

## Sidney, Nebraska, November 15, 2024 A Fair Housing City

A Strategic Planning Session of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 12:00 p.m. on November 15, 2024 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Strommen, Buckner, Radcliffe and Bondegard. Others present: City Manager Scott and Administrative Assistance Mowery. 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.

Council gathered to review the strategic plan which was created in January 2023 and facilitated by Jamie Weingart of JNW Consulting. Council reviewed and discussed the following Strategic Pillars; **Pillar 1:** Community Improvement Projects – City Auditorium or Civic Center (continue to identify financing opportunities), Improve Recreational Amenities (partner with Safe Streets For All Committee, survey is still available for input from the public) , Northside Park Project – (bid for Spring of 2025), Create Housing Opportunities (Integrity Construction is interested in building single family homes at the west end of The Ranch subdivision; pursue a Micro-TIFF for the possibility of remodeling the upstairs of some downtown businesses; add low income and Section 8 housing as a priority item), Improve Downtown Venues (explore new lighting projects through a partnership with the City and the E3 grant writer), Complete Energy Projects (move to Spring 2025) **Pillar 2:** Financial Sustainability – Capitalize on current financial position (ideas on how to increase our bond rating, some debt retiring 2026-2027), Explore Additional Funding Opportunities, Create Strategic Partnerships (Toshia Jones spoke about the partnership within the Panhandle with the State Chamber of Commerce and the 6 Regions, One Nebraska initiative) . **Pillar 3:** Employee Development – Anticipate Future Organizational Structure Needs, Strive to Recruit and Retain Employees (post position for Assistant City Manager and Police Chief; still trying to hire police officers and working to recruit seasoned officers). **Pillar 4:** Economic Development – Continue Development of I-80 Corridor (included in Safe Streets for All Project), Continue to Support the Development of the Industrial Park, Pursue the Diversification of Economic Landscape (support opportunities through LB840 initiatives), Explore Regional and Panhandle Partnerships.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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/s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

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ATTEST: /s/KELLIE MOWERY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT