

## Sidney, Nebraska, May 15, 2025 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 May 15, 2025 in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Sherman and Council Members: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Others present: City Manager Scott, Assistant City Manager Hanson, City Clerk Borchert, Finance Director Carwin and City Attorney Strommen. 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.

Sherman asked for a motion to excuse Radcliffe's absence. Bondegard moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Radcliffe's absence be excused." Roll call: Sherman, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Motion approved.

City Manager Scott stated the strategic plan which was created in January 2023 and facilitated by Jamie Weingart of JNW Consulting. The plan was last revisited in November 2024. City Council had Council Training, which also involved discussion on how the strategic plan should be revised. Scott stated that he revised the pillars per the City Council format and left many of the timeline and performance update sections blank so Council can readjust them accordingly.

Topics discussed: Kerkman suggested updating the Strategic Plan on a monthly basis and having it available to the public, Sherman and Kerkman brought up the opportunity presented by Krista Bruns (Banister) at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, regarding the need of a building for after school child care – Scott and Hanson are scheduled to meet with her next week, the finalization of the Solar Project and the next steps for the Northside Park.

Council revisited the Vision Planning: Accomplishments, priorities (which were all met), impact and our culture. Also reviewed were the Soar Analysis: Strengths, opportunities, aspirations and results.

Council reviewed and discussed the following Strategic Pillars; **Pillar 1:** Work towards the creation of a City Auditorium or Civic Center, Improve Recreational trails and amenities, Work towards expanding City Park land for dog park and other amenities, Northside Park Project, Low Income or rent control housing, Create middle income housing opportunities, Downtown revitalization and lighting, Hickory Street Plaza project, Solar Project, Complete power generation project. **Pillar 2:** Capitalize on current financial position through equipment reserve program, A+ Bond rating, Explore additional funding opportunities for identified goals, Create Strategic Partnerships, Electric utility rates. **Pillar 3:** Anticipate future organizational structure needs, Staffing, Strive to recruit and retain employee talent, Encourage cross training and cross collaborative partnerships, Explore wage and career pathing incentive opportunities. **Pillar 4:** Continue development of I-80 Corridor, Continue to support the development of the Industrial/Business Park, Pursue the diversification of economic landscape, Explore regional and Panhandle Partnerships.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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/s/BRAD SHERMAN, MAYOR

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ATTEST: /s/LORI BORCHERT, CITY CLERK