

GOALS APPROVED BY COUNCIL

City of Sidney, Nebraska –April 21, 2016

Background and Introduction

On April 21, 2016, the Sidney City Council held a **Goal Setting Retreat** (Agenda and Process located in Attachment A). This retreat was preceded by a survey (Attachment B) of Council members and key City staff including the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk. Summary findings from the survey (presented at the retreat) can be found in Attachment C. This goal setting process was facilitated by Nebraska Extension (Attachment D). The following **Preliminary Findings** are being shared with the City to be reviewed, refined and finalized.

Questions and Additional Information

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Findings Organization

The goals prioritized during the retreat are listed from most important to least important followed by related unedited survey results (shaded). We hope this organization will help the City Council and key staff, **refine** their goals building on the work completed through this goal setting process.

Long-Term Goals

During the retreat, we first focused on longer-term goals or those to be prioritized in the next 3 to 5 years.

#1 Goal – Economic Development (4 votes)

- Industrial Park
- Business Park
- Attract New Businesses
- Executed Target Economic Development Study (in process) and Plan

Goal #1 – Your Concerns and Goals

- With these economic realities, we should, where feasible, dial back plans for infrastructure expansion and improvements until future growth is reasonably assured, not however, at the expense of or to impede realistic potential future growth.
- Recruiting businesses for Tyco facilities, Adams Industries complex, & Sidney Business Park
- Market our community strengths to potential employers and workforce
- Promote TE Connectivity building; Adams Industries space; available downtown spaces; available ex-Cabela's buildings, if they vacate them; industrial park lots
- Economic Development needs to be number 1 priority. It must be a "Targeted Economic Development Plan"
- Market our public amenities and host more events/tournaments to draw people to town. Most important these events must be coordinated with community to maximize economic opportunity
- Closer partnership with the city and business needed should be explored

#2 Goal – City Streets (3 votes - tie)

- Street Redevelopment Plan (i.e. 13th street and accompanying storm sewer connections)
- Street Maintenance Strategy (address problems before total redo is necessary)

#2 Goal – City Utilities (3 votes – tie)

- Utility Master Studies (develop implementation plan)

Goal #2 – Your Concerns and Goals

Curb appeal of community, continue to struggle to make progress on this matter

- Continuing road improvements; North side improvements
- Repairing/replacing infrastructure-streets, bridges, electrical services
- Develop a best practice plan for maintenance for our existing city streets; Evaluate how well City utility departments efficiently provide services to community
- Continue the water project and increasing access and pressure
- Improved services to interstate area if justified by growth
- Each of the utilities are on the right track; continue to increase the housing shortage it may be fine now but will again be a problem
- Improved services to interstate area if justified by growth

Continuing the next phase of the water project; 13th St. project & accompanying storm sewer connections to 10th street

#4 Goal – City Recreation Resources (2 votes – tie)

- Master Recreational Plan as part of Parks System Development

#4 Goal – City Public Facilities (2 votes – tie)

- Public Facilities Assessment
- Police
- City Hall
- Utility Departments

Goal #4 – Your Concerns and Goals

- Expansion of the trails system into & around more of the existing community; developing a parks "system" where individual parks/ greenspace complement each other, without necessarily replicating each other - rather than have just one nice park, incorporation of a splash pad/park at a location away from pool (see Yanney Park, Kearney, NE)
- The trail system generally is well received and we've made progress with the tennis and sand volleyball courts. The City should capitalize on its investment with the Community Center to assure accessible, accountable and growing recreational programs. Since the city owns many of the recreational facilities, perhaps consideration should be given to the city operating the programs. Develop master recreational plan, look at reconfiguring ball fields, areas for expansion and improvement.
- New police HQ; North side improvements

- How are we going to manage recreation programs for the community?
- City Council should lead by example when considering costly initiatives
- Finding balance of cash reserve/rates/revenues for individual departments
- New police department building; North Side recreational park/opportunities, though we need to understand the opportunities, needs and challenges.

Goals that were nominated during the retreat but were not top rated for long term goals:

Better Business Communications with City

Honor Half-Cent Sales Tax Commitments

Budget process financial reports, controls

Fiscal responsibility

Burlington Northern overpass/underpass

Help develop workforce and keep update

Short-Term Goals

Following completion of the longer-term goals process we focused on shorter-term goals or those to be prioritized during the next year to two years.

#1 Goal – Economic Development (5 votes)

- Industrial Park
- Business Park
- Attract New Businesses
- Executed Target Economic Development Study (in process) and Plan

#2 Goal – Broaden Long-Term Financing Options (4 votes)

- Fiscal responsibility/ bonded indebtedness
- Fiscal Responsibility expense management
- 1-3 and 5-year financial Plan

#3 Goal – City Streets (3 votes)

- Street Maintenance Strategy (multi-prong approach)

#4 Goal – Parks and Recreation Strategy and Development (2 votes)

Goals that were nominated during the retreat but were not determined to be among the top priorities:

Rebuild 13th Street and Accompanying Storm Sewer Connections

Honor One-Half Sales Tax Commitments

Budget cuts in time of economic uncertainty

Promote community, public amenities, hotels, tourism

Continue Implementation of water system, phases/projects

Community Goal

- Renewal of ½ sales Tax – (Nov 2017??)