

Sidney, Nebraska August 26, 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 August 26, 2025 in the Council Room. Present in person: Mayor Bondegard and Council Members: Kuhns, Radcliffe, Lee. Others present: City Manager Scott, City Clerk Borchert. Notice of the meeting was given in advance there of 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 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 Bondegard informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Bondegard asked for a motion to excuse Councilman Kerkman's absence. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Councilman Kerkman be excused from the meeting." Roll Call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Bondegard asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 meeting. Kuhns moved, Lee seconded, "That the minutes from the August 12, 2025 meeting be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kuhns. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

City Manager Scott stated that JKEC presented the results per an Electric Rate Study to the City Council at the July 22, 2025 meeting. Council directed staff to make revisions to Ordinance 1876 for the second reading and again for this third and final reading. Assistant City Manager, Josh Hanson, stated there were no major changes from the second reading other than going from a four-year electric rate increase to a two-year increase. Hanson answered a couple question by Lee from the August 12 meeting, "what percent of electrical expenses are fixed costs?" Hanson stated that it was about 15% of our total expenditure. Capital expense made up about 36%, power purchase about 47% and contingency about 2%. Hanson answered, "what is the percent of the wholesale bill verses fix and demand?" On the MEAN bill, it is about 33% for fixed cost recovery, 52% for WAPA for demand, no demand for Sandhills Solar, and the City of Sidney 11% of our revenue based on demand. Kuhns asked what the effect would be if the City went with a smaller rate increase. Tom Mathine, Electric Supervisor, stated that with the generation being mostly paid off, it would be really close with our budget. If there was no rate increase, it would maybe be breaking even or possibly dipping into the City's reserves. Lee asked if we were talking millions of dollars or a few hundred thousand. Mathine believed it would be a few hundred thousand, without the increase. Lee stated that originally the City was asking for 4%, but now we are breaking even, the numbers don't add up. Lee stated that if feels like it's a tax increase without being a tax increase. Lee stated that he would rather sell higher wages for the Electric Department to the community. Kuhns asked what would happen if we keep the kilowatt hours the same and increase the meter rate, \$3 to \$4. Mathine stated that we are currently at \$20 and it would need to increase to \$27.50. There were no other questions. Bondegard asked for a motion to redesignate the Ordinance 1876 as amended. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded, "That Ordinance 1876 be redesignated as amended." Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved. Clerk Borchert read the title of the amended Ordinance 1876, which was presented to Council for the third time. "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, NEBRASKA, RELATING TO ELECTRICAL RATES, EFFECTIVE DATE OF RATES, AMENDING SECTIONS 1048.04, 1048.05, 1048.06, 1048.065, 1048.11 AND 1048.13 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, NEBRASKA; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION." Bondegard asked for a motion to pass Ordinance 1876. There was no motion. The Ordinance failed.

Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent, requested approval of **Resolution 20250807**, the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance. Radtke noted that this is an annual requirement, in resolution form, that proves we comply with our 1 & 6 plans, annual reporting, hearings, audits, and expenses. Mayor Bondegard asked for a motion to approve **Resolution 20250807**. Lee moved, Kuhns seconded, "That **Resolution 20250807**, the Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance be approved." Roll call: Yeas: Lee, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Kegan Carwin, Finance Director, presented the **Resolution 20250808**, Master Fee Schedule FY2025-2026, to Council. Carwin stated that the Golf and Inspection fees were about the only thing that changed. Carwin also stated that this schedule referenced the Electric Ordinance 1876 that failed, and so the fee schedule would need to be approved as amended. Kuhns moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That the FY2025-2026 Master Fee Schedule be approved as amended." Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Carwin presented **Resolution 20250809**, an opportunity to expand our ability to make investments. Present was Walker Zulkoski, NE Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT). Carwin stated that Council adopted the NE Cooperative Liquid Asset Securities System (NE CLASS) by resolution, which authorized the City to participate in the NE CLASS. E CLASS has since merged with NPAIT. Zulkoski, stated that this is a money market fund for public entities. It has been around for almost 30 years. Today's rate is at 4.26% with no obligation or cost to use it. Lee asked if there were early withdrawal fees. Zulkoski stated there were no penalties. Lee moved, Radcliffe seconded, "That

Resolution 20250809 be adopted to authorize the City to Participate in NPAIT.” Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kuhns. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Autumn Ramirez, HR Director, stated that after the FTA Drug Audit, the City’s DOT-FTA Drug and Alcohol policy needs to be updated and amended. Kuhns moved, Radcliffe seconded, “That the DOT-FTA Drug Policy be approved as amended.” Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Scott stated that Price Cream was seeking reimbursement through the Downtown Revitalization Grant. These reimbursements are sent to PADD to request funds from the state. Price Cream is seeking a second reimbursement for \$16,650.24, which is 75% of the total for this phase of project expenses totaling \$22,200.32. Lee moved, Kuhns seconded. “That Price Cream is approved for reimbursement for \$16,650.24.” Roll call: Yeas: Lee, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Scott stated that they had a productive meeting with the Landfill Engineers, since our cell was getting full. Scott reported that at his last Sentinel meeting that they do have their full funding now with the Big Beautiful Bill. The Economic Advisory Committee is working on a small business proposal to present to Council. The Robert B Daugherty Foundation is interested in meeting with management on behalf of of the North Park.

Borchert stated that the Sidney Farmers Market has five Saturdays left for the season and encourages the public to attend.

Radtke stated that they are currently working on Lodgepole and El Rancho Road.

Carwin said there were currently 34 viewers.

Marshall Hall reported that the five houses on John Borm Drive are close to being finalized.

Tom Mathine said they are working on the underground conversion from 21st Avenue to Elm Street and Pawnee Place. Mathine also reminded the public to dial 811 before you dig. Lee stated that there are large fees and fines involved in you don’t call in your locates before you dig.

Hanson stated that the City was in the beginning stages of discussion with the Village of Lodgepole utilizing the City of Sidney Water Department services with an Interlocal Agreement.

Bondegard asked for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of the Economic Development Personnel Position. Radcliffe moved, Lee seconded. “That closed session begins.” Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved. Closed session begins at 6:03 pm.

Bondegard asked for a motion to come out of closed session for the purpose of the Economic Development Personnel Position. Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded. “That closed session ends.” Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kuhns. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved. Closed session ended at 6:40 pm.

Bondegard asked for a motion, “To temporarily suspend the Economic Development position advertising and instructed staff to schedule a work session to explore the possibility of an Economic Development Corporation.” Radcliffe moved, Kuhns seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Absent: Kerkman. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

(Ordinances and Resolutions can be viewed in their entirety at the office of the City Clerk)

ATTEST: /s/ Brandon Bondegard, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Lori Borchert/City Clerk