

Sidney, Nebraska May 27, 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 May 27, 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. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the Council minutes from May 13, 2025 be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Nays: None. Motion approved. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded. "That the Strategic Planning minutes from May 15, 2025 be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Abstain: Radcliffe. Motion approved.

Clerk Borchert asked for approval of the reappointments of Matt Benzel, John Glenn and Caleb Sweetser to the Planning Commission Board for a term of three years. Sherman asked for a motion. Kuhns moved, Bondegard seconded, "That Benzel, Glenn and Sweetser be reappointed to the Planning Commission Board for a three-year term." Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved.

City Manager Scott asked for approval of the appointment of Rebecca Propst to the Library Board for a term of four years. Propst was present. Sherman asked for a motion. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That Propst be appointed to serve on the Library Board for a four-year term." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Dave Schaff, MC Schaff and Associates, presented a power point presentation of the final draft for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) planning project. Schaff stated that SS4A is funded by the Federal Highways administration, an initiative to help all communities to reevaluate our transportation system. It is data driven and public involvement. The goal, Vision Zero, is to have zero fatalities or serious injuries throughout our transportation system. Projects were prioritized by pathways, intersections, pedestrian underpass as well as cost estimates for the next stage. Schaff stated that this plan will need to be adopted by Council to be able to apply for future funding. The plan will be continually updated and looked at as funding or priorities change. Schaff said that he had a great team and task force working on this project. Sherman asked for a motion. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded, "That the Safe Streets Action Plan be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Melissa Norgard, Grant and Technical Writer funded by the USDA through the City of Sidney, gave Council an update of accomplishments. Since July of 2024, Norgard has assisted with 50 business plans. E3 has partnered with the Chamber and Economic Development for the "Good Life is Calling Fund". Cheyenne County was awarded \$29,500 in sponsorship funds. Along with other partners, Norgard is working on events and marketing, utilizing News Channel Nebraska and High Points Images to market Cheyenne County and what we have to offer. Grant funding applied for is \$1,433,000 and total funding confirmed and received is \$329,000. Norgard is also working on a partnership with WNCC to try to expand and promote the innovation and entrepreneurship center and community college services. Goals for the future include to continue to help small businesses and entrepreneurs. Kerkman asked where he could find a calendar of events. Norgard stated that currently they do not have a website but can be found on the Chamber website. Norgard stated that they not only help new businesses to get started, but they also help non-profits.

Brandy Stone, Economic Development Director, stated there was a previously expressed interest in housing availability. The Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) stated that there would be construction of three new homes on City-owned lots. These lots would be acquired utilizing the NAHTF funds if approved. This program offers \$30,000 in homebuyer assistance per household, also offering a developer incentive of 10% construction cost. It also ensures affordability through recapture provision enforced over a 10-year period. Stone reported that this is a grant-based program with no required match. The City would coordinate with the developer to manage cashflow during construction and the City would recoup costs for reinvestment in future housing phases. Kerkman asked what the average income was, suggesting \$82,900. Stone said that sounded about right. Sherman asked for a motion. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund application be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Stone stated that the Panhandle Area Development (PADD) makes it possible for PADD to administer our funds through the CDBG process. The State needs this agreement between PADD and the City in order to continue with PADD as the administrator of our Downtown Revitalization CDBG funds and approve the dismissal of three bids for the City. Sherman asked for a motion. Kerkman moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the agreement between the City and PADD to be the grant administrator be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Clerk Borchert stated the following five Ordinance amendments reflect amendments to dates and updating the fiscal years.

Sherman asked for a motion to designate Ordinance 1871. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Ordinance 1871 be designated. Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by title. Borchert read, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 10 - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

CODE; TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1042 – WATER; SECTION 1042.42 - FRANCHISE FEE FROM WATER DEPARTMENT; OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, CHEYENNE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL SUCH SECTION AS HERETOFORE EXISTING, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.” Sherman asked for a motion to waive the readings. Radcliffe moved, Kerkman seconded, “That the readings be waived.” Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to pass. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, “That Ordinance 1871 be passed.” Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by number. Borchert read, “1871.” Sherman asked for a motion to publish. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded, “That Ordinance 1871 be published.” Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Sherman asked for a motion to designate Ordinance 1872. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, “That Ordinance 1872 be designated. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by title. Borchert read, “AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY PART 10– STREETS, UTILITIES, AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE; TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1045 – SEWERS AND PRIVATE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS; SECTION 1045.37 – FRANCHISE FEE FROM SEWER DEPARTMENT; OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, CHEYENNE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL SUCH SECTION AS HERETOFORE EXISTING, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.” Sherman asked for a motion to waive the readings. Kuhns moved, Kerkman seconded, “That the readings be waived.” Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to pass. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, “That Ordinance 1872 be passed.” Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by number. Borchert read, “1872.” Sherman asked for a motion to publish. Kerkman moved, Kuhns seconded, “That Ordinance 1872 be published.” Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Sherman asked for a motion to designate Ordinance 1873. Kuhns moved, Bondegard seconded, “That Ordinance 1873 be designated. Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by title. Borchert read, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 10 - STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE; TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1048 – ELECTRICITY; SECTION 1048.12 - FRANCHISE FEE FROM ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, CHEYENNE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL SUCH SECTION AS HERETOFORE EXISTING, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.” Sherman asked for a motion to waive the readings. Radcliffe moved, Bondegard seconded, “That the readings be waived.” Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to pass. Kerkman moved, Bondegard seconded, “That Ordinance 1873 be passed.” Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by number. Borchert read, “1873.” Sherman asked for a motion to publish. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, “That Ordinance 1873 be published.” Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Sherman asked for a motion to designate Ordinance 1874. Kuhns moved, Kerkman seconded, “That Ordinance 1874 be designated. Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by title. Borchert read, “AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY PART 10– STREETS, UTILITIES, AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE; TITLE SIX – OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES; CHAPTER 1060 – GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; SECTION 1060.15 – FRANCHISE FEE FOR GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTION; OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, CHEYENNE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL SUCH SECTION AS HERETOFORE EXISTING, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.” Sherman asked for a motion to waive the readings. Radcliffe moved, Kerkman seconded, “That the readings be waived.” Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to pass. Bondegard moved, Kuhns seconded, “That Ordinance 1874 be passed.” Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by number. Borchert read, “1874.” Sherman asked for a motion to publish. Kerkman moved, Bondegard seconded, “That Ordinance 1874 be published.” Roll call: Yeas: Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Sherman asked for a motion to designate Ordinance 1875. Bondegard moved, Radcliffe seconded, “That Ordinance 1875 be designated. Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by title. Borchert read, “AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY PART 10 – STREETS, UTILITIES, AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE; TITLE SIX – OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES; CHAPTER 1060 – GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; SECTION 1060.16 – FRANCHISE FEE FOR GARBAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL; OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, CHEYENNE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO REPEAL SUCH SECTION AS HERETOFORE EXISTING, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.” Sherman asked for a motion to waive the readings. Kerkman moved, Bondegard seconded, “That the readings be waived.” Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked for a motion to pass. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, “That Ordinance 1875 be passed.” Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved. Sherman asked Borchert to read by number. Borchert read, “1875.” Sherman asked for a motion to publish. Kerkman moved, Bondegard seconded, “That Ordinance 1875 be published.” Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Sherman, Radcliffe, Bondegard, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Scott stated that June 6 is Cruising Night, June 7 is the Great Trash Race, June 8 is the City Employee Picnic. Scott stated that the public has concerns about downtown parking. This will be brought to Council on the agenda for the next meeting. Scott gave accolades to all the employees who helped pick up garbage last Friday.

Borchert stated that the Farmers Market will begin the last Saturday in June.

Strommen said she will be attending a seminar for City Attorney’s.

Stone will be at a NE Economic Development conference this week. The City has submitted for a draw down for the CCCFF fund. The Creative District is about \$34,000 from purchasing a stage. Stone also stated that there is available merchant space.

Chief Lovato stated that they will be busy staffing for upcoming events.

Kegan Carwin stated there were 17 views.

Kerkman thanked staff, Josh and David, for putting together the Living Document.

Sherman gave kudos to the grant writers. Sherman also gave a shout out to the Sidney Just for Kix and the Sidney Track Team.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

ATTEST: /s/Brad Sherman, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/Lori Borchert, City Clerk