

Sidney, Nebraska, August 4, 2014 A Fair Housing City

A special meeting for the purpose of budget workshops with the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 12:07 P.M. on August 4, 2014 in the Council Room. Present were: Mayor Gaston & Council Members: Arterburn, Nienhueser, Gallaway and Gay. Others present: City Manager Person and City Clerk Anthony. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in *The Sidney Sun Telegraph*, the designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the City Council. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Gaston informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Budget Workshops proceeded as follows:

Water Superintendent Bill Taylor and Public Service Director John Hehnke introduced Lauren Benton of Diamondback Engineering who presented the recent Water Study that she and her company had performed for the City of Sidney Water Department. She reviewed the background information, future water demand projections, Water Systems deficiencies, proposed improvements to align with future developments, etc. The projects they had presented for the updating and upgrading of Sidney's water system were as follows: 1. East Booster Pump Station & suction piping improvements; 2. High pressure zone distribution piping; 3. High pressure zone elevated storage; 4. High pressure zone transmission piping; and 5. Trunk main to 600,000 gallon storage tank. Discussion was held on each project and the consensus was to prioritize Project #1 and #3 and that the engineering and design be authorized as soon as possible. After the study presentation, Bill and John reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 - \$2,111,177. Increase in rates and fees will be addressed before finalizing the budget. A survey of other communities was suggested. Council's suggested changes were to incorporate a line item in the budget to provide for engineering of Projects #1 and #3.

Wastewater/Sewer Department proposed budgets were presented by Todd Sukup, Bill Taylor and John Hehnke for an overall total proposed budget in the amount of \$1,563,360. Major increase was due to capital improvements needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Increase in rates and fees will be addressed before finalizing the budget.

A conference telephone call was made to Ken Fairchild of Olsson Associates in order for Mr. Fairchild to review the progress to date of the Electric Study that the City had contracted. Considerable discussion was had with Mr. Fairchild regarding the current status of the Electric system, as well as future needs.

Public Service Coordinator John Hehnke and Electric Superintendent Mike Palmer presented their proposed budgets in the combined amount of \$10,235,574 and reviewed the large capital projects.

At 3:15 p.m., the City Council paused the workshop in order to attend a tour of the Wheatbelt building for possible facilities for the public service departments. The workshop was re-convened at 4:00 p.m.

Library's proposed budget in the amount of \$514,682 was presented by Doris Jenson, Library Director, and Elizabeth Soucie, Library Board Member. A letter from Cheyenne County was presented, in which the Commissioners suggest that the title to the Bookmobile vehicle be transferred to the City of Sidney due to their insurance carrier having concerns with a City of Sidney employee driving the vehicle owned by Cheyenne County. At this time their intention is to continue the payments to the City of Sidney as per the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sidney. In reviewing said agreement, the Council felt it should be revised in order to fit it to current needs.

Transportation's proposed budget in the amount of \$288,782 was reviewed by City Manager Gary Person. This department is funded by Federal and State grants, as well as contributions from the Visitor's Committee for The Stage.

Street Department's proposed budget in the amount of \$10,994,958 was presented by Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent and John Hehnke. They reviewed the requested capital items: i.e. new equipment bay (\$140,000), new dump truck (\$190,000) and new loader (\$200,000), the new sales tax revenue for streets and storm water projects, as well as all the street projects. Consensus of the Council was that a new item needed to be added to start the engineering phase for the replacement of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Notification of flood repair funds from FEMA was received and will be rebudgeted.

Police Department proposed budget in the amount of \$1,794,962 was presented by Chief of Police B.J. Wilkinson. This budget includes adding a new officer to the current numbers of the Police Department. Discussion regarding a new law enforcement facility was held

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

/s/WENDALL GASTON, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/G.F. ANTHONY, CITY CLERK











