

Sidney, Nebraska, January 26, 2021 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 6:15 P.M. on January 26, 2021 in the Council Room. Present in person or by electronic means 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 noted that Governor Ricketts Executive Order No. 20-36 allows governing bodies to meet by electronic communications from December 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021, as long as such meeting access is available to members of the public and members of the media.

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

Radcliffe moved, Arterburn seconded “That the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting be approved as printed. Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Mayor Gallaway announced that a public hearing would now be held at 6:17 p.m. regarding the Retail Class D Liquor License Application of CF ALTITUDE LLC dba ALTA #6232, at 440 E Illinois Street in Sidney and Manager Application for the Corporation of Carolyn McElhaney; and RESOLUTION NO. 20210102 making a recommendation to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

Rich Spessor, president of Alta Convenience Stores, gave a brief outline of their company which consists of 107 stores in 4 states. He noted that CF Altitude/Alta will be partnering with Phillips 66 on this joint venture. He outlined the company’s training policies regarding alcohol and tobacco sales which includes a no tolerance policy if employees sell to minors. Also present from Alta Convenience were Janessa Bard, ASM and Carolyn McElhaney, local manager.

There were no public comments regarding the application.

Mayor Gallaway closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m., and asked for a motion on the request.

Radcliffe moved, Sherman seconded “That Resolution No. 20210102 be approved.” Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

RESOLUTION NO 20210102

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, NEBRASKA AS FOLLOWS:

That the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska hereby recommends approval of the Retail Class “D” Liquor License Application of CF Altitude LLC, dba Alta #6232, located at 440 E Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska; and

That the Manager Application of Carolyn McElhaney for CF Altitude LLC, dba Alta #6232, located at 440 E Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska, be approved; and

That the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission be notified of said recommendation.

Melissa Norgard, Economic Development Director, gave an update on Economic Development projects including CDBG Funds for Tourism Development for the Elk’s Building, Housing Study Grant and Update, Creation of Downtown Business Association, Downtown Master Plan Priority List and

Timeline, LB840 Fund Allocation Update, and Continued Business Recruitment Efforts.

She noted that there will be a meeting of the newly created Downtown Business Association on February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Building from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for anyone interested in participating. Businesses located from the train bridge on east Illinois to 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on west Illinois, as well as businesses along Jackson and King will be eligible to participate in this group. She stressed that this Association will not replace the Chamber of Commerce, but work in conjunction with them.

Hope Feeney, Cheyenne County Chamber Director presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report on behalf of the Chamber. She noted that an electronic county-wide survey is being conducted to gain insight into what types of retail and service businesses people would like to see downtown. The surveys are due back by January 31, 2021 with approximately 368 returned to date. She noted that their focus this quarter was on member visits for feedback on what will bolster business, i.e., Small Business Saturday, Shopping cards, etc. Next quarter will be geared more toward non-member visits, offering a helping hand in acclimating to the community, etc.

Mayor Gallaway proposed a virtual tour of the community with a 360-degree panorama tour of the City to draw people to Sidney. Hope will pursue this idea.

Library Director, Richard Sandstrom presented the 2019-2020 Annual Report for the Sidney Public Library. He noted that although use of the library declined compared to last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, they still had a good year and were able to complete multiple maintenance projects that were needed.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Rob Kuhns presented bids for a 2021 3/4-ton, gasoline engine, 4x4 Pickup Truck for the Sewer Department. The new pickup would replace a 2008 1/2-ton pickup that will be sold at auction. Kuhns explained that there was no State Bid available at this time. Three bids were received for the pickup as follows: Panhandle Auto \$31,215.90 for a 2500HD Silverado, Team Auto Center \$31,615.00 for a 2500HD Silverado, and Janssen Ford \$30,039.00 for a Ford F250. Kuhns explained that although the Janssen bid was lower than the Panhandle bid, they would have to go out of town for repairs if there was any trouble with it. He recommended that Council approve the bid from Panhandle Auto in the amount of \$31,215.90, which is below the \$33,000 budgeted amount.

Olsen moved, Sherman seconded "That the bid for a 3/4-ton, gasoline engine, 4x4 Pickup Truck for the Sewer Department be awarded to Panhandle Auto in the amount of \$31,215.90 for a 2500HD Silverado." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

City Manager Scott reported on the Traffic Light Study at the intersection of Ft. Sidney Road and Pole Creek Crossing. He explained that for a traffic signal to be warranted, an engineering study of the intersection is required to determine if at least one of nine predefined traffic signal warrants are satisfied. The engineering analysis was prepared by M.C. Schaff & Associates based on existing conditions during the week of November 17 – November 24, 2020. It was determined that this location did not meet any of the nine warrants required for a traffic light. Scott noted that other options for the intersection at the City's cost could be a 4-way stop, metal rails removed from the top of cement barrier to increase visibility, or other inexpensive solutions. Councilman Olsen suggested that the timing of the study in November and a possible one in the summer, when the pool is open, could vary greatly. Consensus was to put this item on the next agenda and have a representative from M.C. Schaff & Associates, who was unable to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict, present at the meeting to answer questions.

**City Manager/Staff Report:** **City Manager** Scott reported 1) that there will probably be a City auction this spring or summer for City vehicles and equipment no longer being used by City staff. He was aware of two buses from the transportation dept. as well vehicles from the police dept. and other miscellaneous items for the auction. He noted that auctions have been virtual due to COVID, but could possibly be live by spring/summer; 2) There will be a couple of new faces in the City offices in the upcoming weeks/months as Lori Borchert has been promoted to the position of Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and Kim Phillips as Account Clerk III. Two new employees are slated to start February 8<sup>th</sup> to fill the open positions of Administrative Assistant – Kellie Mowery, and Utility Billing Clerk – Roxanne McCool. He will be conducting interview this week to fill the open position of Human Resources Director following the retirement of Jo Houser. **Library Director Richard Sandstrom** noted that system upgrades at the library will be taking place in the near future which could cause temporary outages. **Electric Supt. Mike Palmer** reported that he had recently attending MEAN and ACE board meetings which included discussion re: a Rate Study. He shared that Sidney will be receiving an ACE distribution in the next couple of weeks; **Water/Sewer Supt. Rob Kuhns** reported that he had attended a Zoom meeting with the State re: EPA regulations on lead & copper, with lots of changes coming in the next 3 years during implementation.

**City Council comments:** **Mayor Gallaway** congratulated Lori Borchert on her promotion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

/s/ROGER GALLAWAY, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/CYNTHIA K HEILBRUN, CITY CLERK

