

Sidney, Nebraska March 25, 2025 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 March 25, 2025, in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Clerk Borchert, City Attorney Strommen. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in The Sidney-Sun Telegraph, the designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication 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 public's attendance.

Mayor Sherman informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Sherman asked for a motion to approve the Council minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting. Bondegard moved, Kerkman seconded, "That the Council Minutes from March 11, 2025 be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Tom Mathine, Electric Superintendent, stated the City will receive a check in the amount of \$32,777 which represents the community's share of the ACE distribution for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Mathine also reported that since forming in 1998, ACE has returned nearly \$4 million to its Nebraska member communities. Funds have been used to help construction of the Legion Park Pond and keeping it stocked with fish, installation of new lights for baseball field, assisted with funding in the park playground project, to help replace the observation deck at Camp Lookout. The 2025 Nebraska Choice Gas program selection period will run from April 3 through April 23. During this period, customers can choose a competitive rate and pricing option. Present was ACE Representative, Michael Palmer.

Sherman read the National Library Week 2025 Proclamation, proclaiming National Library Week as April 6-12, 2025.

Chase Frerichs, Parks Superintendent, stated part of the criteria to apply for Tree City USA is to have a proclamation read and signed by the Mayor. An annual Arbor Day Celebration with the City Tree Give-Away will be April 26 at the Legion Park Shelter House. Registration will begin at 7:00 am. The proclamation was read and Mayor Sherman signed the Arbor Day Proclamation. Frerichs also expressed gratitude to former Park Superintendents Kent Talich and Tom VonSeggern for initiating and sustaining the program, which has kept Sidney recognized as a Tree City for 39 years.

Frerichs recommended to Council the Tree Board reappointments of Andrew Lenzen and Dana Revell. Their terms would expire April of 2028. Sherman asked for a motion. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Andrew Lenzen and Dana Revell be reappointed to the Tree Board, terms expiring April of 2028." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Lori Borchert, City Clerk, recommended to Council the appointment of Nolan Beitel to fill the term of Kendra Strommen. Strommen's term expires in June of 2026. Beitel would be eligible for reappointment at the end of the term. Beitel was present and shared information with Council about his background and explained his interest in the position. Sherman asked for a motion. Kerkman moved, Bondegard seconded, "That Nolan Beitel be appointed to fill the term of Kendra Strommen, expiring in June of 2026." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved.

David Scott, City Manager, stated that the city has owned and operated a bookmobile for many years, providing a vital library service to residents. Scott reported that the Cheyenne County Commissioners have provided financial support for this program since existence. Scott said the current bookmobile is over 30 years old and it is very difficult to keep it running. The Library is asking Council to explore the option to replace it. The Library staff, Board of Directors and Friends of the Library have been applying for grants and fundraising. Current funds available are the NCF Sidney Donor Advised Fund, which is a secured grant for \$100,000, the SAGA Fund for \$5,000 and raised funds of \$20,000. Scott stated that new bookmobiles average costs run from \$350,000 to \$500,000. There is a used chassis that can be remodeled into a bookmobile for around \$175,000 to \$195,000. The City has about \$10,000 in its abandon vehicles auction that could be used. Scott reported that the city is looking at around \$182,00, which would leave \$47,000 that we would need to provide for. The current bookmobile has no trade in value. Kerkman asked if the SAGA fund would go directly to the bookmobile. Scott response was yes. Kerkman asked if there was anything under \$175,000 that could be purchased. Scott replied that there was not. Heather Rohm, bookmobile driver, stated that all bookmobiles need a lift and shelving that would hold about 1,500 to 2,000 books. Radcliffe asked if a vehicle similar to the transportation bus could be purchased or a truck and trailer for a less amount and could these options be explored. Scott stated that the transportation buses go through a state bid process. Sherman stated that modifications could be an issue. Kerkman said he thought there should be a less expensive option. Rohm stated that the trailer would have to have heat, air conditioning and a side door as well as other modifications. Marva Ellwanger, Library Board of Directors, stated that all the book racks would need to be secured and allowing for weight distribution in a trailer might be an issue. Prices will be going up due to tariffs. The two-year warranty on the chassis is also a big plus. Kerkman asked if bookmobiles will still be utilized in 10 or 30 years with upcoming technology. Rohm stated that the bookmobile was started back in the 50's and it has been in Sidney for a long time. Rohm believed bookmobiles will still be used. Kerkman asked if tablets could be purchased and given out. Strommen stated she would have to check on it. Sherman suggested having a fund raiser. Sherman asked if there was a motion to pass the proposal for the bookmobile. There was no motion. Sherman asked if there was a motion to table the item. Kerkman moved, Bondegard seconded, "That the proposal for purchasing the bookmobile be tabled until the meeting scheduled for April 8, allowing time to explore additional options." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Kyle Long, Street Department, stated that every year the City includes \$75,000 for payment preservation. A notice was

published for proposals for crack sealing. Hein Construction was the only bid received at \$.39 per linear foot. Sherman asked for a motion. Bondegard moved, Kuhns seconded, "That the 2025 Crack Sealing be approved, awarded to Hein Construction for .39 per linear foot." Roll call: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Scott stated that at the last meeting, one bid was received and accepted for the old Police Department building. The contract with Uncertain Investments, LLC was signed, which allows the City to move forward with the ordinance and to publish the remonstrance. Sherman asked for a motion to designate. Radcliffe moved, Kerkman seconded, "That **Ordinance 1869** be designated." Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked the clerk to read the ordinance by title. Borchert read, "*An Ordinance of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, authorizing the sale of all right, title and interest of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, in and to 31 14 49 lots 1-2-3 block 1 Sidney Mc Fadden 3rd addition, Cheyenne county, Sidney, Nebraska, also known as 1705 Illinois St., Sidney, Nebraska.*" Sherman asked for a motion to waive the three readings. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, "That the three readings be waived." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked to pass the Ordinance. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That Ordinance 1869 be passed." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked the clerk to read by number. Borchert read, "1869." Sherman asked for a motion to publish. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Ordinance 1869 be published." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Scott stated that as part of our agreement with the Cheyenne County Community Center, a Mayor and Councilman needs to attend the upcoming meeting on April 17. Kerkman agreed to attend with the Mayor and Scott. On Friday, State ED will be in Sidney to discuss their Nebraska Talent Attraction Initiative to get our input. The Police Department open house was well attended. Scott stated he will be out of town for a housing conference the first part of next week. Cheyenne County Community Center's annual fund raiser is April 4. Scott also reported that work has started on the 13th Avenue underpass.

Borchert reported that she attended the Nebraska Municipal Clerk's Association last week.

Strommen stated that she was looking forward to the April 4 Community Center Fund raiser.

Autumn Ramirez stated that the 3rd grade field trip is coming up. Kerman volunteered to step in for Sherman who will be gone on April 28.

Kegan Carwin stated that there were 16 views for the Council Meeting

Mathine reported that the solar project is about to wrap up. Generation is going smooth.

Frerichs reminded the public that soccer is ready to start and dog walkers need to pick up after their dogs. Parks is also hiring for seasonal employees

Brandy Stone stated that she is trying to get a ground breaking scheduled on April 11 for the Ranch Subdivision by Integrity Construction.

Kerkman said the Team Mates fund raiser was a lot of fun.

Kuhns gave a kudos to the water/sewer department. The department was doing some work on a sewer main and a resident said the department left the alley in better shape than when they got there. Kuhns also said he had less than a five-minute wait for the construction of the underpass.

Sherman stated that we continue to do great things with fund raisers and good organizations. Sherman also stated that Joe McCarn, Chamber Director, had a nice quote in the Chamber Newsletter and encouraged the public to read it. Sherman can be reached at 249-2321

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

ATTEST: /s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK