

Sidney, Nebraska, April 25, 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 at 5:30 p.m. on April 25, 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 informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Sherman asked for approval of the minutes from the Council meeting held on April 11, 2023. Strommen moved, Gallaway seconded, "That the minutes from the Council meeting held on April 11, 2023 be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Michael Palmer, ACE Representative, stated the Holy Trinity Lutheran Youth Group volunteered cleanup on the east corridor on the interstate. Palmer presented a check for \$250 to the group. Joyelle Kennedy reported that members of the Sidney Dance Team also helped on the cleanup project and Beth Kokjer was instrumental in getting this started.

Brittany Hardin, Department of Economic for the State of NE, recognized the City of Sidney as a Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community and presented a plaque to City Council. Hardin stated that they appreciate the opportunity to partner with the City along with leadership and incentive programs to promote Economic Development.

Tosia Jones, Chamber Director, presented the quarterly report for the Chamber. Included in her report was the 2023-member list as well as 17 new members. Jones said that there will be a ribbon cutting on May 5 for Jimmy L's and the Fox Theatre will be doing a concession trailer reveal on May 12. There will be a social hour on May 25 at Lazy S Ranch. Downtown Sounds events will be June 16, July 21, August 18.

Rob Robinson, Plummer Insurance, reported that The City of Sidney received a dividend in the amount of \$31,739.43 which amounted to a 3.7% dividend under the Nebraska Municipality Safety Group Dividend program. This marks the 20th time in the past 26 years of receiving a dividend. Robinson also introduced Sarah Sinnett as part of the Plummer Insurance team.

David Scott, City Manager, stated that Bob Volkmer gave his resignation to the Housing Authority Board and would like Council's approval to approve Clem Schumacher as Volkmer's replacement. Mayor Sherman asked for a motion. Gallaway moved, Bondegard seconded, "That Clem Schumacher be appointed to the Housing Authority Board through the term ending October of 2025." Roll call vote: Yeas: Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Michael Palmer, Electric Superintendent, stated that Sandhills Energy, LLC would like to amend the land lease and generator interconnection agreements for expansion of the solar facility on East Elm Street. Palmer told Council that they could either table or pass the agreement with the changes that Scott and Attorney Leef recommended. Palmer stated one of the amendments would be the taxes on the land, which would be built into the contract stating Sandhills would be paying the taxes. In addition, in the event that MEAN raises the threshold, the City would have first right of refusal. The City would also rent the land the additional solar panels would occupy at a rate of \$500 per acre/per year, with a 2% escalator on each anniversary date. All energy produced and used by the City would be billed at MEAN's current wholesale electric rate. The City is currently waiting on the impact study performed by Cross Canyon Engineering to ensure that our system would not be negatively affected by this facility. Attorney Leef stated that she did not foresee any issues with the property tax and that it would be easy to add to the contract. Mayor Sherman asked for a motion. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the agreement be approved with the changes discussed." Roll call vote: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Kasey Kantor, Transportation Superintendent, requested Council approval to enter into an agreement to partner with Kimball County Transit Service (KCTS). Kantor stated that KCTS is expanding service to provide rides into Sidney also with rides outside of Sidney heading to Cheyenne, Scottsbluff and DIA. Christy Warner from the KCTS was also present. Mayor Sherman asked for a motion. Roll call vote: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion passed.

City Manager Scott said he attended the Expo in Lincoln. Scott also reported that on April 26 there will be a meeting on the Community Center and on May 4, the third-grade class will be having a field trip to the City Departments.

Palmer stated that the Choice Gas closes on April 27. Palmer also contacted the State of NE to see what can be done with the downtown lights.

Autumn Ramirez, HR Director, said there will be a Walk at Lunch at the Community Center on April 28.

Kantor reported that Public Transit Week was successful.

Jeff Klare, Development Director, stated that Clean Harbor was at the Spring Expo recruiting candidates and KCTS will be a game changer getting citizens from Sidney to Kimball. Klare also said that the social media campaign has increased by 300 citizens in the last three weeks.

Bondegard commended Tom VonSeggern and the Tree Board, stating that they did an excellent job on the tree give-a-way.

Radcliffe was pleased with the cleanup by the Holy Trinity Youth Group. Radcliffe asked if there were any updates on the sidewalks to the pool. Scott reported that the City is still getting numbers on the cost.

Gallaway thanked the Youth Group for cleanup. Gallaway also mentioned that he has noticed the lighting in other communities, which improves the look of the area.

Sherman echoed the thanks to the Youth Group. The Elks will be celebrating Youth Activities week, May 1-7 and June 3 will be the Great Trash Race.

Mayor Sherman asked for a motion for closed session for Real Estate Negotiations. Radcliffe moved, Gallaway seconded, "That closed session begin for Real Estate Negotiations." Roll call vote: Yeas: Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passed. Closed session begins at 6:26 pm. Sherman asked for a motion to end close session. Gallaway moved, Strommen seconded, "That close session ends for Real Estate Negotiations." Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed. Close session ended at 6:47 pm. Sherman asked for a motion regarding the real estate negotiations. Gallaway moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the City accepts the lots in the Woodbridge Subdivision, discussed in the Real Estate Negotiation session, in lieu of the special assessments." Roll call vote: Yeas: Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Mayor Sherman asked for a motion for closed session for personnel. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded. "That closed session begin for personnel discussion." Roll call vote: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway. Nays: None. Motion passed. Closed session begins at 6:50 pm. Sherman asked for a motion to end closed session. Bondegard moved, Strommen seconded, "That closed session ends for personnel." Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion passed. Close session ended at 7:17 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

ATTEST: /s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK