

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

Held on Saturday, February 27, 2010

8:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The retreat meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 8:30 A.M. Saturday, February 27, 2010, at the Shelby Public Transit Building, Sidney.

ROLL CALL

City Manager Steve Stilwell welcomed everyone in attendance and roll call of Council followed: Mike Barhorst, Mike Burns, Frank Mariano, Tom Miller, Mardie Milligan, and Terry Pellman.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Assistant City Manager Tom Judy, and City Clerk Jocene Fahnstock.

RETREAT

City Manager Stilwell opened the meeting by commending Council for making an effort to attend this retreat. He shared during an OCMA meeting this week in Columbus, other communities were commenting on the difficulty of getting councils together for such a retreat session.

Stilwell shared some traits of being a Council member and also referred to a recent survey done by Troy showing Sidney as the lowest of 34 cities for "Quality of Life" costs.

City Manager Stilwell gave an overview of today's schedule and reviewed goals from earlier retreats, noting the many projects and goals accomplished.

Councilman Miller commented during his first 18 years serving on City Council, the City had the financial means necessary to do projects; adding he feels good about what the City has been able to do lately with reduced finances.

Mayor Barhorst commented projects the City has been able to do with grant money have been good; adding he feels the City is still able to complete some projects without costing our community any more money. Barhorst added he is concerned with the stability of our older neighborhoods and doesn't see staff doing a lot about this.

Council agreed possibly another look at this concern might be good.

Council then spent some time and thought listing items they each would like to see given attention in the next two years, and ranked them in importance. This ranking will be summarized and a listing will be given to Council.

City Manager Stilwell then gave Council a brief review of possible IT assistance with the County, the upcoming Fire Chief selection process, Police and Fire operation review; as well as a review of a Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Council member Milligan commented if the City is looking aggressively at buildings in the downtown area and going after property owners, then she felt the City should also be looking at homes in the same light.

Councilman Mariano commented he felt the City needs to establish guidelines for care of these buildings.

Councilman Miller commented he would like a recap of the history of the tannery property.

During a working lunch, City Manager Stilwell and Assistant City Manager Judy gave a financial review as well as a five-year projection outlook. Judy also reviewed some proposed possible contingency options.

Council discussed a possible endorsement policy for local issues and Councilman Mariano commented he would like to see all these matters discussed during a public meeting before any endorsement is made. He didn't feel adoption of an actual policy at this time was needed.

Council member Milligan commented she would like Law Director Smith to talk with Council concerning the "Sunshine Law" as it relates to communications.

Council member Milligan moved and Councilman Burns seconded a motion to excuse Council member McMillan from today's meeting due to a death in the family. The roll call vote followed unanimously.

Mayor Barhorst thanked Council and staff for their time today.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:00 PM with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Pellman moved and Councilman Mariano seconded a motion to adjourn. The roll call vote was unanimous.

The meeting was held pursuant to Sidney City Council Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jocene Fahnstock
City Clerk

Mayor