

Sidney, Nebraska October 22, 2024 A Fair Housing City

A meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in an open and public session at 5:30 p.m. on October 22, 2024, in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Strommen, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Others present: City Manager Scott, Administrative Assistant Mowery, Attorney Leef (via phone). 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 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 Councilman Buckner be excused." Roll call: Yeas: Strommen, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Sherman asked for approval of the Council minutes from October 8, 2024 meeting. Strommen moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the Council Minutes from October 8, 2024 be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Chrissy Land, Nebraska State Forrest Service, presented retired Parks Director, Tom Von Seggern, with the Community Forestry Award. Land said during his 24 years of service with the City of Sidney Parks Department, Tom was active with the tree board, organized an annual tree giveaway and cared for street and park trees throughout town. He also completed a tree inventory of Sidney that will be a powerful management tool for years to come.

Joe McCarn, Cheyenne County Chamber Director, gave the quarterly report for the Chamber. Included in his report were the membership list as well as 10 new members. McCarn said both the SRMC EMS Service and the new SRMC Long Term Care Facility had good turnouts for their ribbon cutting ceremonies. Dancing with the Stars of Cheyenne County was a successful event. Scooters is scheduled to open the middle of November and the annual banquet is scheduled for January 18, 2025.

Autumn Ramirez, Civil Service Commission Secretary, reported that Gary Hawkins' term on the Civil Service Commission will expire in November 2024. He has been appointed to serve another six years with his term expiring November 2030.

Melissa Norgard, grant and technical writer through the USDA Rural Business Development Grant, provided a quarterly update to Council. Norgard provided assistance to several businesses with writing business plans. She engaged with several businesses and individuals on opportunities through the USDA Heartland Business Builder Grant and the GROW Nebraska Grant. Norgard also assisted with writing 5 grant applications for childcare center expansion. Norgard stated both she and Alisha Juelfs, E3 Navigator, are located at WNCC in the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center and have an open-door policy to any small business looking for a resource.

Brandy Stone, Economic Development Director, stated the Cheyenne County Community Center (CCCC) is a pillar of community support for Cheyenne County with the child care it offers its members and working force of our area. CCCC has 15 full time employees with a projected growth of 17 new positions in the next four years. The current waiting list for children is over 100 names long and continues to grow. CCCC is asking the Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee (EDCAC) for funding assistance. They agree to creating \$509,600 in payroll and 17 new jobs. The funding will be reimbursed through the anonymous donor fund from the Nebraska Community Foundation. The EDCAC recommends approval of the LB840 application and funds to the CCCC for job creation. Radcliffe asked if they were confident in hiring 17 new Employees. Tiffany Jones, Kid's Korner Director, said she will make every effort to do so. Radcliffe also asked if the expansion would shut down the other day care facility in town. Jones said she wasn't aware of their numbers but they have a waiting list as well. Sherman asked for a motion. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the recommendation by the Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee for LB840 job creation funds be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Sherman. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Brandy Stone, Economic Development Director, presented another LB840 application for CCCC for construction assistance. Stone said as the CCCC continues to grow and expand, there is a need for the development in their space to support the families and children of Sidney and Cheyenne County. They are planning to remodel their building for the care of 80 more children. The EDCAC recommends that this application be approved. Radcliffe asked what is the difference between the job creation agreement and the construction agreement. David Scott, City Manager, said both will come from LB840 Funds but the job creation agreement will be reimbursed from the Nebraska Community Development Sidney Donor Advised Fund. Sherman asked for a motion. Strommen moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the recommendation by the Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee for LB840 construction funds be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Strommen, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Dean Sterling, Solid Waste Superintendent, asked Council for consideration to purchase a 2025 Chevy 1500

Silverado pick up. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the purchase of a 2025 Chevy 1500 Silverado pick up be approved." Roll call: Strommen, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent, asked for Council approval of **Resolution No. 20241005**, authorizing the year end certification of City Street Superintendent, Clay H Radtke. Radtke stated that this is an annual requirement that must be met in order for a municipality to qualify for an annual incentive payment by the state. Sherman asked for a motion. Strommen moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That **Resolution No. 20241005**, Year End Certification of City Street Superintendent be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to appoint Radtke for the 2025 Street Superintendent. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the appointment of Clay H Radtke, as the Street Superintendent, Class A, License S-1072 be approved for January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 for the purpose of the 2025 calendar year Highway Incentive Payment." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Sherman. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent, asked the Council for consideration to approve a section of L17J to be included in the city limits for the Lane Mile Report for highway allocation funds. The section of highway is approximately 1900' south of Pole Creek Crossing to Jennifer Lane. Sherman asked for a motion. Strommen moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the section of L17J to be included in the city limits under a 1977 statute and the Ordinance 830." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Strommen, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent, asked Council for consideration to purchase a Ford flatbed truck. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the purchase of a Ford flatbed truck be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Strommen, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent, asked Council for consideration to purchase a snow blower. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the purchase of a snow blower be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved.

Scott informed Council he will schedule a Strategic Planning Meeting for November and will send out some date options; he, J. Leef, Tom Mathine and Mike Palmer went to Lincoln to go before the Power Review Board to ask them to move forward in the certification process of the new power generation facility.

Autumn Ramirez said Holiday in Hickory will be December 7, 2024.

Radtke said the Street Department is getting ready for winter and checking equipment.

Kegan Carwin said there were currently 17 viewers and 77 overall views.

Sam Lovato, Interim Police Chief, said the department responded to 280 calls in the last 14 days; with the agreement with the Kimball Police Department, 2 officers were sent to Kimball to execute a high-risk search warrant and arrest warrant; officers assisted the Nebraska State Patrol in a high speed chase which came to an end in the Walmart parking lot which resulted in the apprehension of 3 suspects that were wanted in Colorado; the town is currently experiencing a string of thefts and burglaries in our neighborhoods and Lovato reminded citizens to be safe; additionally the department is doing combined training with the Sidney Fire Department, Kimball Police Department, Cheyenne County Police Department and the EMS Department to make sure they will function well in emergency situations; new hire testing was last Friday.

Tom Mathine reported the Sandhills Solar Project is 40%-45% complete and hoping to be done by spring 2025; Powertech had completed the building at the generation station and all 4 generators are now inside; Powertech will be working on installing the mufflers for the generators and fuel tanks; the Power Review Board approved the application for certification.

Stone said there are lots of economic development projects in the works.

Strommen said election day is 2 weeks away and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Sherman said there is a veterans concert on Saturday at the Elks with the money raised going toward immediate help for veterans; he reminded everyone his phone number is 249-2321.

Sherman asked for motion to go into closed session for personnel matters. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, "That Council moves to closed session for the purpose of personnel matters." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Strommen, Sherman. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved. Closed session began at 6:36pm. Sherman asked for a motion to come out of closed session for personnel matters. Strommen moved, Bondegard seconded, "That closed session ends for the purpose of personnel matters." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Strommen, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Absent: Buckner. Motion approved. Closed session ended at 6:36 pm. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

ATTEST: /s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/KELLIE MOWERY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT