

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, April 4, 2011

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, April 4, 2011, with Mayor Barhorst presiding.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present and answered roll call: Mike Barhorst, 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, Public Works Director Chris Clark and Police Chief Kevin Gessler.

DISCUSSION – Police Annual Report – Trends and Analysis

Police Chief K. Gessler presented a PowerPoint program outlining the department activities for the past year, including calls for service, incidents and automobile accidents. Local data was compared with national trends and current crime index. Future challenges in law enforcement include abuse of prescription and over the counter (OTC) drugs and designer drugs. Sidney Police will be visiting every retailer to educate them on the dangers to citizens and ask them to comply with a zero tolerance for these substances in the City of Sidney. National Take Back Day (for prescription drugs) will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in collaboration with Shelby County Sheriff, Anna, Botkins, Russia and Jackson Center departments.

Council members showed their full support of the new initiative and wish Chief Gessler and his department success.

Councilman Pellman commented that, as a former social worker, he has seen a high percent of child abuse cases related to drug and alcohol abuse; they seem to go hand in hand.

Mayor Barhorst noted that property crimes (B&E and thefts) are above national average but the Department is working on efforts to get those numbers down (i.e. prevention and education in the schools and the adult community). Chief Gessler commented that education is key, not only for preventive measures but also to teach victims how to avoid repeat incidents.

DISCUSSION – Legal Dept. Needs/Staffing

CM Stilwell reviewed with Council the process for finding a replacement for Law Director Mike Smith upon his retirement in December 2011. During the March 28 Council meeting, Council indicated to Staff that their preference would be to fill a full time position, combining Law

Director and Prosecutor responsibilities. Council was provided with a Recruitment Profile, a community survey and proposed timeline for the process. A full time position would be cost effective in the long run, with minimal additional expense for back up legal assistance when needed on a contract basis.

Council member Milligan noted that the Recruitment Profile primarily addresses the responsibilities of the Law Director position. Attributes and responsibilities for the Prosecutor need to be included in the profile to aid Council in selecting the right individual. She recommends amending the timeline, if necessary, to allow sufficient time to find the best person for the City, whether it is full time or two part-time people.

Mayor Barhorst believes the staff is going in the right direction and asked that the recruitment profile be updated and brought back to Council for further discussion. One full time person makes sense with back up service. Other Council members indicated agreement by nod.

DISCUSSION – Taylor Building Status Report

CM Stilwell brought Council up to date on the progress at the Taylor Building. The contractor has signed the contract; the contract bid was increased by \$100,000 due to volume of materials to be removed from the building and the “regulated” materials to be tested and removed. It is anticipated that the demolition could begin Friday, April 8th, depending on weather and removal of building contents.

Councilman Mariano stated that the comments he is hearing say “go ahead and tear it down; clean up the mess”.

Council member Milligan inquired about the completion bond. The contract does not require a bid bond; contractor will receive 20% payment of the contract and then the balance upon completion of the job. If he does not complete the job, the 80% balance would be allocated to another contractor to finish the work.

Councilman Mariano inquired about plans for the basement and replacing the sidewalks. The basement foundation will remain; it will be cleaned up and filled with sand/top soil. Contractor is aware of the previous streetscape work at the site.

Staff will continue to keep Council updated as progress is being made on the project.

DISCUSSION – 4th Ward Vacancy

Mayor Barhorst reviewed with Council the proposed timeline for filling the 4th Ward vacancy on Council. A press release will be issued to Sidney Daily News this week; interested parties can obtain an application from the City Clerk. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2011, with hopes to swear in new Council member on May 23, 2011.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING ZONING BOARD/PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA FOR MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011

No report given.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

CM Stilwell briefly reviewed the prospective Council agenda items for the April 11th and 25th Council meetings.

COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Council member Milligan encouraged the members to continue to support the downtown businesses during the demolition of the Taylor Building. Re-routing of traffic around the downtown business district is greatly affecting the businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:46 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Pellman 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,

Joyce L. Goubeaux
City Clerk

Mayor