

Sidney, Nebraska, March 24, 2021 A Fair Housing City

A special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 12:06 P.M. on March 24, 2021 in the Council Chambers. Present were: Mayor Gallaway and Council Members: Sherman, Arterburn, and Radcliffe. Absent: Olsen. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Attorney Leef, Economic Development Director Norgard, and City Clerk Heilbrun. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Sidney Sun Telegraph, a 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 that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Gallaway stated that the Council would now hold an Economic Development Workshop re: Cabela's Occupation Tax Funds.

City Manager Scott gave background on the Cabela's Occupation Tax Funds stating that in 2008 Cabela's started charging an Occupation Tax at the Sidney retail location at one-half cent per dollar to utilize on bike and pedestrian trail projects located within or adjacent to the Enhanced Employment Area.

Upon completion of the acquisition of Cabela's by Bass Pro Shops, the company no longer collected the Occupation Tax and has repeatedly told the City they have no interest in being involved with projects associated with these funds. The total of Occupation Tax funds is \$741,068.276.

City Attorney Leef noted that a letter had been sent to Bass Pro with the City's proposed use of the funds and a stipulation that if no response is received the City will assume they are okay with the proposal. They did not respond.

Several ideas for utilizing the funds were discussed including: 1) Engineer and design services to connect trailhead by the Quality Inn across Old Post Road to the trails surrounding Cabela's pond, retail and former corporate buildings; 2) Map of trail and Signage with distances to landmarks (park, downtown, fairgrounds, etc.) Trailhead at Quality Inn, Trailhead at 11th Ave. & Old Post Rd., Cabela's Campground; 3) Beautification along the existing trail in the Enhanced Employment Area (along Old Post Rd) with trees trashcans, benches, lighting, etc. It was suggested that the North side of Old Post Rd. be made a priority as the South side already has improvements.

Vicky Loghry suggested that bicycle and pedestrian safety be considered when installing improvements, noting that truckers and travelers staying at motels in that area have no sidewalk to use when going to restaurants, shopping locations, etc. She also stressed that signage is important for travelers and individuals coming into Sidney for events, etc.

It was suggested that RDG Planning & Design, the consultants for the Downtown Master Plan, be contacted to review the area and offer suggestions based on the list of priorities, including trails on both or one side of Old Post Rd, beautification, signage etc. City Attorney Leef noted that this would have to be an agenda item at a future council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

/s/ROGER GALLAWAY, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/CYNTHIA K HEILBRUN, CITY CLERK