

Sidney, Nebraska, September 22, 2020 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 September 22, 2020 in the Council Room. Present were: Mayor Gallaway and Council Members: Arterburn, Sherman, Radcliffe and Olsen. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Attorney Leef and City Clerk Heilbrun. 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 Gallaway informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Sherman moved, Arterburn seconded “That the minutes of the September 8, 2020 (regular meeting) and September 8, 2020 (budget hearing) meetings be approved as printed.” Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Jessica Smith, 614 Main, Dalton, NE spoke during comments by the public re: being removed from the Sidney Public Library without a mask due to COVID 19 requirements.

Hope Feeney, Cheyenne County Chamber Director, presented the Chamber’s 4th Quarter report. She noted that they had changed their contact procedures from mailers to social media and phone calls, which has resulted in an uptake in responses. They put together an electronic workbook as a guide for interested businesses, which has been well received. She noted that in lieu of Hickory Street Square activities they have focused their attention on supporting the City of Sidney Downtown Master Plan initiative, and will continue to promote this initiative with direction from Melissa Norgard.

Melissa Norgard, Economic Development Director, presented a Request for Proposal for a Comprehensive Housing Study and Needs Assessment. She explained that the housing needs of Sidney have changed since 2012, when the last Comprehensive Plan was done, and that in order to apply for a housing grant a study is required. She noted that the Nebraska Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund has pledged \$10,000 for the Study. This enables the City to apply for an additional \$10,000 matching NIFA grant for the Study. It was clarified that the locations for housing development are not just for new developments, i.e., the Ranch and Prairie Winds Subdivisions, but will be directed toward the present needs of current Sidney residents including rehabilitation of existing neighborhood development.

Sherman moved, Radcliffe seconded “That the RFP for a Comprehensive Housing Study and Needs Assessment be approved.” Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

City Manager/Staff Report: **City Manager Scott** reported that they are waiting to hear if the Police Department’s application for reimbursement of salaries through the CARES Act has been accepted. **Chief Aikens** noted that the County is putting in an application for the Communications Center for salary reimbursement through this program, also.

Mayor and Council Comments: **Mayor Gallaway** reported that there is a vacancy on the Airport Authority which will be advertised; and that there will be a Library Board appointment on the next agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

/s/ ROGER GALLAWAY, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/ CYNTHIA K. HEILBRUN, CITY CLERK

