

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, January 4, 2010

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, January 4, 2010, 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, and Mardie Milligan.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Law Director Mike Smith, Public Works Director Bill Gosciewski, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, Water Supt. Larry Broughton, Taxation Office Supv. Susan Lukey, and Utility Director Chris Clark.

Discussion – Update on ARRA Projects

Utility Director Clark gave Council a brief overview of the City's current ARRA projects sharing the project cost as well as the completion status.

Councilman Mariano questioned whether any new jobs were resulting from these projects and Clark responded current jobs are being retained as a result of these projects.

Discussion – Back-up Sump Pump Systems

Utility Director Clark next shared a concern with Council relative to back-up sump pump systems being sold locally. He explained these back-up systems connect to the City water supply and are used to protect a basement in case of power outages where the primary sump pump fails to operate. Clark shared staff's concern with the lack of an approved backflow preventer on the water supply side of this back-up system, making it possible for water to be pulled out of the sump pump pit and discharged to the City's water system. He advised, staff will be talking with local plumbers regarding having these units installed to code. Clark also plans to meet with local stores selling this device as well as put this information on the utility bills to advise the community.

Discussion – 90-Day Review

City Manager Stilwell next reviewed the 90-Day Calendar and scheduled workshop topics for 2010. He urged Council to advise staff if there were additional issues they would like to see scheduled for discussion.

Councilman Mariano raised a question of Council's role on endorsements of various election issues and added he would like to see this item added to the workshop topics to be discussed in

2010. City Manager Stilwell commented he would check with other communities to see how they handle this issue.

Discussion – Review Council Rules/Liaison Appointments to Boards

City Manager Stilwell briefly reviewed Council's current rules of procedure and asked if any changes were requested. Council voiced their agreement with the rules as they stand currently. Council liaison appointments to the various boards and commissions were also reviewed and Council agreed with the recent realignment of appointments as directed by the Mayor.

Discussion – Income Tax Amnesty Rules

Finance Officer Adams introduced Taxation Office Supv. Lukey and reviewed a proposed Income Tax Amnesty Program as a first step in the new mandatory filing process. She explained this one-time amnesty opportunity would provide taxpayers the ability to pay back taxes without penalty and typically without interest. Adams noted an amnesty program can bring taxpayers into the system and make them easier to track for future tax compliance. She noted they are recommending a short-term amnesty program from January 12 through May 31, 2010.

Council agreed to consider the necessary legislation to implement this income tax amnesty program.

Review of Upcoming Zoning Board/Planning Commission Agenda

City Manager Stilwell reviewed those items scheduled for the January 19, 2010 meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission.

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

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

Council/City Manager Comments

Councilman Miller moved and Council member Milligan seconded a motion to excuse Councilman Pellman from tonight's meeting due to illness. The roll call vote followed unanimously.

City Manager Stilwell advised Council Saturday, February 27, 2010 appears to be the most agreeable date for a Council Retreat; adding more details will be following.

He also reminded Council of the annual Chamber dinner scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 and urged Council to let City Clerk Fahnestock know if they are interested in attending.

Council questioned whether a Martin Luther King walk is scheduled for January 18 and City Manager Stilwell commented he would check into this and advise Council.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:47 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 Fahnestock
City Clerk

Mayor