

Sidney, Nebraska, January 23, 2018 A Fair Housing City

A meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 7:15 P.M. on January 23, 2018 in the Council Room. Present were: Vice Mayor Gallaway and Council Members: Gaston, Utley and Olsen. Absent: Mayor Arterburn. Others present: City Manager Sadler, City Attorney Sonntag 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.

Vice Mayor Gallaway informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Gaston moved, Olsen seconded "That Mayor Arterburn be excused from the meeting." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present. Absent: Arterburn.

Utley moved, Gaston seconded "That the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present. Absent: Arterburn.

Denise Wilkinson, Cheyenne County Chamber CEO/President presented the First Quarter Update for Chamber Activities/Economic Development Assistance re: 1. Chamber restructure; 2. Update on retail incentive assistant contacts and action; 3. Outline of other activities in assisting the Economic Development Director; and 4. Update on Hickory Square project. Denise also thanked the City and their employees for their assistance during recent events. She also shared that the Chamber's Economic Development Chairman is Greg Huck.

Library Director Andrew Sherman presented the Annual Library Report which included statistics and results achieved for the fiscal year of October 2016 through September 2017. Highlights were: increase in both the physical and digital use of the library with the addition of the NiMC/Sidney Create Makerspace and the Sun-Telegraph Digital Newspaper Archive; and grants for which they are applying. Goals for the coming year were also reviewed.

Paula Abbott and Melissa Norgard gave a presentation re: Western Nebraska Community College's Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center and Panhandle Resource meetings for start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Human Resources Director Jo Houser provided information regarding bonus and longevity pay that City employees received. Both benefits are outlined in our employee handbook and are figured on a percentage based on the length of time an employee has been with the City. These benefits have been a part of the Employee Handbook for many years and is approved during the budgeting process each year. She reported that she was asked about other communities – some provide only longevity, some provide

only bonuses. The responses are all over the board with various ways of calculating, but the short answer was yes other communities provide these benefits. Council comments as well as one member of the public, Paul Kampfe, were supportive of incentives to encourage good employees to stay longer which seems to work for the City of Sidney as evidenced by the longevity of many of their employees. Council Member Olsen, as one of the newer council persons, said he was responsible for asking the question about longevity and bonuses so he was appreciative of the information in order for him to understand the employee's handbook, etc.

Melissa Norgard, Economic Development Director, asked the City Council to consider a grant request be made to the State of Nebraska for Agri-Plastics Site and Building Development Fund. The City of Sidney will be granted \$200,000 from the State Economic Development which in turn would be granted to Agri-Plastics. Gaston moved, Olsen seconded "That the grant application and entering a contract with the State of Nebraska for Agri-Plastics be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present. Absent: Arterburn.

Transportation Coordinator Dave Doty presented information on a grant application for the Transportation Department with the State of Nebraska. In conjunction with same, Dave provided pertinent information about the services that the City provides with their Transportation Department. Utley moved, Gaston seconded "That Resolution No. 20180101 be passed and adopted." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present. Absent: Arterburn.

RESOLUTION NO. 20180101

WHEREAS, there are Federal funds available under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA), and for Nebraska Public Transportation Act Funds, and

WHEREAS, the City of Sidney, Nebraska, desires to apply for said funds to be used to provide public transportation within the Corporate Limits of the City of Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska with special emphasis on meeting the needs of the elderly and disabled as well as being available to all of the general public within the Corporate Limits of the City of Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, hereby instructs the City Manager and Transportation Director to apply for the above mentioned funds. Said funds are to be used for fiscal year 2018-2019.

City Manager's/Staff Report: Memo regarding snow removal will be forthcoming. Due to the need for easy access to the City Attorney for the department heads, it has been proposed that J. spend a couple of hours a month at City Hall. More information will be shared when that has been worked out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

/s/ ROGER GALLAWAY, VICE-MAYOR

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

