A Planning and Workshop Session of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 12:04 P.M. on February 22, 2022 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Gallaway and Council Members: Arterburn, Sherman, Radcliffe and Olsen. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Clerk Borchert, City Attorney Leef, Financial Director Kizzire and Human Resources, Ramirez. 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.

City Manager David Scott presented to Council highlights of the Planning Session. Scott stated that a City Inspector has been hired and will begin duties on February 28.   There were four candidates that were interviewed. The city has hired four Police Officers in the last 12 months.   There have been no hires for the Library Director or the Economic Development Director.   The city has been in contact with a potential candidate for the Economic Development Director and the Golf Director but they have not yet responded.

Scott said that he is staying on top of Economic Development even though we are without a director. The E3 – and local community fund is progressing very well. Arterburn asked what the goal is. Gallaway stated it is "finding, promoting and attracting" whether it is entrepreneurs or businesses.   Scott is working on the Housing and Blight Study as well as the TIF incentive program.   Scott stated that he is leaving no stone unturned.

Scott stated that the Council approved the changes to the LB840 plan which will be instrumental in the workforce development. Leef asked how it is authorized for funding. Leef stated that up until now, LB840 and TIF's are the only options for funding economic development. Scott stated that LB840 wasn't usable for housing until recently. Leef said we could not use tax payer dollars. Scott said the legislature created this program, but you have to jump through all the hoops and follow the requirements. Leef stated that the funds come from donations, state funds or grants. Scott concurred.

Olsen asked what type of background Scott is looking at for the candidate for Economic Development. Scott said he was looking for someone who will promote the city, granting and office skills, someone who would work good with the community leaders, someone that is result driven.   Gallaway added educational background. Arterburn suggested someone that is invested in the community.   Scott stated that he has not received very many applications from locals.

Gallaway asked where we are advertising for ED. Ramirez stated LinkedIn, NEDA, League of Municipalities, NMPP, Sidney Sun Telegraph, Star Herald as well as reaching out to universities.   Olsen asked how many responses we have had. Ramirez replied with three.

Scott stated that he attended a SGBD Programmatic Agreement Community meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Scott said he got a lot of great contacts.   Scott said he felt it was a great opportunity to pitch Sidney to them. Arterburn asked what the chances are of Sidney being the hub for this and do we want to be.   Scott replied that he didn't know if we would be right away. Originally, they were thinking Kimball would be the center location. Olsen asked Scott if he could prepare a packet for them. Scott responded that he could put something together. Scott also stated that he was trying to pitch the industrial park, even if we were not the central hub.

Council asked Scott about the Inland Port Authority. Scott stated that he got a template from Fremont for the interlocal agreement, a resolution and everything they had concerning the Inland Port Authority.   Scott stated that we already have the private business interest whereas the bigger cities are going after the mega businesses, such as Amazon. Scott reported to Council that he still has a lot of questions that he needs answers to.

Scott reported that Rauner and Associates will be present at the Council meeting to give their annual Audit

presentation for the 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year End.

Gallaway talked about the downtown light poles. Discussion was held about the different type of light poles that could be placed downtown.   Gallaway stated that we need to create a corridor that is unique.

Discussion was held about the hanging of banners by business and organizations on the city streets.   It was discussed briefly about putting a plan together regarding the banners.

Utility rates were discussed. Scott stated landfill rates increased three years ago.   The $5 debt fee will be finished in June. Scott reported that there may be an increase in landfill and sewer rates.   In 2020, the base rate was raised for water, but the electric base rate was lowered.

Olsen asked if there were any more large purchases that are coming up. Kizzire stated that the Aquatic Center may have something coming up. Scott said we still haven't gotten the refuse truck.

Arterburn asked about the long-term plan for Hickory Square. Discussion was held. Hickory Square is uncertain at this time.

Gallaway stated at this point it will require a lot of follow through.   Gallaway added that the housing is something that is not going away and the trails, hopefully, we can try to get something out of that.

Scott reported that Melissa Norgard offered to come back as contract labor to help with the Economic Development.

There were no further comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

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ATTEST: /s/ROGER GALLAWAY, MAYOR

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ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK-TREASURER