

## Sidney, Nebraska, February 28, 2023 A Fair Housing City

A meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session following the Community Development Agency Meeting 7:12 p.m. on February 28, 2023 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Strommen, Gallaway, Radcliffe and Bondegard. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Clerk Borchert, 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 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 Sherman asked for approval of the minutes for February 14, 2023. Strommen moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the minutes for February 14, 2023 be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed.

Mayor Sherman called a public hearing at 7:13 p.m. for the Redevelopment Plan for the Ranch Subdivision Redevelopment Project, as recommended by the Planning Commission and the Community Development Agency, Resolution 20230203. Sherman asked City Manager Scott if he had any additional information he would like to add. Scott stated that this plan was to offer a tax incentive plan (TIF) to a developer to build the Ranch Subdivision. Gallaway stated this is not a tax for tax payers. There was no further discussion. Sherman ended the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Gallaway moved, Radcliffe seconded, "**That Resolution 20230203**, a resolution of the Mayor and City council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, adopting and approving a redevelopment plan entitled, "Redevelopment Plan for the Ranch Subdivision Redevelopment Project, be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed.

Mayor Sherman called a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. for the funding application for the Transportation Department, Resolution 20230204. Kasey Kantor, Transportation Superintendent, stated that the Public Transportation continues to be an important part of the network of services provided by the City by utilizing the Dial-a-ride service and that the public transportation services are open to all persons operating inside of the corporate city limits of the city of Sidney. Kantor continued that service is available to all ages of people ranging from Pre-K students, working class, to the elderly, and with ADA compliant vehicles, anyone with disabilities. Every two years, the State Transportation Department requires the City to pass a two-year budget to request our state and federal funding match. Kantor asked the City Council to pass the resolution approving the local 5311 match for the Funding Application for Public Transportation. The Operating Assistance application is for the two-year time frame July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. Kantor reported that the City Transportation gets reimbursed at 75% for operating budget expenses, 50% federal and 25% state, and 80% for non-operating expenses, 80% federal and 10% state. Growth of the Transportation system continues to increase. Scott added that the City has an interlocal agreement with the Cheyenne County Communication Center, which gets reimbursed at a substantial rate. Radcliffe asked for clarification on operating costs verses non-operating costs. Kantor stated that operating costs would be drivers, fuel, oil and route planning, verses non-operating, such as time spent in the office, insurance and rent. Sherman ended the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Bondegard moved, Strommen seconded, "**That Resolution 20230204**, Authorization for Federal Funds for 5311 Funding Application for the City of Sidney Transportation Operating Assistance, be approved". Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed.

Kantor also updated Council on the Title VI Plan for the Transportation Department. Title IV for Transportation states that no one will be discriminated against due to race, sex, age, or disability. Kantor reported that the City has always had a Title VI plan and has never had a complaint against Sidney Transportation. The current plan has a governing body consisting of the H.R Director, City Manager, Chief of Police and the Director. This body would meet if there was any suspected discrimination on Sidney Transportation, and all forms to be submitted in the case.

City Manager Scott asked the City Council to support the application to the state Department of Economic Development (DED) for funding through the Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) in partnership with Panhandle Regional Development Incorporation or better known as Panhandle Area Development District. (PADD). Scott stated that the program guidelines have been reviewed by the state DED to make sure they fit within the grant application requirements. A general letter of support and a funding commitment along with a resolution would be needed to allow PADD to submit the grant application on the City's behalf. Scott stated that this is a 2/1 grant match to create a revolving loan fund to be used for investing in workforce housing. If the City contributes \$500,000, we can ask for a maximum of \$1,000,000 from the state DED, which is the maximum any municipality can ask for. Scott continued, that the Nebraska Community Foundation Sidney Donor Advised Fund is committing \$200,000 so the City is asking the City Council to commit \$300,000 from the general fund. The City may ask for the full \$1,000,000 unless it is thought that the application review process will be competitive, then we may lower our asking to \$800,000 to make our match greater than 2/1, helping us to move ahead of other communities. Scott stated that there was a board made up of five people, a banker, a realtor, a developer, a landlord and a council member. Gallaway asked if this application was for new construction. Scott stated that it could also be used as rehab housing. Scott stated that it could be a mix of new construction and upper-story housing and that it is a case-by-case situation. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the funding commitment. Gallaway moved, Radcliffe seconded, "**That the Funding Commitment, be approved.**" Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed. Sherman asked for a motion for a letter of support. Bondegard moved, Gallaway seconded, "**That the Letter of Support, be approved.**" Roll call vote: Yeas:

Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the program guidelines. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, *“That the program guidelines, be approved.”* Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed. Sherman asked to approve the resolution. Gallaway moved, Bondegard seconded, *“That Resolution 20230206, a resolution of the Authorizing Board of Panhandle Regional Development Incorporated authorizing the submission of an application for 2022 Nebraska Rural Workforce Housing Funds, certifying that said application meets the community’s workforce housing and community development needs and the requirements of the Nebraska Rural Workforce Housing Fund, and authorizing all actions necessary to implement and complete the activities outlined in said application, be approved.”* Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Motion passed.

Tom VonSeggern, Parks Superintendent, came before Council on behalf of the Tree Board along with Tree Board Members and staff, to present the Tree Board Tree Inventory. VonSeggern stated that during the summer of 2022 the Nebraska Forest Service offered the City of Sidney Tree Board resources to conduct a city-wide public tree inventory. Members of the City of Sidney Parks and Cemetery Departments along with staff from the South Platte Natural Resources District conducted the survey. Training was held in July and the inventory was taken in August. During the fall, Nebraska Community Forester, Chrissy Land, then reviewed the data and prepared the “Sidney Tree Inventory Analysis Report”. Land conducted the training and gave guidance through the project. VonSeggern highlighted various trees in locations throughout Sidney. A total of 7,708 trees were inventoried in the community in September of 2022. VonSeggern discussed tree diversity, age of trees, condition of trees and community distribution. VonSeggern reported on street, park, cemetery, arboretum, and golf course trees. VonSeggern summarized that the tree study will grant favorable consideration to Sidney’s future tree projects that would be attained through awards or grant writing. Sherman expressed his appreciation for the dedication from the board and staff and for those that attended the Council meeting. VonSeggern added that the purpose of the Arboretum is to see what trees will survive in this area. There will be a workshop on March 31, with the Forestry service, with hands on pruning service. VonSeggern stated that Arbor Day is April 22.

City Manager Scott reported that the Strategic Planning Session hard bound copies are almost ready. Scott reported to Council that there is no updated information on the Elks building, so there will be no closed session. Attorney Leef reached out to the Elks attorney, who is currently out of town. It was expressed to Leef that there is a counter offer on the building. Leef stated it probably won’t be until next week until the attorney for the Elks has a chance to visit with the Elks members about it. Leef said that we are running out of time. Scott met with Congressman Mike Flood, in Sidney and talked about the Creative District. Scott went to Lincoln to speak at the Creative District Conference. Scott also went to Lincoln to testify before the committee on the LB712. There was a 9-person panel. Scott felt that there was a good presentation.

Marshall Hall, Chief Building Official, reported that he spoke with RDG on the hospital addition. Ground breaking could possibly be as early as the end of March.

Amanda Eastin, Library Director, said that there will be a Dr. Suess birthday bash on Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Jeff Klare, Development Director, reported that a \$15,000 donation was received that will go to E3 to start an entrepreneur “Shark Tank”, giving out scholarships to the winners of the competition. This will be part of the career pathway program which will begin in September.

Radcliffe congratulated the girls and boys basketball teams for going to state.

Gallaway echoed Radcliff’s sentiments. Gallaway stated it was a great day to be a Raider.

Sherman said it was also a great day to be a citizen of Sidney. The greatest City in the world. Sherman expressed his gratitude for community involvement and those that invest their time. It is greatly appreciated.

Klare said there will be a meet and greet for Alisha Juelfs’ in conjunction with the Chamber Social hour on March 28.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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/s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

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ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK