

CITY OF PRAIRIE CITY  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: No quorum was present to establish a meeting.

ROLL CALL:

AGENDA APPROVAL:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

WORKSHOP:

Update/Walk through Catalyst Grant Project with Iowa Downtown Resource Center:

ADJOURNMENT:

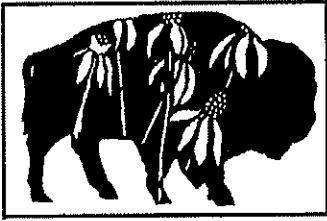
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**Chad D. Alleger, Mayor**

**ATTESTED TO:**

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**Jodie Wyman, City Clerk**



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Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

PO Box 114, Prairie City, IA 50228 • [www.tallgrass.org](http://www.tallgrass.org) • [buffalo@tallgrass.org](mailto:buffalo@tallgrass.org)

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OCT 6 2021

October 4, 2021

Years ago, when the entry-way park and bison sculpture were installed, as part of the grant from the DOT, we also had signs made to identify the plants in that area.

Rick Hager and I would place the signs around the area each year as the plants began to bloom. The signs had been stored in the storage area in the restroom building.

Since all of the plantings have been removed - I am inquiring if the City would be willing to donate the signs to the Friends to be used at the Butterfly Garden that is by the Visitor Center at the Refuge. The signs would be very helpful for the visitors to identify what the various native plants are.

The original grant was written by a Refuge staff member and with the Refuge being a federal facility, that also helped secure the funding for all the projects that were tied to that DOT grant, in addition to other funding for later projects in the community. So, I am hoping this would be a possibility.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your considering my request.

Joan Van Gorp  
President

Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge  
515.994.2918



## Memo

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Council of Prairie City  
**From:** Jodie Wyman, City Administrator/City Clerk  
**Date:** 10/26/2021  
**Re:** Health Insurance Premiums

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During the review and revision of the Employee Handbook, the Admin Team became aware that the current policy states that employees on the family plan were to pay \$98 per month for the employee and reimburse through payroll deduction 50% of the family premium cost for their family members. As you will see on the attached spreadsheet, the employee contribution for the family plan is less than the 50% requirement for all employees. This agenda item is to determine if the Council wants to continue to have employees pay 50% of the family portion of their insurance premium as per the current handbook, and how we propose to get the current employees to the 50% rate.

The Admin Team has also noted that the employee contribution of \$98 per month for health insurance has remained the same for years—even as the cost to the City has steadily increased every year. We will also want to decide if the employee contribution on the employee-only policy will be continue to be \$98 per month.

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Branch Office  
205 C Avenue  
Grundy Center, IA 50638  
Ph: 319-824-5920  
Fax: 319-824-6045

www.irua.net

We Flow That Extra Mile!

October 6, 2021

Jodie Wyman  
City Administrator/City Clerk  
City of Prairie City  
203 E. Jefferson  
Prairie City, IA 50228

RE: IRUA Service Proposal to the City of Prairie City

Dear Ms. Wyman:

This letter is pursuant to the city's request for a proposal for IRUA to provide a bulk potable water supply service to the City of Prairie City.

**Regarding Connection Fee:** IRUA has evaluated the water demand that the City of Prairie City would introduce on its system, and has identified a scope and budget for improvements that would be necessary to provide a consistent and reliable source of supply to the community. In general, the required improvements would include: construction of additional storage and pumping capacity at IRUA's water source, and construction of a booster pumping station and seven miles of water main to connect Prairie City to IRUA's system. The proposed discounted connection fee that would be due by the City of Prairie City is \$2,000,000.

**Regarding Water Rate Proposal:** IRUA's bulk water rate (effective 01/01/2022) is \$3.44 per 1,000 gallons.

This proposal is made pending IRUA completing a detailed verification of the scope of improvements required at IRUA's water source, and confirming that a location can be secured where improvements may be constructed in a manner that is authorized and accepted by IRUA's water supply partner, the Newton Waterworks.

Connection to a regional water supply with IRUA would benefit the city through access to IRUA's bulk water purchase pricing model and would relieve the city's obligations that would be related to owning its own water supply and treatment systems (including: operation expenses, maintenance expenses, supply and treatment asset management, capital improvement planning, safety, elevated regulatory reporting and compliance, etc.). Also, by becoming a partner of a regional water supply Prairie City would contribute to, and benefit from, being a member of a larger water service population. The additional water users would create the opportunity to distribute the cost of water production over a larger service population, creating a greater economy of scale and enhanced ability to maintain affordability for communities, residences and businesses within Prairie City and throughout the other areas served by IRUA.

IRUA appreciates the opportunity to be considered as an alternative by the City of Prairie City as it evaluates its long-term water infrastructure planning. Please feel free to contact me if you have any follow-up questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Iowa Regional Utilities Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Mahler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Mahler, P.E.  
CEO/Engineer