

## Sidney, Nebraska, November 22, 2022 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 7:00 P.M. on November 22, 2022 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Gallaway and Council Members: Ellwanger, Sherman, Radcliffe. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Clerk Borchert. 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.

Mayor Gallaway asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Councilman Olsen. Sherman moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That Councilman Olsen's absence be excused." Roll call vote: Yeas: Ellwanger, Sherman, Gallaway, Radcliffe. Absent: Olsen. Motion passed.

Mayor Gallaway asked for approval of the minutes for November 8, 2022 meeting. Radcliffe moved, Sherman seconded, "That the minutes for November 8, 2022 approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Ellwanger, Sherman, Gallaway, Radcliffe. Absent: Olsen Motion passed.

Aaron Pennington came before Council to see if the City would allow agricultural activities such as chickens and rabbits, to help people out with supply chain issues as well as inflation. Mayor Gallaway recommended that Pennington contacts the City office, to get on the agenda, so this issued could be discussed further.

Autumn Ramirez, Human Resources, stated that Sue Hiatt's term for Civil Services has expired. Ramirez stated that the position was advertised and that Hiatt was the only applicant. City Manager Scott has re-appointed Hiatt for a term of six years.

Toshia Jones, Cheyenne County Chamber President, gave her quarterly report to Council. Jones stated that since she became president on September 1, 2022, she has 10 new members, 13 pending memberships and met 155 current Chamber members and has conducted short talks/meetings with 80 current members. Jones shared highlights from September 1, 2022 through November 22, 2022. Mayor Gallaway asked about upcoming plans. Jones replied that in 2023 she plans to have more networking events with team building and social activities beginning in January. Sherman asked if the Chamber still has a position to fill. Jones stated she has a couple volunteers and has not filled that vacancy.

Mike Palmer, Electric Superintendent, presented the solar project update to Council. Palmer stated that after nearly a year of talking and working on this project, he believes everything is in place to execute the contract. Palmer added that there were a few changes to the contract that were not in the packet. Council was given a copy of the updates. Palmer continued, that changes include, after the 25-year term, there will be no annual cost escalator in the purchase power price for years 26-35. If the City chooses not to renew, the City can negotiate a land deal agreement and Sandhills will lease the property. Palmer also said that this facility will supply 5% of our power needs which is the City's cap. Mayor Gallaway asked for a motion to move forward with the contract. Sherman moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the City take action on entering into the contract as negotiated with Sandhills Energy and the City of Sidney." Roll call vote: Yeas: Ellwanger, Sherman, Gallaway, Radcliffe Absent: Olsen Motion passed.

Kasey Kantor, Transportation Director, asked for Council approval to proceed with the purchase of a 2023 Chrysler minivan. Kantor stated that the minivan would be beneficial since the City has stopped the transport of the Stageline. Kantor reported that the van would hold four people with less gas usage than the transportation bus. Kantor also introduced Modivcare, a transportation arrangement for people with Medicare and Medicaid, which allows the riders to ride for free. Modivcare/United Healthcare, in turn, reimburses the City for the rides. The van would be paid with 80% Federal funds, 10% State funds, and 10% City funds; a cost to the City of \$6500.00, which would come from the reserves. If the City moves forward, the van would most likely take a year to get here. Mayor Gallaway asked for a motion for approval to proceed. Sherman moved, Ellwanger seconded, "That the Transportation Department proceed with the purchase of the minivan." Roll call vote: Yeas: Ellwanger, Sherman, Gallaway, Radcliffe Absent: Olsen Motion passed.

Mayor Gallaway tabled the consideration of changing the Council meeting dates for December until the new Council is installed at the December 13 meeting.

City Manager Scott stated that judges are needed for the float contest during the Holiday at Hickory event. Scott said the lights will be on for the Stronger Together Small Business Saturday event.

Radcliffe asked if there was an update on the light poles. Palmer stated that the light poles are still back ordered.

Ellwanger commented that the downtown lights and wreaths look nice.

Sherman echoed Ellwanger's comment and reminded residents to shop local.

Gallaway congratulated the newly elected Council members.

Amanda Eastin, Library Director, stated that they have started a seed library. Anyone with a library card can pick up five packs of seeds for free. The Library is also hosting an open house on December 15.

Galloway asked how the Table of Grace is coming along. Scott stated that it is still in the engineering phase. Scott also stated that an Economic Development Director has been hired. Galloway reminded the public of the Holidays at Hickory and the Parade of Lights on December 2.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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/s/ROGER GALLAWAY, MAYOR

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ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK