

## **MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**

Held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009

6:30 P.M.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Tuesday, September 8, 2009, with Mayor Mike Barhorst presiding.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Also attending were: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Law Director Mike Smith, Assistant City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy, Police Chief Kevin Gessler, Parks & Recreation Director Duane Gaier, Public Works Director Bill Gosciewski, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, Assistant Finance Office Officer Renee Dulaney, Utilities Director Chris Clark, and Recreation Specialist Jenny Rogers.

### **Discussion – 2009 Recreation, Lunch, and Pool Program Report**

Recreation Specialist Rogers gave Council a brief overview of the summer programs sponsored by the Parks Department. Rogers explained the number of meals served in the food program was slightly down from 2008 figures. She noted that June had the highest attendance which coincided with the Recreational Programs provided at all of the various parks in the City. Rogers also noted that Central and Riverbend Parks were not staffed with playground leaders as in the past due to budget reductions.

Revenue and use of the pool was also down in 2009 primarily due to the mild summer that we have experienced.

Mayor Barhorst asked how staff utilized the data that had been collected and presented. Rogers responded that changes in program offerings and location of clinics were based in part on usage and participation in the programs and clinics.

### **Discussion – Five-year Plan Review**

Assistant City Manager-Administrative Services Judy provided an introduction for Council of the 2010-2014 five-year plan. He reviewed income tax collections and the City's financial policies relating to fund balances and the process by which the Finance Department developed the five-year plan. Judy noted that based on close monitoring of income tax collections, staff reduced the operating budget by approximately \$1 million in April, 2009 and additional adjustments of over \$1 million per year are proposed in this five-year plan. He noted the City is relatively well positioned to deal with this reduction of revenues because of the five-year planning process and strong financial policies. The five-year plan allows the City to look ahead and make timely corrective actions.

Finance Officer Adams then presented a general overview of the 2010-2014 five-year plan utilizing a power point presentation. Adams noted that one of the key points in the development of the plan were several global assumptions including: a slow economic recovery is anticipated;

general rate of inflation is considered to be 3%; and while there will be some reductions in service, overall the public services are largely unchanged, even with the reductions. The plan features a reduction in total staffing of over 9% from 242 FTE's in 2008 to 220 FTE's in 2014. This will include seasonal and part-time reductions and vacant positions to be left unfilled. It is staff's hope that the reductions in budget can be maintained without reliance on layoffs.

Council member Milligan asked how much money would be saved if the City did not open the pool next year and City Manager Stilwell answered that approximately \$60,000 would be saved.

City Manager Stilwell then reviewed the Capital Improvement Fund with City Council. He noted the Capital Improvement Fund included \$17 million in capital projects over the five-year plan.

Council member McMillan commended the finance staff for presenting a realistic budget plan and Councilman Miller added he appreciated the detail and thought process that went into the budget. City Manager Stilwell commended Finance Officer Adams and Assistant Finance Officer Dulaney on working through the budget process and also recognized all the Senior Directors for their team effort in working to develop a workable budget that included significant reductions in expenses.

### **September Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission Activity**

Community Services Director Dulworth next reviewed the items scheduled to come before the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission at their September 21 meeting.

### **Upcoming City Council Agenda Items**

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

### **Council/City Manager Comments**

City Manager Stilwell reminded Council of the Applefest celebration this coming weekend and the Applefest parade that would be held on Sunday, September 13. He also reminded Council of the Air Fair to be held at the Sidney Airport on September 19.

Councilman Miller moved and Council member McMillan seconded a motion to excuse Councilman Mariano from tonight's meeting. The roll call vote followed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:35 P.M., with nothing further to come before Council, Council member Milligan moved and Councilman Pellman 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,

R. Stanley Crosley  
Deputy Clerk

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Mayor