

Sidney, Nebraska December 2, 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 December 2, 2025, in the Council Room. Present in person were: Mayor Bondegard and Council Members: Kerkman, Kuhns, Radcliffe, Lee. Others present: Interim City Manager Hanson, Clerk Borchert, 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 Bondegard informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Joe McCarn, Cheyenne County Chamber Director, encouraged the public to shop local at Shop Cheyenne County Days.

Kerkman motioned to approve the minutes from November 13, 2025, Lee seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Chief Lovato introduced three new members of the Sidney Police Department, Faith Gettman, Hayden Hofrock and Devin Holbrooks. Lovato introduced a ceremonial pinning program to announce the promotion of Kevin Tretter to the rank of Sergeant. Lee thanked the officers and stated that it was an honor to be sitting with them.

Kegan Carwin, Finance Director, asked Council for approval to close the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary account and consolidate the funds into the Fire Departments operating account. Lee moved, "To close the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary fund and consolidate funds into the Fire Department operating account." Radcliffe seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Hank Radtke, Street Superintendent, asked Council for permission to move forward on the road projects and receive bids. This was approved in the budget and an engineering study was completed. Kerkman asked if this was a complete removal. Radtke stated that it was. Bondegard asked if the water lines would be replaced. Radtke replied that they would be replaced. Kuhns moved, "That approval be given to go out for bids." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Jason Petik, CEO at Sidney Regional Medical Center and Selection Committee Member, recommended that a professional recruitment company be hired to find a City Manager. Petik stated that GPS put together a proposal for the City and the committee would like Council approval to move forward to engage GPS as the search firm. Petik stated the cost would \$22,500, \$12,500 to be paid upfront. An 18-month guarantee would be instated, once someone has been placed, if that person didn't work out. Kerkman asked if GPS gave a time frame. Petik stated that they (GPS) want to begin with marketing to get a broader area, but no timeline was given. Kerkman asked about salaries. Petik stated the range that the committee came up with was \$110,000 to \$150,000." Lee stated that the City was in a crucial spot with new things coming to town. We are at a tipping point. If we have someone local that would get it that could lead the City but also open it up a community further out, to really look, we are doing our due diligence. Kerkman moved, "That GPS be approved as the recruitment firm and the recommended salary start at \$110,000 to \$150,000. Radcliffe seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Radcliffe, Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Josh Hanson, Interim City Manager, stated motions were made at the November 13 Council meeting to approve two police vehicles. Ads have since been run in the Sun Telegraph, running at least once for two consecutive weeks. Sealed bids are due to the City by noon on December 5. Proper protocol requires a formal bidding process for all commodities and service valued at \$30,000 or more. Due to this oversight and to ensure full compliance with City policy and Nebraska State Statute, Hanson requested that Council reverse the motion to purchase the vehicles. Hanson stated that once the sealed bids are received on December 5, staff will bring the results to Council at the December 9 meeting for formal consideration. Lee moved, "To approve the reversal of the two approved police vehicles." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Hanson presented the final version of the proposed Backyard Chicken Ordinance 1885, along with the revised Section 618.04 – Keeping Livestock, Including Fowl. Major changes include removing the requirement of a privacy fence, adding expanded enforcement measures, and addressing provision related to animal neglect. Radcliffe commended Megan DeNardo on how she handled the Chicken Ordinance. Kuhns moved, "To designate Ordinance 1855." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Yeas: Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved. Clerk Borchert read by title: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 6 – GENERAL OFFENSES CODE; CHAPTER 618 – ANIMALS TO ADD A NEW SECTION 618.06 – BACKYARD CHICKENS IN NON-AGRICULTURAL & RURAL ZONES; OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, CHEYENNE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE." Kerkman moved, "To waive the three readings." Kuhns seconded. Roll call: Bondegard, Radcliffe, Kerkman, Kuhns. Nays: Lee Motion approved. Kerkman moved, "To pass Ordinance 1885." Kuhns seconded. Roll call: Radcliffe, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard. Nays: Lee Motion approved. Clerk Borchert read the Ordinance by number, "1885." Kerkman moved. "To publish Ordinance 1885." Kuhns seconded. Roll call. Yeas: Lee, Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Hanson congratulated Sergeant Tretter and welcomed the three new officers to the department. Hanson gave a shout out to Chief Lovato on his proactive tactics. The Street Department has taken possession of the previously budgeted loader. Hanson also stated that the Transportation Buses would not be running on Saturdays due to State budget reductions. Hanson reported that security cameras have been installed due to the recent vandalism of the Port-a-Pots.

City Clerk Borchert gave her resignation effective March 2, 2026.

Marshal Hall stated that Les Schwab had broken ground for a new tire shop.

Hank Radtke stated that the street department is ready for the snow. The Parade of Lights is this weekend.

Kegan Carwin stated that the auditors were at the City before Thanksgiving. There were 46 viewers.

Lee thanked DeNardo for all her hard work on the Chicken Ordinance.

Kerkman gave a shout out to the Raider football team for a great season. Shop local.

Bondegard echoed Kerkman's sentiments.

Bondegard stated that there would be closed sessions for the purpose of Contract Negotiations for Solid Waste and Automated Clearing House. Radcliffe moved, "That Council go into closed session for the purpose of contract negotiations for Solid Waste." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Nays: None. Motion approved. Time in 6:14 pm. Kuhns moved, "That Council comes out of closed session." Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Time out: 6:22pm. No action taken.

Kerkman moved, "That Council goes into closed session for the purpose of contract negotiations for Automated Clearing House." Kuhns seconded. Time in: 6:23pm. Roll call: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Lee moved, "That Council comes out of closed session. Kerkman seconded. Roll call: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Motion approved. Time out: 6:44pm. No action taken.

Kuhns moved to adjourn at 6:45pm. Radcliffe seconded. Roll call: Roll call: Kerkman, Kuhns, Bondegard, Radcliffe, Lee. Motion approved.

ATTEST: /s/Brandon Bondegard, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/Lori Borchert/City Clerk