

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, November 1, 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, November 1, 2010, with Mayor 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, Acting Fire Chief Rick Simon, Parks Director Duane Gaier, Public Works Director Bill Gosciewski, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, and Utilities Director Chris Clark. Also attending was Assistant Finance Officer Renee Dulaney, IT Manager Ken Van Hook; Underground Utility Supervisor Dave Wood; Facilities Maintenance Supv. Jim Heuing, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supt. Brian Schultz, Street Supt. Marty Keifer, Fleet Manager Doug Dearing, Water Treatment Plant Supt. Larry Broughton, Engineer Scott Landon and Public Transit Manager Deb Grogan.

DISCUSSION – Budget Review

Finance Officer Ginger Adams gave a brief overview of the proposed 2011 budget, noting the theme “doing more with less”. She noted that basically budget cuts from prior years remain in effect; revenue is consistent with the five year plan. Key budget assumptions are: slow economic recovery, moderate inflation rates, State & Federal support, capital per five year plan and minimum cash reserves maintained in all Funds. Staffing changes reflect an 11% reduction in total staffing from 243 FE in 2008 to 217 FTE in 2011. Some reductions have been made in City services (i.e. parks recreation program and swim lessons, funding to outside community agencies, police community resource programs and Paint the Town), however, the quantity and quality of City services remain at high levels despite the weak economy. The City intends to continue budget strategies implemented over the past two years through vacated positions left open, deferred maintenance and postponing purchases.

Review of the proposed budget then started with the Parks Department, followed by Fire & Emergency Services, Municipal Court, and Administrative Services .

Council member Milligan complimented the Parks Director for “holding his own” with providing services with minimal financing. Council member McMillan encouraged Parks Director Gaier to continue pursuing grants and partnerships with local corporations for outreach/service days. Councilman Miller commented that the dedication ceremony for Phase II of the feeder canal walkway was impressive; he came away that day feeling good about the community and the work being accomplished. D. Gaier noted the cooperation between ODOT and City Engineering Department in designing the project.

Council member Milligan inquired about the working relationship with the County for IT services. Assistant City Manager Judy reported that the County is extremely pleased with the IT

support they are getting; it continues to be a win-win situation for City and County. Under the leadership of IT Manager Van Hook, the technology services are more “whole-istic”, looking at the County IT system as a whole.

At 7:30 p.m. Council took a fifteen minute break.

Public Works budget was next reviewed, followed by Police, Community Services Department, and Utilities Dept.

Council member McMillan encouraged Chief Gessler to continue pursuing grants. Chief Gessler reported that in 2010 four grants were applied for, only one was funded. Two grants have been applied for 2011. Staff members are assisting with grant writing; keeping in mind that Sidney is competing with larger municipalities for the same funds.

Councilman Burns inquired of Police Chief Gessler about new apparatus on the cruisers. Chief Gessler noted that one of the cruisers has a LPR (license plate recognition) camera installed. The camera captures a picture of all license plates and runs a check against a “hot list”. Two violators have been caught to date.

Mayor Barhorst commented on the long list of 2011 goals for Police Department. Chief Gessler explained that some will be accomplished, some will be on-going and some will be delayed depending on finances.

Council took a second break at 8:50 p.m.

Budget review was wrapped up by City Administration and Finance (including community service agencies funding).

Council will be given an opportunity at their November 8, 2010 meeting for further review or questions before this budget is presented as legislation at their November 22 meeting and for adoption at the December 13th meeting. CM Stilwell reminded Council members that if something needs to be added to the budget, something will have to come out in order to balance the budget. Staff members are available to assist Council with any questions or concerns.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

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

COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

CM Stilwell brought Council up to date on the status of the negotiations for the acquisition of property for the new water source. City staff met with the property owner and legal representative in August 2010 and asked for a response by mid-October. To date, no response has been received. The next step would be to submit to Council an Ordinance authorizing condemnation. It had been hoped to conclude the acquisition by the end of 2010. Mayor Barhorst wondered if it was time to push the issue along through condemnation process. It appears that the primary owner involved (Hoge) is not happy with the appraisal submitted by the City.

CM Stilwell noted that it is important for the project that the City takes ownership of the real estate as opposed to lease options.

Mayor Barhorst inquired if it was time to put the condemnation on the docket? Law Director Smith indicated that he felt it would be pre-mature; he feels there may be other techniques to explore before condemnation. CM Stilwell noted that the Ordinance could be placed on the agenda for a first reading to get the matter moving forward.

Council Pellman commented that he feels the water source is critical but would vote for Law Director to explore all options before condemnation process is initiated.

Councilman Burns commented that he feels the City has waited long enough; it is time to proceed with condemnation.

Councilman Miller indicated that he has reservations about the condemnation process; he doesn't want to move too quick if the owner really is working on something and just hasn't communicated with the City. If and when the City decides to go with condemnation, Councilman Miller will fully support it.

Councilman Mariano expressed concern that we are down to the wire for end of the year acquisition.

By unanimous nod of all Council members, the City Manager was directed to place the condemnation ordinance on the Council agenda for first reading on December 13, 2010.

Mayor Barhorst reminded Council members that the evaluations for the three Charter employees are to be submitted to him by November 10th.

Councilman Miller inquired as to the status and plans for the 2011 City Calendar. The budget allocation was reduced 50%, however, a scaled down version will be published as well as posted on the City website for public access.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Council member Miller moved and Councilman Burns 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,

Joyce L. Goubeaux
Acting City Clerk

Mayor