

Sidney, Nebraska, August 15, 2024 – BUDGET WORKSHOP

A special meeting for the purpose of a Budget Workshop with the Mayor & Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 12:00 p.m. on August 15, 2024 in the Council Room. Present were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Strommen, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Attorney Leef and 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 Sherman informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Sherman asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Councilman Buckner. Strommen moved, Bondegard seconded, "That Buckner's absence be excused." Roll call: Bondegard, Strommen, Radcliffe, Sherman. Motion passed.

City Manager David Scott presented recommendations for the FY2024-2025 Budget for Council's input and recommendation. All city departments were represented by the city department heads. They were available for questions and input. Scott stated that the last few fiscal years' budget cycles have been challenging. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020 there were large budget cuts across the board as property tax revenue was reduced due to large decreases in the city's full value determination (assessed value). Current assessments show mixed messages of increases in some areas and decreases in others.

The City will need to address a few budget issues in this year's budget, such as increased legal costs with J. Leef retiring, added EMS subsidy and large health insurance increase as well as need repairs to the Chamber building. Looking ahead to FY2024-2025, Scott reported, continuing efforts to reduce costs any pay down debt are showing progress. Two city bonds were paid off in this fiscal year and another one will be paid in the upcoming fiscal year. Currently the city holds \$25,048,984 in municipal debt. For this fiscal year, we are working on the assumption that the city's total assessed value will be reduced 3% by the county assessor. This budget proposes that the city overall levy be reduced from .05446 to .5155. This is also a reduction in the dollar amount requested by \$236,494.

Scott noted that with the high number of health claims the city had this last year, the best renewal rate the city was able to obtain was a 17% increase from last fiscal year. The budget shows a \$10 per month increase in the employee contribution.

Other areas presented to Council were Economic Development, Revenues, General Fund, Special Projects, Streets, Debit Service, City Utilities, Electric Distribution, Water, Sewer, Waste Water Treatment and Solid Waste. Discussion was held regarding departmental objectives with the department heads of each city department for the upcoming year, which will be considered in the final budget preparation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

/s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK