PRESENT:
George Bennett
Trey Forbes
Tom Janes
Brandon Chordas
Doug Harp
Max Franklin
Mary Wysong

ALSO PRESENT:
Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm.

Council members went over to the courthouse for a tour of the renovation process.

CORRESPONDENCE
- Notice of the upcoming Legislative Conference February 6th and 7th

MINUTES
Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.   Max Franklin moved to approve the minutes.   Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.   Mary Wysong abstained due to be absent at the December meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Max Franklin had attended the Northeastern Center meeting and reported on some interesting facts such as the number one treatment for substance abuse is now marijuana with alcohol coming in second.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION
Zack Smith, Project Manager, reported on the courthouse renovation:
- Zack informed the council that the GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) agreement with Weigand Construction had be received.   Zack still feels that there is room for savings from the $11,229,327.00 GMP.
- Doug Harp asked about the outside work.   Zack explained that repair work to the roof is a part of the package, it is just not a replacement.   However, the roof will be sealed and the replacement of that roof can be pushed out another 5-10 years.   This speaks for the masonry work as well.   These need to be addressed sometime in the near future but is not an emergency need.

HIGHWAY
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering updates for the council:
- CCMG - call for projects for 2024 is now open and the amount of the funding available to counties now stands at 1.5 million.   Zack will be going for all available dollars and is asking the council to sign Letters of Financial Commitment for the two submissions. The 1st will be for Concrete Replacement on Edgewood Dr and also for Brookview Blvd. This is at an estimated cost of $515,000.00 with the county's cost at $128,750.00. The

second project is for asphalt overlays on CR 1000 E, CR 150 W, Northport Rd, and CR 1100 N. The estimate for these projects came in at $1,485,000.00 of which $371,250.00 will be the county's cost. Brandon Chordas moved to approve signing the commitment letters. Doug Harp seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

- LPA Projects Bridge 136 has had the pre-construction meeting and should be starting any time. Bridge 44 is slated for a summer start. And 400 N, the highway is doing some site work for the preparation of start on this project.
- Call for Project FY 2029 – Zack submitted 3 projects, which have been accepted for consideration. He will make presentations to the board on January 16, 2024.
- Engineer's Contract - Zack presented two contracts for the boards consideration for his employment beginning January 2025. One was for a salary of $225,000.00 beginning January 2025 with raises in 2026 and so on at the level afforded all other county employees. The second contract was in the amount of $180,000.00 but brought with it stipends for 3 other highway employees in the amount of $10,000.00 each. There was a lot of discussion on this with the majority not wanting to consider the 1st contract of $225,000.00 the topic shifted to the 2nd contract. Doug Harp wanted comparison salaries of other engineers. Most did not like the stipends associated with the 2nd contract. After a lengthy discussion, Mary Wysong moved to hold an executive session at 1:00 pm on Friday January 5, 2024 following it up with a special meeting set for 2:00 pm on January 5, 2024. Trey Forbes seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0

1782 NOTICES
Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, came before the council to inform them that the 1782 notices had been received and that the budgets were approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Tom Janes moved to nominate George Bennett as Council President for 2024. Doug Harp seconded and the notion carried 6-0. George Bennet abstained With no other nominations made, George will continue to be president of the Council.
Mary Wysong moved to nominate Doug Harp as vice- president, Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0. Doug Harp abstained. With no other nominations received, Doug Harp will replace Mary Wysong as the vice-president for 2024.

LIAISON APPOINTMENTS
- Max Franklin – IT, Clerk, Assessor and VSO
- Brandon Chordas – Health, Sheriff, Coroner, and Statewide 911
- Mary Wysong – Public Defender, Prosecutor and Probation
- George Bennett – Surveyor, Plan and Highway
- Tom Janes - EMA, Extension, courthouse Maintenance and Recorder
- Trey Forbes – Auditor, GIS and Building
- Doug Harp – Circuit, Superior I and Superior II and Treasurer

Liaison positions will stay the same for 2024 with a motion from Tom Janes. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carries 7-0.

2024 BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
- Max Franklin will serve on the Council on Aging, Northeastern Center and Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Doug Harp – Community Corrections, Region III-A and E911
- Mary Wysong – Job Class Committee, EMA and LEPC
- George Bennett – Job Class Committee, Plan Commission
- Brandon Chordas – EMS Board, Compensation Committee and Drug Free Noble County
- Tom Janes – Compensation Committee and EDC Board
- Trey Forbes – Compensation Committee and Abatement Committee

This will also remain the same as 2023 with the motion from Mary Wysong and a second from Brandon Chordas.   Motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:
There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being February 5, 2024.

Dated this____5____day of__FeBruary_____, 2024

_____   _____
Trey Forbes   Max Franklin

_____   _____
Mary Wysong   Brandon Chordas

_____   _____
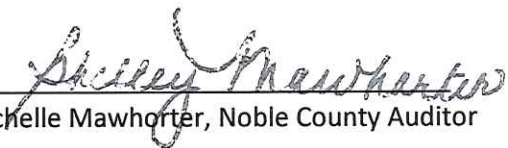Tom Janes   George Bennett

_____ABSENT_____
Doug Harp

ATTEST: _____
           Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor