

Sidney, Nebraska, August 9, 2016 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 & public session at 1:15 P.M. on August 9, 2016 in the Council Room. Present were: Mayor Nienhueser & Council Members: Arterburn, Gaston, Gallaway & Gay. Others present: City Manager Sadler & 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. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the members of the City Council. 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 Nienhueser informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Budget Workshop:

City Manager Sadler prefaced the budget workshops with an overview of his first time thru the City of Sidney's budget process. One of his main concerns was that the Electric Fund and the General Fund are probably paying far more than their fair share of costs, and that over the next couple of years he would like to work toward rectifying this situation. The burden of paying for administration should be shared by all. Therefore, supplies and postage issues are addressed in each budget for this year. Also, of the three departments that are requesting an additional employee, only one will be seen in this year's budget due to the ongoing uneasiness of Sidney's economy. If that straightens out, the issue of the other two additional employees will be addressed at that time. Another change will be seen in the Special Projects category where programs will be expanded to include more of the requests for funds from outside the municipalities departments that are currently scattered throughout the General Fund departments. This coming year will also see a reduction in the number of vehicles in its General Fund fleet. A philosophical issue that Mr. Sadler would like to see implemented is the creation of a reserve for equipment purchases rather than borrowing funds or purchasing all in one year.

City Manager Sadler then proceeded to review each department's budget as follows:

Aquatic Center's proposed budget for this next year is \$152,620 vs. \$4,536,409 for last year that included the new Aquatic Center. Department Head Tom Von Seggern was present to assist with questions, such as the labor force problems and how they will be addressed for next season.

Cemetery's proposed budget is \$176,785 vs. \$173,851 for last year. This year's budget includes a new mower and an improved security system.

Park's proposed budget is \$911,528 vs. \$1,065,002 for last year. This year's budget includes a Park Study. Also, the Living Memorial Gardens has been transferred to the Special Projects budget. Park's Department requested an additional employee, but it is not in the currently proposed budget.

Fire Department's proposed budget is \$726,024 vs. \$160,044 for last year's. This year's budget includes \$485,000 for a new fire truck.

General Administration's proposed budget is \$1,779,900 vs. \$2,265,274 for last year's budget. This is one of the budgets that had a request for funds that really belonged in the Special Project budget. This includes the fireworks display and insurance, the ambulance subsidy, Chamber of Commerce & Compass and the Communication's Center.

Library's proposed budget is \$677,972 vs. \$514,251 for last year's budget. The proposed budget included \$160,000 towards a new bookmobile. Andrew Sherman, Library Director, was present and participated in a discussion re: the County is providing some of the expense for a new bookmobile since in the past that was under their ownership.

Golf Department's proposed budget is \$566,824 vs. \$589,656 for last year's budget. An additional employee was requested for this department but is not included in the currently proposed budget.

Police Department's proposed budget is \$1,807,076 vs. \$1,889,466 for last year's budget. Discussion was held in regards to the Police Department's building. Since funds are not available for a new building, the proposed budget includes some minor remodeling of the east entrance to better utilize the space that is there. Other items included were replacement cars and a new file server. Police Chief Aikens was present and provided information regarding the radio systems.

Economic Development Department's proposed budget is \$172,570 vs. \$150,000 for last year's budget.

Inspection Department's proposed budget is \$167,589 vs. \$212,343 for last year's budget. Building maintenance for the Municipal Building was transferred to this department.

Transportation Department's proposed budget is \$262,327 vs. \$290,021 for last year's budget. \$6,000 for the City's share of a new bus for the Stage Line was included in the proposed budget.

Special Projects' proposed budget is \$3,045,000 vs. \$3,900,000 for last year's budget. Includes the transfer of Memorial Gardens, Chamber of Commerce, Fireworks Display and Insurance, Ambulance Service and the Communication Center.

Street Department's proposed budget is \$6,105,251 vs \$10,209,444 for last year's budget. The 13<sup>th</sup> Street construction project in the amount of \$2,850,000 was included in the proposed budget. This department is basically funded by the Nebraska Department of Roads (\$753,921), by property tax (151,000) and by sales tax (\$516,160 annually). Discussion was held as to the use of the three year's worth of sales tax. The storm water sales tax is also received and disbursed thru the Street Department's budget.

Electric Department's proposed budget is \$10,127,820 vs. \$10,072,286 for last year's budget. A new position has been included in this budget; i.e. electrician/lineman, which would be funded partially from fees charged for this service to the customers. The expectation is that this position would make more than it would cost.

Gaston moved, Gallaway seconded "That that the new position be approved for the Electric Department." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Water Department's proposed budget is \$3,605,200 vs. \$6,126,590 for last year's budget. The large water project was begun in the last fiscal year and, hopefully, will finish this coming fiscal year. Said project is financed with an SRF Loan from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control. Another project is to relocate water lines at the Jennifer Lane interchange.

Sewer Department's proposed budget is \$1,755,100 vs. \$1,139,507 for last year's budget. The proposed budget includes \$60,000 for a used dump truck and \$600,000 for WWTF drying beds, contingent on receiving a SRF loan, etc.

Solid Waste Department's proposed budget is \$1,845,179 vs. \$2,032,327 for last year's budget. A \$220,000 truck was purchased out of the last year's budget. Discussion was held re: the contract with Raffleson for mulch out of our wood pile. A review of that contract was advised.

City Manager Sadler reviewed the employee's health insurance package information that will be presented by Holmes Murphy at the 7:15 p.m. meeting. He also reviewed a proposal from R. Baird for underwriting service for the City's bonding.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

/s/Mark Nienhueser MAYOR

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













