

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, August 1, 2011

6:32 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:32 P.M. Monday, August 1, 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, Terry Pellman and Steve Wagner.

Also attending was: Interim City Manager Tom Judy, Public Works Director Chris Clark, Law Director Mike Smith, Parks Director Duane Gaier, and Finance Officer Ginger Adams. Other staff members in attendance included: Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Brian Schultz, Street Superintendent Marty Keifer, Stormwater Operator I Brent Bruggeman, and Traffic Technician Tom Glass.

Discussion – Sign Reflectivity Rules

Street Superintendent M. Keifer presented a report to Council regarding the new rules adopted by the Federal Highway Administration for the replacement and maintenance of street traffic signs called the Retro Reflectivity Rules. This is an unfunded mandate in which all communities nationwide must implement.

The FHA has established milestone dates in which communities must meet or lose federal highway funds (through ODOT), namely 2012 – establish a sign maintenance program; 2015 comply with new retro-reflectivity requirements for most traffic signs and 2018 – comply with requirements for overhead guide signs and all street name signs. Mr. Keifer reviewed the City's recommended plan of action and how the costs will be incorporated into the 5-Year Plan. The staff is also working with other communities to determine if there is an interest in sharing the expense of purchasing the necessary testing equipment and or the purchase of signs as a group.

Discussion – Downtown Traffic Update

PWD Clark reviewed with Council the results of the 2010 Downtown Traffic Study, which included the evaluation as to whether thirteen downtown traffic signals met the necessary warrants. The overall goal was to improve traffic flow on State Routes through the Downtown area.

The study recommends that several traffic signals be actuated with loop detectors (under the pavement) and/or traffic camera detectors (on the signal mast arm). The camera detector option would cost an additional \$15,000 but would be more economical in the long term.

The City has been awarded a Small Cities Grant for the Downtown Traffic Improvement Project in the amount of \$97,680. The City's local match will be \$41,070; total project costing \$138,750.

Following discussion, Council indicated they would be in favor of the traffic camera detector option and asked staff to complete a cost comparison.

Discussion – Cemetery Maintenance

Parks Director D. Gaier gave Council an update on the current cemetery maintenance issues and the actions taken by staff to address these concerns. Codified Ordinance 921 establishes the rules concerning decorations at Graceland Cemetery. With the reduced staff and operating budget cuts, the staff is making an effort to enforce the rules for safety reasons as well as efficiency in maintaining the grounds.

Efforts have been made to educate the public about the regulations, including a press release in the local newspaper, a rules brochure, maintenance notification signs throughout the cemetery and construction of a new storage area for decorations that are removed and waiting for families to claim.

Council member McMillan commended D. Gaier for a nice job in cleaning up the grounds and handling the public with dignity and respect. Councilman Wagner concurred with Council member McMillan saying the staff has done a good job cleaning up the grounds.

Law Director Smith reminded Council that the rules at the cemetery were established by Council through Ordinance 921 and Council needs to take ownership of the rules when addressing constituents. Staff members are simply enforcing those rules.

Discussion – Stormwater Financial Update

Stormwater Operator I Brent Bruggeman presented an update on the EPA Stormwater Phase II Program. This update included the first two and a half years of the 5-year NPDES permit and the staff's progress to date. Enforcement has been accomplished through education rather than penalties; storm sewer mapping remains an item that needs to be started.

PWD Clark next reviewed the Storm Water Fee implemented in 2007 to provide funding for the new EPA Stormwater Phase II Program. The Stormwater fee provides for Stormwater maintenance funds and Stormwater monitoring funds. A recent comparison of five surrounding communities indicates that Sidney is the lowest fee, at \$0.86 per 2,752 square feet/residential flat fee.

Discussion – Wapak Phase I Project Update

PWD Clark reported on the recent progress on the Wapak Phase I Project. Project started June 20, 2011 and the targeted completion date is now set for December 9, 2011. The City web page will

continue to give weekly updates on the project. Minor construction issues and traffic flow problems have been dealt with by all parties.

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

Interim City Manager Judy reported that August meeting for the Planning Commission will be held on August 18th to address a rezoning of 320 N. Main Avenue (Ace Hardware) from Industrial to B-2 Community Business District. Due to lack of agenda items, there will be no Zoning Board of Appeals meeting for August, 2011.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

ICM Judy briefly reviewed the prospective Council agenda items for the August 8 and August 22 Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Mariano moved and Council member Milligan 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