

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, November 2, 2009

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, November 2, 2009, with Mayor Mike Barhorst presiding.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present and answered roll call: Mike Barhorst, Mike Burns, Frank Mariano, Katie McMillan, Tom Miller, Mardie Milligan, and Terry Pellman.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Law Director Mike Smith, Asst. City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy, Police Chief Kevin Gessler, Fire Chief Stan Crosley, Deputy Fire Chief Rick Simon, Parks Director Duane Gaier, Public Works Director Bill Gosciowski, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, Street Supt. Marty Keifer, Municipal Court Administrator Bonnie Gold, Recreation Specialist Jennie Rogers, IT Manager Ken VanHook, City Engineer Scott Landon, Human Resource Manager Vickie Allen, Purchasing Manager Gary Gerkey, Assistant Finance Officer Renee Dulaney, Fleet Manager Doug Dearing, Facilities Maintenance Supv. Jim Heuing and Utility Director Chris Clark.

Mayor Barhorst noted because of the scheduled review of the proposed budget, the previously planned GIS Update has been moved to Council's November 9, 2009 meeting.

Discussion – Budget Review

Finance Officer Adams gave a brief overview of the proposed 2010 budget, noting the theme “to the extent possible, preserve current levels of City services in spite of revenue losses.” She added this budget is based on a slow recovery from the present economic downturn. Adams noted the budget reflects a 13% decline in income tax revenue in 2009, followed by 2% growth in 2010, and noted a staffing for 2010 of 227.93 FTE's, reflecting a 15 FTE decrease compared to 2008. She also reviewed some of the reductions already made by departments; adding staff will continue to defer maintenance and postpone purchases as well as reduce staff through attrition.

Review of the proposed budget then started with the Fire and Emergency Services, followed by Municipal Court, Human Relations, Public Transit, Service Center and Fleet Operations. Solid Waste, Purchasing and City Hall budgets followed.

At 7:53 Council took a seven-minute break.

Public Works budget was next reviewed, followed by Engineering, Street, Urban Forestry, Cemetery, Parks, Senior Center and Swimming Pool.

It was noted the free swimming lessons have been dropped from the 2010 budget and Councilman Mariano urged Parks Director Gaier to search for funding to help finance this

opportunity. Mariano suggested possibly some companies would be interested in helping finance this clinic.

Council then reviewed Police, Parking Enforcement, Drug Law Enforcement, Utilities, Water, Waste Water, Underground Utilities, Stormwater, Planning, Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, CDBG, Administration, Airport, Finance, Revenue Collections, Council, Law Director, Miscellaneous and Capital Improvement.

Council will be given an opportunity at their November 9, 2009 meeting for further review or questions before this budget is presented as legislation at their November 23 meeting.

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

Stilwell briefly reviewed the prospective Council agenda items for the next 30 days.

Council/City Manager Comments

Councilman Mariano questioned when the Police would be replacing their bullet-proof vests and Chief Gessler responded the department is scheduled to be measured for these new vests this week. Mariano also questioned when the transit rates are scheduled to be reviewed and Assistant City Manager Judy responded they would be looked at the first of the year.

Councilman Mariano also commented he appreciated the efforts on preparation of the proposed budget; adding staff has always been good, but they just got better in tightening up the budget even more. He added he appreciates their efforts on behalf of the community.

Mayor Barhorst also thanked staff for their concise presentation of the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Mariano moved and Council member McMillan seconded a motion to adjourn. The roll call vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was held pursuant to Sidney City Council Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jocene Fahnstock
City Clerk

Mayor