

Sidney, Nebraska, June 6, 2022 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 12:08 P.M. on June 6, 2022 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Gallaway and Council Members: Ellwanger, Sherman, Radcliffe and Olsen. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Clerk Borchert, City Attorney Leef. 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.

There were no comments by the public.

City Manager, David Scott, brought before Council the Renewal of the ½ Cent Sales Tax Proposal. Scott stated that this was originally brought before Council in 2012, which was passed by voters in the November 2012 election, passing the additional ½ sales tax for infrastructure purposes. Scott stated that ten years ago, 50 percent of the funds went to street, 30 percent went to the pool, 12 percent went to golf, 5 percent went to the SPNRD and 8 percent went to parks. Scott asked Council how they would like the percentages split out, if the voters decide to renew the tax proposal. Scott suggested to Council that 50 percent of the tax be applied to street, 20 percent to the Aquatic Center, 10 percent to golf, 5 percent to storm water project, 5 percent to parks and 10 percent to housing infrastructure. Sherman asked what the options would be if the wording was changed on LB840 so tax funds could be put in and used by the housing infrastructure. Sherman stated that he wanted to be able to say where the housing money was to be distributed. Scott said he does have a rural workforce housing development plan. Discussion was held on the housing infrastructure. Gallaway stated that the money would take the form of incentives for developers. Olsen said from a voter’s standpoint, we have allocations here, but how does that reflect on the population that uses it. Gallaway stated that in his mind, the sales tax initiative was originally put together with the idea that the tax is not meant to be a budget replacement. The second part, Gallaway continued, was intended for things to be given back to the public at large. Gallaway stated that he struggles with the housing infrastructure as it does not give back to the public at large. Olsen asked if the Aquatic center had a bigger percentage of usage than the golf course or the park. Gallaway also stated that there are other programs that we could use for housing infrastructure. The possibility of a splash pad in the North Side Park was discussed. Gallaway also discussed putting up a canopy, linking the two existing canopies, at Hickory Square. Gallaway stated that we need to generate enough appeal to the public that there is something out there for everybody. Gallaway suggested that the tax be adjusted to 50 percent to street, 25 percent to the Aquatic Center (sidewalk, slide, parking lot), 5 percent to golf (parking lot), 10 percent to storm water project and 10 percent to parks (splash pad, trail expansion). Sherman said the bottom line is, do we want to do the 10 percent for the housing infrastructure or not. After additional discussion was held on the housing infrastructure, Gallaway stated he believes there are other means to get where we need to be on housing, and this sales tax money isn’t what we need to use to get there. Gallaway moved, Olsen seconded, “That renewal of the ½ sales tax be allocated to 50 percent streets, 25 percent pool, 5 percent golf, 10 percent storm water, 10 percent parks be approved.” Roll call vote Yeas: Ellwanger, Sherman, Gallaway, Radcliffe, Olsen Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

/s/BOB OLSEN, VICE MAYOR

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