

Sidney, Nebraska April 22, 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 April 22, 2025, in the Council Room. Present in person were: Vice Mayor Bondegard and Council Members: Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe. 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.

Vice Mayor Bondegard informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Bondegard asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Mayor Sherman. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Mayor Sherman's absence be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Sherman. Motion approved.

Bondegard asked for a motion to approve the Council minutes from the April 8 and the April 15, 2025 meetings. Radcliffe moved, Kerkman seconded, "That the Council Minutes from the April 8 and the April 15, 2025 meetings be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Absent: Sherman. Motion approved.

Joe McCarn, Cheyenne County Chamber Director, gave his quarterly report. McCarn stated that there were a lot of trainings, social hours and 934 total event attendance. There were 32,689 total personal contacts, 179,185 website impressions, 4,735 available properties impressions, 9,761 job posting impressions. Upcoming events are the Elston House Ribbon Cutting on May 3, Girl's Day Out is May 31. Nineteen new members have signed up. Kerman asked if there were any surprises or positives. McCarn responded that there were no surprises but stated that the Ag Social was great event and gave kudos to the Ag Committee. McCarn stated that there are currently 204 members.

John Phillips, business owner, stated that he feels that he does not fall into the guidelines as a food truck vendor and that he is a concessions trailer. Phillips said the licenses and requirements are not the same. Phillips also stated that he has a brick and mortar establishment that he pays taxes on. Phillips also stated that his concessions are often done at no cost to charities. Phillips reported that the current annual dues are unaffordable and would like council to consider an exemption. Clerk Borchert suggested this be addressed at the upcoming budget meeting with Council. Scott stated that this is a current ordinance and the wording would also need to be changed. Phillips asked for Council consideration.

Brandy Stone, Development Director, stated that the board is responsible for the designation, preservation, protection and enhancement of structures representing the heritage of the city. The board conducted an internal review of their handbook and have made a suggested change for the City Council to review. The board seeks approval of a change to their current handbook. Recently, the City of Sidney was awarded CDBG funds from the State for Downtown Revitalization. They are making a suggestion to add the following verbiage to their Appendix C of the Sidney Historic Preservation Handbook. *"When there are available funds through a State or Federal incentive program that does not pay the full amount for the eligible project, the requesting entity can submit to the Historic Preservation Board for Facade Enhancement Grant Program, Signage Incentive Grant and/or Emergency Stabilization Grant Incentives to cover all or some of the funds that were not covered for the project. The requesting entity must meet all the documented requirements in section 1.3 of this document."* The financial implications allow a building owner to use both the current Façade Enhancement incentive the City offers and the CDBG Downtown Revitalization funds available for the same project. Additionally, should the City be granted any other funds from federal or state levels, the funds could be once again used together with local incentives, if they are allocated to the downtown area. There will still be costs incurred by the building owner, but it would lessen the overall financial burden for the building owner to restore the outside of their building within the designated grant footprint. Stone suggests this change be approved by Council. Bondegard asked for a motion. Kerkman moved, Radcliffed seconded, "That the handbook change for the Historic Preservation Board be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Absent: Sherman. Motion approved.

Kasey Kantor, Transportation Superintendent, stated that the 2021 Ford Cutaway is experiencing major problems. Along with the lift needing repairs, multiple sensor problems, it has a blown engine. These repairs will cost us over \$12,000 to fix. This bus has 96,071 miles on it and over its four years it has caused us \$3,273.85 more in repairs than a 2019 with 115,345 miles on it. With the arrival of two new busses coming next month ordering a new Ford Transit would be to replace the 2021 Ford Cutaway. It will take 180 days for this order to arrive which would put us into next fiscal year. Kantor stated with the two-year budget with the state, Kantor has the allotted money in case something like this would come up. The cost would be approximately \$9,2000 for the City's 10% of the purchase. Bondegard asked if the bus was under warranty. Kantor replied the base of the bus is not. Bondegard asked for a motion. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, "That the 2021 Ford bus be replaced with a new bus." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Absent: Sherman. Motion approved.

Scott stated that the City was one of eight cities in Nebraska awarded funding for the infrastructure for the Safe Streets 4 All program. The two phases of the plan are the action and the implementation plan. The City is close to finishing the plan. The City needs letters signed and committed by the Mayor. The final plan will be presented for City Council approval at the June 10, 2025 meeting. With the Mayor's absence, Scott asked Council if they thought the Mayor would be okay with committing to the goal of zero fatalities as outlined in the Safe Streets Action Plan. Bondegard asked for a motion. Kuhns moved, Kerman seconded, "That Council approves the Mayor's signature for the Safe Streets Action Plan letters." Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Sherman. Motion approved.

Chief Sam Lovato, asked Council for consideration of Ordinance 1870, revising the hours for all the parks, the Legion Park and

the Legion Park Pond. The current hours are closing from 11:00 pm to 6:00 am, the following day. The revision would close the parks from dusk until dawn, the following day. The use of basketball and tennis courts would be permitted provided that adequate lighting is available. Hours would not apply to organized groups or sanctioned events utilizing the park facilities if the group has obtained specific permission for an extension of time to vacate the park from the City Manager or Chief of Police or respective appointees. Lovato stated that he believes this would improve safety in areas that are difficult to patrol and reduce costs associated with property destruction. Chase Frerichs, Park Superintendent, was present and fully supported this change due to the vandalism issues. Radcliffe asked if this would affect the walking path. Frerichs stated that this would include all park property. Bondegard asked for a motion. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Ordinance 1870 be designated." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Absent: Sherman. Motion approved. Bondegard asked Borchert to read the title. Borchert read: *"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 10, STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES; TITLE SIX - OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES; CHAPTER 1062.02 - CLOSING HOURS; CHAPTER 1062.03 - PARK REGULATIONS; OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, NEBRASKA TO REPEAL ANY ORDINANCES OR PART OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE."* Bondegard asked for a motion to waive the readings. Radcliffe moved. There was no second. The ordinance will be moved for a second reading.

Scott and Council decided on Thursday, May 15, 2025, 12:00 pm for the next Strategic Planning meeting.

Scott introduced Assistant City Manager, Josh Hanson. Scott said that Breakfast of the Boss will be on April 23. The 3rd Grade Field trip will be on April 28 and the Great Trash Race, sponsored by Keep Sidney Beautiful, on June 7th.

Stone will be Lincoln getting input from the students at UNL and a Housing Conference next week. And there will be public input for Safe Streets 4 All.

Kegan Carwin reported 24 views.

Frerichs said there will be a tree give-a-way on April 26.

Dean Sterling reported that the Landfill will be open the third Saturday of each month.

Kerkman said the Easter Egg Hunt was a great event.

Kuhns and Radcliffe welcomed Josh Hanson.

Bondegard welcomed Hanson and said Mayor Sherman is available at 308-249-2321.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

ATTEST: /s/BRANDON BONDEGARD, VICE MAYOR

ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK