupies the seat once held by Nancy Wenande, who handed over the mayor's gavel Monday and joined the public after the reorganization for the year.

Following the swearing in of commissioners, a unanimous vote was cast by the commission to make David Carda the new mayor.

In other business, the commission:

- received a final report from Stockwell Engineers regarding a needs assessment and master plan for the community's sports facilities. Because not all of the parts of the original contract needed to be completed, the commission approved a \$46,080 payment to the firm, rather than \$57,600. Commissioner Brad Woerner abstained from voting. Jon Brown, the owner of Stockwell Engineers, recently became a senior partner in Eisenbraun and Associates, of which Woerner is also a partner;
- approved a memorandum of understanding with the Yankton County Office of Emergency Management that makes City Hall, The Center and Fire Station No. 2 short-term gathering points in the case of emergencies;
- allowed city staff to apply for \$80,076 from the Federal Aviation Administration for assistance with designing a Chan Gurney Municipal Airport apron replacement.

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Napa

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"I am asking the Planning Commission to make a recommendation that would go back to the County Commission," Garrity stated.

Toby Morris of Dougherty & Company has been assisting Dakota Plains with the approval process for its proposed facility. He told the *Press & Dakotan* Monday that Dakota Plains officials do not plan to attend today's meeting.

On April 11, Matt Winsand, the general manager and CEO of Dakota Plains, told the *Press & Dakotan* he was disappointed with an April 8 discussion that had taken place with the Planning Commission regarding the TID. He said the company would look at other potential sites for a grain shuttle facility during the following 60 days.

Last week, Winsand met with the Bon Homme County Commission, and today he is scheduled to speak with the Clay County Commission.

Morris said Dakota Plains is making a good-faith effort to find a long-term partner for its grain facility and is not attempting to play the counties off one another. With that in mind, company officials will maintain its break from discussing the project with Yankton County officials.

Because the County Commission gave the Planning Commission a directive to come up with a TID recommendation at the Napa junction, Garrity said the decision was made to proceed.

"There has not been a formal letter to the County Commission or my office from Dakota Plains stating that they are withdrawing from the process. Nor have I had the county commissioners say they no longer wanted the recommendation from the Planning Commission," he stated. "Based on that, we're going ahead with the process."

Dakota Plains has already received permission from the County Commission to build a grain shuttle facility that will include a rail loop at what is known as the Napa junction, where the state-owned Napa-to-Platte rail line joins the Burlington Northern Santa Fe-owned line.

However, the company has said the project won't move forward without a TID to help cover infrastructure costs.

Serving as a basis for Garrity's proposals are TIF revenue projections supplied by Mackey based on Dakota Plains' vision for developing the 192-acre site northwest of Yankton at the Napa junction during the next five years. "This gives us a foundation," Garrity said of the various proposals. "Once we get done with this, there will be a decision that will be applied to Napa Junction whether it's Dakota Plains or another developer. One way or another, I believe this gives us a foundation to move on the next project. We will have done a lot of the research and decision making. We can tell a developer what is expected."

The meeting gets under way at 7 p.m. today in the Commission Chambers of the Yankton County Government Center.

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Avera

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last three years. In the design phase, we went through some different renditions as far as what we were going to look; Last year we got into the specifics of the actual architectural design and planning what it's going to look like."

Erickson said they settled on a town square design because it was believed this would have the most benefit.

"The biggest thing that came out of (the design phase) was the town center and really changing how we really create that home for those who live here and give

them that sense of community," he said. "The town center was a resounding thing that really meant a lot to us in the design."

The \$12 million expansion, in addition to the private rooms and hospice units, will include a deli, a general store, a pub, a theater, a bank, a post office, a children's play area and a beauty salon.

Rezac told the *Press & Dakotan* that it feels great to finally be under way with the expansion project.

"I am so very glad, so very excited," she said. "It's been a project I've wanted to do — I had the plans to do it and requested to do it at least the last two years — and now it's going to happen," she said.

As for the former facility,

Erickson said there are still no concrete plans.

"We haven't made any final decisions as far as what's going to happen with the Avera Yankton Care Center building," he said. "There already has been some community interest from a couple of organizations, but nothing has been finalized. If we do proceed with it, our objective is to sell the building as-is so whoever would look at purchasing that location would assume whatever is there and move on from there."

Erickson said a date hasn't been set for the start of construction, but it's anticipated to begin at some point in early June and will take around 15 months to complete the addition.

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