

Sidney, Nebraska, July 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 July 25, 2023 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Strommen, Buckner, 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.

Sherman asked for a motion to approve the July 11 minutes. Strommen moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the minutes for July 11, 2023 be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Strommen, Buckner Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the July 17 minutes. Radcliffe moved, Buckner seconded, "That the minutes for July 17, 2023, joint meeting with the Planning Commission, be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Buckner, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Motion approved.

David Jansen, owner of the Fine Arts Center, came before Council to ask them for cooperation in his request for documents. Jansen stated that he thought that a public hearing should be held on LB840 funds, with a guide and a plan, that Council would be using for LB840 grants. Jansen continued, since 2018, the City has given out 1.8 million in tax dollars from the LB840 program. Of the 1.8 million, 1.45 million went to 10 companies for job creation grants. Jansen stated that 91 companies, in Sidney, shared \$403,000, which looks to be lopsided. Many of those companies that received the grants did not fulfil their obligations. Jansen also said that he wants Council to release the deal (*WTA building and the UST Global building*) so members of Jansen's group can review the deal before the public hearing, to clearly present both sides of the argument. Jansen asked Council to be transparent because he feels that there are things that are concerning.

Sherman opened a Public Hearing at 5:38 pm for discussion on the Birner Real Estate Donation. Lance Juelfs, Golf Director, stated that Tom Birner approached him last year, wanting to donate land to the golf course for a new tee box. Juelfs ask Council if they had any other questions since this was discussed at the last meeting. Sherman asked Juelfs about specific required guidelines. Juelfs said that in accordance with the USGA and Professional golfers Association of America, it is recommended that the golf course makes at least one small change to the course every 3-5 years. Martha Jansen, came forward and stated that she did not recall that this item was brought up at the last meeting. Juelfs stated that he was present at the last Council Meeting and spoke on behalf of the Hillside Golf Course regarding the donation of the ground. Jansen thanked Juelfs for clearing this up. Sherman closed the meeting at 5:42 pm. Sherman asked for a motion. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the Birner Real Estate Contract be accepted." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Buckner. Nays: None. Motion approved.

George Lapaseotes, Airport Manager and Ron Meyer, Airport Chairman, came before Council to request allocation funds from the City. Meyer stated that the Airport Authority is requesting \$202,854.00 for FY23/24 which is an increase of \$5,079.00 from FY22/23. Meyer stated that they provide courtesy cars, rental cars, flight training, fuel and maintenance services and the demand continues to increase. The Airport Authority recently acquired a grant to begin a new hanger project. Buckner asked how much of the increase would go to salaries. Meyer stated that it would be proportional. Lapaseotes reported the salary increase to be 3 percent. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Strommen moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That **Resolution 20230703**, Airport Authority request for allocation from the City's Levy Authority be approved at \$202,854.00." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Buckner, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved. (A copy of the full resolution can be viewed at 1115 13th Avenue/City Clerk.)

Christine Radtke, Oktoberfest Parade Chair, asked for approval to use Highway 30 for the Oktoberfest Parade. Sherman asked for a motion to approve the request. Radcliffe moved, Strommen seconded, "That **Resolution 20230704**, approval to use Highway 30 for the Oktoberfest Parade and submit the request to the State of NE, Department of Roads." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Strommen, Buckner, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None Motion passed. (A copy of the full resolution can be viewed at 1115 13th Avenue/City Clerk.)

Clerk Borchert brought before Council two candidates, Kendra Strommen and Anthony Jones, for appointment on the Planning Commission Board. The term would be for three years. Sherman asked for a motion. Buckner moved, Bondegard seconded, "That Kendra Strommen and Anthony Jones be appointed to the Planning Commission Board for the term of three years." Roll call: Yeas: Buckner, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None Abstain: Strommen. Motion approved.

Toshia Jones, Chamber Director, gave her quarterly report to Council. Jones reported that there are 237 Chamber Members as of July 19, 2023. The Chamber has hired a part time person. Jones said the last Downtown Sounds was the best turnout they have had yet. Upcoming Chamber events include, Quarterly Chat with the Chamber, Available Properties Tour, Downtown Sounds, August Chamber Social Hour, NE Department of Labor Programs and Services and September Chamber Social Hour.

Shannon Odiet, EMS Coordinator for Morrill County Community Hospital (MHCC), gave an update on the ambulance service since they started July 1, 2023. They have responded to more than 130 calls for service this month. Their average response time is 8.2 minutes from 911 to location. They provide the best possible care to the communities they serve. Odiet stated that the support has been amazing, making the transition seamless. Odiet mentioned that he had heard that MCCH had misrepresented themselves to the City Manager and Council. Odiet said at no time did they (MCCH) misrepresent themselves, of who they are and who they stand for, and that he doesn't want any of that to over shadow the good things that have been

done. Odiet thanked the City Council and the Cheyenne County Commissioners. Sherman stated that he appreciates the time spent in making this happen.

Jeff Klare, Development Director, came before Council to inform them that he has requested the City Manager to appropriate approximately \$50,000 as an addition to the Department of Economic Development 2023-2024 budget. Klare stated that our economy has gone from a local economy to a global economy and that we are in a competing workforce, homeowners, business relocation and investment. Klare said that it is important to have communication with the citizens to let them know everything that is going on. Klare said he hopes that the Council will let him fly with the social media campaign. Klare reported that this media project will be part of a bid process.

Lane Kizzire, Finance Director, stated that he was recommending three budget planning dates for Council to select from. Council selected August 22, 2023 at 12:00 pm for the budget workshop date. Per LB644 the City budget is due to the State of Nebraska by September 30 of each year.

City Manager Scott thanked City staff for their efforts on the chip sealing project. Scott also mentioned the Rural Fellowship program. Two interns worked with the City as well as several other organizations, including the Creative District, on this program. The Military Appreciation Day will be tomorrow at the Fairgrounds. The Visioning Session, put on by the Nebraska Community Foundation/Saga Foundation, will be held August 10 at the Elks.

Clerk Borchert stated that there are 32 vendors signed up for the Farmers Market and that it is doing very well. Borchert thanked the residents and surrounding communities for their support of the market. Mayor Sherman said that he received a letter that stated Borchert is officially a Certified Municipal Clerk. Sherman said, "Always learning, always, getting better" and he appreciates that.

Chief Aikens reported that National Night Out will be on August 1 and Guns & Hoses will be on August 12.

Mike Palmer, Electric Superintendent, reported that the poles for the downtown lighting are in. Palmer hopes they will be up by Oktoberfest.

Klare stated that Freedom Yurt has had their first conversations with FEMA to make sure that everyone that loses their home in a traumatic experience will be staying in a Freedom Yurt.

Sherman stated that whether it is chip sealing or snow removal, the entire city chips in to where the work is needed. Sherman reported that there is a beer garden at the fair, but drink responsibly. Sherman stated that there will be no burgers at the Elks due to the fair going on. Sherman said that the next Council meeting will be at the Sidney High School Auditorium. Sherman also encourages the residents to purchase local. Sherman stated that there will be a Lighting Committee meeting sometime in August. Sherman also stated that if anyone would like to contact him, his cell is 308-249-2321.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

ATTEST: /s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK