

Finance Officer Wellnitz resigns at June Clark City Council meeting

By Carolyn Olson

The Clark City Council meeting was held at the Ulyott building in Clark on Monday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m.

The council convened as the Board of Adjustment to start the meeting off. Clinton Schieckoff was available over the phone to discuss moving a tiny house onto the property at 1025 North Commercial Street in Clark. The house is being built in Nebraska and will be moved in at a later date. No one appeared to speak against Schieckoff's conditional use permit. Finding that the application met the requirements of city code, the board approved it.

The board reconvened as city council at 7:03 p.m. Mayor Kerry Kline called the meeting to order. There was no public input.

Shane Glover, a sales professional at RDO Equipment in Aberdeen, gave a rundown on payload options for the city. He's been collaborating with Darin Alltfillisch on quotes for the different options. Glover talked to the board about the three machines, including which one he recommended, the cost and warranties. The city is in need of a new payload, as the current one is about 17 years old and has been having some problems. No action was taken at this time.

Then, the council convened as a Planning Commission to open the public hearing for rezoning ordinance #587, an ordinance amending Ordinance #585. Baron Yexley and Ryan Wilford were present to request that Yexley's property be

rezoned in order for them to build a hotel on the property. Kevin and Jill Zobel brought up their concerns over water drainage. An engineer will be doing a site plan to address drainage issues.

Dennis Thompson was also present at the meeting to address his concerns about flooding on his property. Jason McHenry spoke with Finance Officer Alaina Wellnitz and said he would allow Thompson to pump water out to his property to help with the issue. City Attorney Chad Fjelland explained that the situation was a civil matter, and the city could not assist.

Mayor Kline brought the tax deferral resolution up to the council once again, in hopes that they might reconsider passing it. "I'm really disappointed how it turned out the last time when we voted on it," she admitted. "I think it really sends out a bad message to where we want to go as a city," Kline stated. "Everything is expensive right now; I think this is a way to entice people to build in Clark and feel like maybe we have something more to offer than another town." Currently, there are approximately 23 people on a waiting list for housing in Clark. Fjelland will provide more information about the resolution for future meetings.

Catie Noethlich attended the meeting to update the council on Choose Clark County. "I feel like I'm hitting a brick wall," she said. "I want to do something that the community wants and continue to grow the community."

Council member Melissa Neshiem asked about the city property that was given to Choose Clark County. Noethlich responded by saying that the plan for the lot is to work out a deal with someone to put housing there.

Abatement was next up for discussion. The houses remaining after the fires last year will be taken care of soon. It was suggested that letters be sent out to property owners regarding buildings that need to be brought up to code or demolished. An allotted amount of time would be given to individuals to correct the matter, after which the city would take charge.

Cassi Kottke was present to discuss the need for the pool in Clark. She has decided to take the lead in this matter and form a committee to address the pool issue. As of Monday, there are five to six people interested in being on the committee; she needs nine total. She needs approval from the council for Burbach to do a phase one and two which will cost approximately \$4,250.00.

According to Kottke, it will take roughly six months to get a plan together. The committee also has to come up with 80-85 percent of the funds. According to Burbach, there may be grant opportunities available but will need further discussion after the forms have been signed in order to move forward. Council member Neshiem agreed to be on the committee. Alltfillisch agreed to help with the pool plans as well. More discussion will be held at future council meetings.

Council Vice President Brandon Kottke addressed some issues regarding previous variances. City Attorney Fjelland advised the council to be stricter regarding variances in the future. He stated, "You should almost never approve a variance in Clark; there's almost no reason."

A second reading for Ordinance No. 586, an ordinance regarding restaurant liquor licenses, was held. A fee needs to be settled and put in place. More discussion will take place at future meetings.

In Other Business:

□ Tammy Rusher provided updates on the golf course. She also mentioned that more space is needed for golf carts.

□ The Greenfield's request to sell fireworks at their usual spot across from Gas Plus was approved.

□ CPI three percent increase approved.

Motion by Zemlicka and seconded by Dohmann to take the three percent CPI in increase. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

□ The payment request for Halme Construction was approved.

□ A change order from Halme Construction was approved.

□ Finance Officer Alaina Wellnitz's resignation was approved.

The board went into executive session at 8:57 p.m. No additional motions were made. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Clark City Council will be Monday, July 1.



Wyatt, Tony and Paisley Schlager are pictured above from left to right. Photo courtesy of Tony Schlager

Father's Day is Sunday

By Carolyn Olson

Father's Day is a holiday honoring one's father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds and the influence of fathers in society. This year, Father's Day is Sunday, June 16.

Tony Schlager of Clark is the son of Wayne and Jackie Schlager. He was born and raised on the family farm south of Raymond. He is the owner/operator of Schlager Trucking and Schlager Storage. He and his wife of 16 years, Kandice, have two children: Wyatt (14) and Paisley (11).

Schlager became a father for the first time in 2010 when his son Wyatt was born. "I was very happy!" he expressed. "We were excited to start our family." Kandace and Schlager lived in Kansas City at the time. "Shortly after having Wyatt, we knew we wanted to move back home to raise our kids and be closer to our families," he said.

One of Schlager's favorite memories of his children was when Wyatt could be found in the crib, hanging out with Paisley in the mornings. She

was born in 2013.

Schlager also shared stories of gifts that he's received from his kids over the years. "When I first started trucking, Wyatt got me an awesome custom wooden flag with a semi truck engraved on it. He saw it at a vendor fair and asked to get it for me," Schlager beamed. "Paisley loves arts and crafts, so she made me my favorite coffee mug."

Some activities he enjoys with his kids include hunting, fishing and golfing. He also really enjoys watching them participate in their activities.

What Schlager enjoys most of all about being a father is watching his kids grow up and teaching them new things. "It really goes by so quick," he added.

"I love being a dad. It's one of the things I'm the most proud of in my life." For Father's Day, you can typically find the Schlager family spending family time outside golfing or at the Missouri River.

Clark School Board election set for June 18; three candidates vying for two positions

Three candidates are vying for two positions on the Clark School Board. The upcoming election is June 18, 2024, and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Clark School Board race will have incumbent Nathan Luvaas, Travis Peterson and Troy Mudgett running for the two three-year terms.

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:

Clark Precinct: City Hall Community Center (includes City of Clark, Woodland, Garfield, Lincoln, Darlington, Merton, Day, Foxton and Mt. Pleasant townships.)

Bradley Precinct: Bradley Community Center (includes City of Bradley, Blaine, Cottonwood, Spring Valley, Thorp and Warren townships.)

Raymond Precinct: Raymond Fire Hall (includes City of Raymond, Fordham, Logan, Ash and Raymond townships)

Garden City Precinct: Garden City PR Center Firehall (includes City of Garden City, Maydell, Eden and Elrod townships).

Each candidate was asked seven questions, and their answers follow:

Please provide a brief biography of yourself, including education, family and career.

Nathan Luvaas - I am Nathan Luvaas, my wife Amy and I have four children, Lauren who will be a senior, Gracie who will be a junior, Charlie, who will be a sophomore and Maren, who will be in kindergarten. I am a lifelong resident of Clark County and a fourth-generation farmer/rancher in the northern Clark County area between Bradley and Crocker. I am a 1998 graduate of Clark High School. I am currently serving as the Vice-President of the Clark School Board, and I am also the President of the Bradley Volunteer Fire Department.

Travis Peterson - My name is Travis Peterson. I live north of Crocker with my wife, Krysta (Hemmingson) and our three children, Alexia - eighth grade, Ashlynn - fourth grade and Cullen - second grade, where I run a cow/calf herd and farm with my dad,



Nathan Luvaas

brother and uncle. I graduated from Clark High School in 1995. Afterwards, I attended Lake Area Tech for ag business and production and am currently on the Spring Valley Township board.

Troy Mudgett - My name is Troy Mudgett. I am a lifelong resident and graduate of Clark High School. I attended LATC for ag business. I am married to my wife, Melissa and have three children; Conner is a recent graduate of CHS in 2024; Caitlyn will be a sophomore, and Camden will be a first grader. I own and operate a cattle feedlot along with crop farming.

Why are you interested in serving on the Clark School Board and what can you bring to it?

Nathan Luvaas - I have served the Clark School District as a board member for eight years and I would like to bring that experience to the board room for another three years. There is a lot of different components with the school system between students, staff, financials and the various school funds. I feel that the time that I have invested in learning this will be valuable in leading the Clark School District forward into the future.

Travis Peterson - As our school continues to grow and change, there are going to be new challenges in the future. I would like to be a part of the decision making of the new



Travis Peterson

obstacles that will arise. I believe I can bring a new perspective to the school, all while remembering my own experiences from when I went there.

Troy Mudgett - I am vested in the future of the next generation. The future starts with our children's education. I have 20+ years of combined experience on various boards. I am currently the Vice President of the Glacial Lakes Energy Board. With my board experience, I have learned to work well with others to achieve the same goals.

What are the strengths of the district that need to be maintained and the weaknesses of the district that need to be addressed?

Nathan Luvaas - I feel the biggest strengths of the Clark School District are the students, the staff and being fiscally sound with properly spending taxpayer dollars. I am sure every organization has weaknesses, but at this point and time, I don't see any big concerns.

Travis Peterson - One of the strengths the school district has seen is an increase in enrollment, and continuing a positive learning experience will help maintain this. Another strength the school district has is community involvement. Students are actively involved in the community, whether it's with senior projects or supporting organizations. One weakness the district needs to address is the turnover



Troy Mudgett

rate with teachers and support staff.

Troy Mudgett - The enrollment of the Clark School District continues to increase every year. The strength of the school district is the dedicated and talented staff. The weaknesses I see are in academic performance; I would like to see improvement in academic scoring.

What are your budget priorities?

Nathan Luvaas - I feel that we need to put forth a taxpayer friendly budget that will provide the funding to adequately educate all students at the Clark School District and to properly compensate our employees for their endless dedication in providing for our students.

Travis Peterson - When it comes to the budget, I believe this is one of the most important topics. My priority is to spend within our means and have a clear transparency of how taxpayer money is spent. I know at times some budget items could be trimmed. A good business always has a long term plan and is always looking ahead to future projects. There are times where it may look better on paper to complete a project in a little less expensive way, but the future costs of maintaining ends up costing more in the end. I don't have a problem with spending a little more to do the project correctly the first time.

Troy Mudgett - To maintain the proper student to staff ratio and

provide the proper tools for education of the students. Also, continue to seek opportunities to maintain financial strength within our school district.

How will you address the different needs of all students?

Nathan Luvaas - Over the past few years, we have been able to add various opportunities outside of the core curriculum with the addition of the Greenhouse, PAES Lab, Building Trades class, Machine Tool class and now the Career and Technical Education Center.

Travis Peterson - I would address different student needs by being present and available to listen to the needs of students, families and the community as a whole. Also, listening to the needs and concerns of the teachers and support staff in the school district and being open minded to find a solution that works best for everybody.

Troy Mudgett - To provide the proper staff and resources to educate all of the students.

Do you have any ideas or changes in mind to make education/learning better in the district?

Nathan Luvaas - We are working on collaborative grants to bring more opportunities for our students, by sharing resources with other school districts. We need to always be looking forward for opportunities for alternative learning pathways for our students.

Travis Peterson - The Clark School District has a hardworking staff that does an amazing job with our students, but there can always be improvements when it comes to keeping open lines of communication with parents and the community. Ensuring all voices are heard and solutions are made creates an environment for our teachers and students to thrive in, knowing they are supported.

Troy Mudgett - To provide the latest technology innovation and the ability for nontraditional education (i.e. dual college credits, online courses).

What are the biggest concerns facing the district in the next five years?

Nathan Luvaas - Over the next five years the Wind Tower money funds will phase out. We need to look forward to make sure that does not put a strain on our budget. We are currently aware of it as a school board, and we are trying to make the right decisions now to ease the burden on our taxpayers in the future. We have been very fortunate that are enrollment numbers have been increasing, however we have to make sure we have adequate space for all students and staff.

Travis Peterson - One of the biggest concerns facing the district in the next five years is acquiring and retaining excellent teachers and support staff. I have seen firsthand the difference a teacher, aide or administrator can make in a student's life, and any student will work harder for a teacher that is well-liked and respected. The staff is one of the most important parts of a good education. Also, making sure our district is continually prepared to handle situations that may arise, such as that in 2020.

Troy Mudgett - With the generosity of Crocker Wind Farm's taxes, the Clark School District has maintained strong financials. Once the tax revenue diminishes, the void will need to be filled. Also, to ensure there is adequate class space for the growing district.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
June 4.....	81	57	0
June 5.....	74	54	0.03
June 6.....	76	49	0
June 7.....	76	51	0
June 8.....	73	52	0.22
June 9.....	76	53	0
June 10.....	76	50	0
2024 precipitation to date	10.42"		
2023 precipitation to date	4.64"		

CLARK AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LEAVING A LEGACY

If your non-profit has a project needing funds, apply for a grant by contacting any board member.

Members: Gayle Wookey, Tom LaBrie, Chad Fjelland, Susan Fjelland, Diane Varilek, Greg Furness, David Warkentien, Nicole Nelson and student members Raigan Flatten, Lauren Luvaas, Lincoln Reidburn and Yeleiny Ramirez Gonzalez.