

## Sidney, Nebraska September 23, 2025

A meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in an open and public session immediately following the Budget Hearing, on September 23, 2025, in the Council Room. Present in person: Mayor Bondegard and Council Members: Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe, Lee. Others present: Interim City Manager Hanson, City Clerk Borchert, 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 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 called the meeting to order immediately following the Budget Hearing at 5:44 pm.

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

There were no comments by the public.

Bondegard asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 9, 2025. Lee motioned, "To approve the minutes from September 9, 2025." Kerkman seconded, Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Motion passed. Bondegard asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2025. Radcliffe motioned, "To approve the minutes from September 12, 2025." Kuhns seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Kerkman. Nays: None. Abstain: Lee. Motion passed.

Kegan Carwin, Finance Director, reported that 0.339796, equivalent to \$1,803,957.68, plus 1% collection fee, will be appropriated for general purposes and that 0.1358493, equivalent to \$721,216.19, will be appropriated for bonded indebtedness. Lee asked what the bonded amount is split into. Carwin stated that it is broken down in Ordinance 1882. Bondegard asked for a motion. Kerkman motioned. "That Resolution **20250901**, setting property tax different than last fiscal year be approved." Lee seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Bondegard asked for a motion to designate **Ordinance 1882**, appropriation for fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Kerkman motioned, "To designate Ordinance 1882." Lee seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed. Bondegard as Clerk Borchert to read the title. Borchert read "*AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL, TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ALL PURPOSE LEVY FOR ALL OBJECTS OR PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE FOR FILING OF COPIES OF THE BUDGET DOCUMENT WITH THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND THE CHEYENNE COUNTY CLERK; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND TAKE EFFECT.*" Bondegard asked for a motion to waive the three readings. Radcliffe motioned, "That the three readings be waived." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passed. Bondegard asked for a motion to pass the ordinance. Kerkman motioned, "That Ordinance 1882 be passed." Kuhns seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Motion passed. Bondegard asked Borchert to read by number. Borchert read, "*1882.*" Bondegard asked for a motion to publish. Kuhns motioned "That Ordinance 1882 be published." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Bondegard asked for a motion to approve the designation of depositories. Kerkman motioned, "That **Resolution 20250902**, the annual designation of depositories for 2025-2026 be approved." Radcliffe seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Carwin asked Council approval to waive the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Administration fees to reduce the financial burden on the proprietary funds. Lee asked what the amount was. Carwin stated that it does fluctuate but would be around \$300,000.00. Carwin stated that this will lower the revenue for General Fund operations. Radcliffe asked if Council has done this before. Carwin stated that Council has not approved this before by resolution, however, it was suggested by the auditor that approval be given through Council, rather than be done in house. Bondegard asked for a motion. Radcliffe motioned, "That **Resolution 20250903**, to remove the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Administration Fees for 2025 be approved." Lee seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Tom Mathine, Electric Supervisor, came before Council asking to appoint himself and Josh Hanson as an alternate to the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Current MEAN representative, Mike Palmer, has stepped down. In addition, David Scott, serving as alternate, will need to be replaced. Bondegard asked for a motion. Kerkman motioned, "That **Resolution 20250904**, appointing Tom Mathine to the MEAN board with Josh Hanson serving as the alternate." Radcliffe seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Borchert asked Council to consider reappointment of Clem Schumacher to the Housing Board for a 5-year term. Bondegard asked for a motion. Lee motioned, "To reappoint Clem Schumacher to the Housing Board." Kuhns seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Josh Hanson, Interim City Manager, asked Council to consider appointment of Amber Fields to the Historic Preservation Board, term ending October of 2027. Fields was present and stated that she is a business and building owner. Bondegard asked for a motion. Kuhns motioned, "To appoint Amber Fields to the Historic Preservation Board." Kerkman

seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Hanson stated that the Sidney Small Business Advancement Program (SSBAP) is an economic incentive developed by the City of Sidney to support local small businesses. The Economic Development Citizen's Advisory Committee recommends that the Mayor and Council consider changes in the SSBAP that can be found in the guidelines of the program budget, the start up business grant, existing business expansion forgivable loan, job creation and retention requirements and approval and disbursements. Lee asked if there had to be two full-time employees and asked if that included the business owner. Hanson responded that from his understanding that it does not. Kerkman asked Hanson to check into it. Radcliffe asked if the changes were included in the plan presented. Hanson stated, that is correct, and that this plan has not been submitted to Council and that it supplements the already established LB840 plan. Bondegard asked for a motion. Lee motioned, "To revise the Economic Development Citizen's Advisory Committee Small Business Advancement Program." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Hanson stated that he was recommending Council approval for the payment to Spring Creek Cleaning in the amount of \$3,560.73. As part of the process for the Downtown Revitalization funds the city receive in 2024, the owner of buildings must seek Council approval to be reimbursed for the work they completed on the buildings. Hanson reported that the City was awarded \$435,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds in 2023, which ends in May of 2026. Hanson said that funds used to date is \$89,154.21 with \$345,845.00 remaining. Kerkman asked if it was a "use it or lose it plan." Hanson said that was correct. Kuhns stated that this was reimbursement, the owner puts the money upfront. Bondegard asked for a motion. Radcliffe motioned, "To reimburse Spring Creek Cleaning for the Downtown Revitalization Grant." Lee seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Hanson stated that the Sidney High School requested a variance for City codes for fireworks before each hometown game. Oktoberfest will be October 3-5. October 4, SRMC Oktoberfest Run at 7:30 am, with the parade to follow at 10:00 am. Sidney Cruisin Class Car Show will be 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. October 5, Annual Weiner Dog Races. October 12, SVFD open house from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. October 31, City Trunk or Treat beginning at 4:00 pm. Hanson stated that he will also be working on a peer evaluation for the City Manager role.

Borchert stated that the Sidney Farmers Market will have its last Market Saturday, September 26.

Chief Lovato stated that they will be assisting with Oktoberfest festivities and utilizing the agreement that the City has with Kimball Law Enforcement.

Hank Radtke stated that the street department is still working on Lodgepole Road. The street department will be assisting with the Oktoberfest festivities as well.

Carwin reported that there were 32 viewers.

Mathine stated that the electric department was still working on Sky Manor underground.

Kerkman encouraged the public to visit Runza today as 10% of sales will go to support TEAMMATES.

Bondegard asked for a motion to enter closed session for the purpose of City Manager Search. Lee motioned, "That Council enters closed session for the purpose of Personnel, City Manager Search." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passed. Time in: 6:24 pm.

Bondegard asked for a motion to exit closed session for the purpose of City Manager Search. Radcliffe motioned, "That Council exits closed session for the purpose of Personnel, City Manager Search." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Motion passed. Time out: 6:47 pm.

Bondegard asked for a motion to adjourn. Kerkman motioned, Radcliffe seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

(Minutes, ordinances and resolutions can be viewed in their entirety at the office of the City Clerk.)

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ATTEST: /s/ Brandon Bondegard, Mayor

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ATTEST: /s/ Lori Borchert/City Clerk

