

Sidney, Nebraska, February 23, 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 February 23, 2021 in the Council Room. Present in person 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.

Arterburn moved, Sherman seconded "That the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting be approved as amended. Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Mayor Gallaway announced that a public hearing would now be held at 6:23 p.m. regarding the Authorization for Federal Funds for 5311 Funding Application for the City of Sidney Transportation Operating Assistance for a two-year time frame of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023; and consideration of Resolution No. 20210205 re: same.

Transportation Director Kasey Kantor presented an update on the Transportation program including changes implemented due to COVID 19. These changes included the elimination of the Stageline route and the addition of another Dial-a-Ride bus, bringing the total to two. City Manager Scott noted that the CARES Act is still reimbursing the program at 100% through April or May, 2021.

There being no further comments, Mayor Gallaway closed the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. and asked for a motion to pass Resolution 20210205.

Radcliffe moved, Olsen seconded "That Resolution No. 20210205 be passed." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 20210205**

#### **Authorization for Federal Funds for 5311 Funding Application for the City of Sidney Transportation Operating Assistance**

WHEREAS, there are federal funds available under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act for the Nebraska Public Transportation Assistance Program, and

WHEREAS, the City of Sidney Pubic Transportation Project desires to apply for said funds for Operating Assistance to provide general public transportation for the City of Sidney service area, for the two-year time frame of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Project by source funds are \$463,000 in federal funds, \$77,000 in state funds and \$77,000 in local funds from the City of Sidney,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Roger Gallaway, Mayor for the City of Sidney, hereby instructs the City of Sidney to apply for said funds immediately after the passage of this Resolution.

Jeff Jung, on behalf of Rauner & Associates, presented a power point on the audited City of Sidney Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. He thanked City staff for their assistance during preparation of the audit, which was challenging due to COVID restrictions. He noted that upon approval the audit will be submitted to the State Auditor's Office by the deadline of March 31, 2021. Radcliffe moved, Olsen seconded "That the Fiscal Year Audit for 2019-2020 be accepted as presented." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Don Dye, M.C. Schaff & Associates, presented the bids for the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvement Project, Illinois Street to Pine Street as received on February 16, 2021 as follows: **Eric Reichert Insulation & Construction** \$2,204,437.40 with a proposed start date of 4/15/2021; **Paul Reed Construction & Supply** \$2,371,441.06 with a start date of 6/15/2021; and **Myers Construction** \$3,580,099.26 with a start date of 7/15/2021.

Dye noted that an inspector from his firm would be on site at all times to monitor the project. Upon review of the contractor's bid documents and relevant project experience, Dye recommended award of the project to Eric Reichert Insulation in the amount of \$2,204,437.40.

Olsen moved, Arterburn seconded "That the bid for the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvement Project, Illinois Street to Pine Street, be awarded to Eric Reichert Insulation & Construction in the amount of \$2,204,437.40." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Don Dye, M.C. Schaff & Associates, presented the bids for the Elm Street Water and Street Improvement Project, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue as received on February 16, 2021 as follows: **Paul Reed Construction** \$808,505.58 and a start date of 7/5/2021; **Eric Reichert Insulation & Construction, Inc.** \$888,823.58 and a start date of 6/1/2021; **Myers Construction** \$1,207,296.75 and a start date of 7/15/21.

Dye estimated a 90-day timeframe for completion of the project. He recommended award of the project to the low bidder, Paul Reed Construction, in the amount of \$808,505.58. Discussion was held as to whether Paul Reed Construction could begin the project June 1<sup>st</sup> instead of July 5<sup>th</sup> in order to finish the project prior to the start of school at North Elementary. Dye was instructed to press for an earlier start date from them if possible.

Radcliffe moved, Sherman seconded "That the bid for the Elm Street Water and Street Improvement Project, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, be awarded to Paul Reed Construction in the amount of \$808,505.58." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

City Manager Scott noted that public meetings/notification of residents in the affected areas prior to the beginning of construction would be conducted. Eric Reichert noted that they will go door to door with project flyers.

LaVerne Bown, Sidney Volunteer Fire Department Chief, presented an updated Interstate Mutual Aid Association Interlocal Agreement, which would include departments along or adjacent to the I-80 corridor. The purpose of the Agreement is to provide mutual aid if requested, as well as being protected in doing so. ~~The Tri-State Mutual Aid Association Interlocal Agreement~~ would include the communities and rural fire protection districts of Big Springs, Chappell, Lodgepole, Sidney, Sidney Rural Fire District #1, Gurley, Dalton, Potter, Dix, Kimball, Bushnell, and Harrisburg, NE, and Crook and Peetz, CO. It will serve as an update to the existing agreement between the City of Sidney and Sidney Rural Fire District#1. City Attorney Leef has reviewed the agreement on behalf of the City of Sidney.

Radcliffe moved, Sherman seconded "That the Tri-State Mutual Aid Association Interlocal Agreement be approved, and the Mayor be directed to sign said Agreement on behalf of the City of Sidney." Roll call vote: Yeas: All council members present.

Mike Palmer, Electric Distribution Superintendent, reviewed the Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) program which began in 1998. He explained that this year's selection period will run from March 18<sup>th</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He noted that the City of Sidney is the largest ACE community in Nebraska, having received \$226,300 in revenue distributions back to the City since its inception. These returns are used for community improvements such as the ballfield lights which will be installed this week. He presented the Mayor with a check for Sidney's distribution for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$31,699.00.

**City Manager/Staff Report: City Manager Scott 1)** reported that the Link 17J Street Project is scheduled to begin on March 22, 2021. There will be a public meeting at the Community Center on March 16, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. regarding the project. Weekly progress meetings will also be held throughout the duration of the project; **2)** He introduced Autumn Ramirez as the new Human Resources Director for the City of Sidney; **Police Chief Joe Aikens** urged everyone to be extremely cautious and patient this summer with all the construction projects going on, and suggested that reminders be put on the City's Facebook page(s) regarding these projects; **Street Supt. Hank Radtke** noted that crack sealing bids would be opened on February 24<sup>th</sup> and the project hopefully done by spring. **2)** He thanked the Street crew and other City departmental employees who helped with snow removal during the recent snow event; **Electric Dist Supt. Mike Palmer** reported that the City of Sidney was not affected by the rolling blackouts during the recent storm, and **2)** reminded everyone of the Youth Basketball tournament this weekend at the Community Center; **Library Director Richard Sandstrom** reported that more and more people are frequenting the Library.

**City Council comments: Mayor Gallaway** was excited to see the street projects moving forwarded after nearly 8 years of delays. **2)** He congratulated all the City employees for their dedication during the recent snow storm; **3)** Congratulated the Sidney Girls' basketball team on their trip to District finals on Friday, wished the Boys' Basketball team good luck with their bid for Districts, and congratulated the Sidney Dance and Cheer team on placing at the State competition; **Councilman Sherman** congratulated and welcomed the new City employees; **Councilman Arterburn** asked for clarification on Council members participation at the State Legislative hearing re: the Game & Parks Commission's proposed move to Sidney. City Attorney Leef clarified that there was no impropriety with attendance of members of the City Council at this meeting as this is an issue that the State votes on and not the City of Sidney; **2)** He congratulated the wrestlers attending the State tournament.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

/s/ROGER GALLAWAY, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/CYNTHIA K HEILBRUN, CITY CLERK