

Sidney, Nebraska, May 23, 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 May 23, 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 May 9, 2023. Strommen moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the minutes from the Council meeting held on May 9, 2023 be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Kendra Mitchell, Chairman for the Cheyenne County Chamber, came before Council with a contract between the City and the Chamber for Council to review. Toshia Jones, Chamber President, was also present. The contract states that the City of Sidney will appropriate \$25,000 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, providing the City with an invoice quarterly in accordance with the agreement terms. Attorney Leef said she did not find any issues with the contract. Mayor Sherman asked for a motion. Radcliffe moved, Gallaway seconded, "That the contract between the City of Sidney and the Cheyenne County Chamber for the 2023-2024 fiscal year be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Marva Ellwanger, Camp Lookout Committee Member, came before Council requesting ACE funds to be used to refurbish the floor of the deck and any pieces of the headboard that are bad, on the Camp Lookout building. Ellwanger gave a brief history of the Camp Lookout building, stating that it was the oldest original building built in Sidney, in 1867. The committee restored the building in 2009. It is open to the public for tours. The amount requested totaled \$10,445.93. Mayor Sherman asked for a motion. Gallaway moved, Bondegard seconded, "That ACE funds be approved to proceed with the restoration of the deck of the Camp Lookout building." Roll call vote: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Michael Palmer, Electric Superintendent, stated that Sandhills is needing a decision as to whether the City is wanting to lease the ground. Palmer said that if the City leases the ground, it would be leased to Sandhills for 35 years. Palmer said that staff has reviewed and is agreeable to the language in both the land lease and generator interconnection agreement. However, the concept of assigning MEAN's portion of the solar facility to the city would probably not be in the best interest of the city. If the Council wishes to move forward with the agreement with Sandhills and the MEAN board raises the 5% threshold, and the city wishes to expand our solar field an alternative location would probably need to be secured. Strommen stated that if the City were to lease out the ground, he thought that it should be at a higher rate than the proposed \$500.00. Radcliffe stated that the City should work with Sandhills on the project. Mayor Sherman asked for a motion. Gallaway moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the solar agreement be approved, allowing staff to negotiate terms within the guidelines set by Council." Roll call vote: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion passed.

City Manger Scott reported on upcoming events. Cruisin Night, June 2; Gold Rush Days, June 9-11; Downtown Sounds, June 16. Mayor Sherman asked Scott about the Assistant City Manager position. Gallaway asked if there was an anticipated timeline. Scott responded that a current wage study is being done in October, but hopefully it won't take that long.

Palmer thanked everyone for making their gas selections and reported that a City resident was a winner of free gas for a year.

Amanda Easton, Library Director, reported that the library is hosting British tea and film screening on Thursday May 25.

Chief Aikens, reported that fire range training will be on Thursday from 5-9 pm.

Councilman Gallaway thanked Patrick VonSeggern for attending the Council meeting for Leadership Cheyenne County. Gallaway stated that local athletes performed at the State track meet in Omaha. Gallaway said that there were quality performances by quality individuals in both the boys and the girls track. Gallaway also informed Council and the public that he would be retiring from Sidney Schools to accept a job at David City to be closer to his family. Gallaway reported that his last Council Meeting could be as early as June 27.

Mayor Sherman thanked Gallaway for his time served on the Council.

Mayor Sherman asked for a motion for closed session for real estate negotiations. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That closed session begin for real estate negotiations." Roll call vote: Yeas: Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed. Closed session begins at 6:15 pm. Sherman asked for a motion to end close session. Bondegard moved, Gallaway seconded, "That close session ends for real estate negotiations." Roll call vote: Yeas: Gallaway, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Motion passed. Close session ended at 6:34 pm. Sherman asked for a motion regarding the real estate negotiations. Strommen moved, Gallaway seconded, "That the City moves forward with the property negotiation." Roll call vote: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe,

Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Mayor Sherman asked for a motion for closed session for personnel. Strommen moved, Bondegard 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 6:36 pm. Sherman asked for a motion to end closed session. Strommen moved, Gallaway seconded, "That closed session ends for personnel." Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Gallaway, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion passed. Close session ended at 6:57 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

ATTEST: /s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK