

Sidney, Nebraska, August 13, 2014 A Fair Housing City

A special meeting for the purpose of budget workshops with the Mayor & Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 12:08 P.M. on August 13, 2014 in the Council Room. Present were: Mayor Gaston & Council Members: Arterburn, Nienhueser, Galloway and Gay. Others present: City Manager Person, City Clerk Anthony and Public Services Director Hehnke. 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: Current and projected debt service was discussed as well as how all the possible projects could affect the mill levy in the future. As soon as the assessed valuation figures for this year are received from the Cheyenne County Assessor, the mill levy will be calculated and be part of projected budgets at the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. A policy for the disbursement of the new sales tax for streets was discussed. Several scenarios were suggested. Staff will revise the Street budget to split out the affected projects that can be used for these funds. These also will be part of the proposed budgets that the Council will consider at the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Arterburn moved, Nienhueser seconded "That the City Council now hold a closed session for the purpose of personnel matters." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Mayor Gaston stated that the Council would now go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was called back into open session at 1:26 p.m.

Discussion was held different ways to reduce the budgets. Departments that have asked for additional employees will be asked to withdraw their request, postpone until later in the fiscal year or modify their budgets to keep within a designated dollar figure. Several proposals which would reduce the costs of health insurance premiums in all departments were discussed as well as Wellness programs. Staff will be discussing this with our health insurance representatives and provide more information to the Council at the next meeting. As soon as all questions have been resolved regarding health insurance premiums, the proposed budgets will be updated with the department head's participation to reduce line items to help balance the budgets. This will then be sent to the Council as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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WENDALL GASTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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G.F. ANTHONY, CITY CLERK













