

MINUTE RECORD

No. 729—REDFIELD & COMPANY, INC., OMAHA

LA VISTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING BUDGET WORKSHOP JULY 12, 2006

A meeting of the City Council of the City of La Vista, Nebraska was convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on July 12, 2006. Present were Mayor Kindig and Councilmembers Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Absent: None. Also in attendance were City Attorney McKeon, City Administrator Gunn, Police Chief Lausten, Fire Chief Schuster, Public Works Director Soucie, Finance Director Lindberg, Library Director Schinker, Community Development Director Birch, Recreation Director Stopak, and City Clerk Ramirez.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Times on June 29, 2006. Notice was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of the acknowledgment of the receipt of notice attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated to the Mayor and City Council in the advance notice of the meeting. All proceedings shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Further, all subjects included in said proceedings were contained in the agenda for said meeting which is kept continuously current and available for public inspection within 10 days after said meeting and prior to the next convened meeting of said body.

Mayor Kindig called the meeting to order and stated that the budget workshop meetings were going to follow a new format this year. He stated that City Administrator Gunn and Department Heads would present their budgets to Council and answer questions.

III. BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Administrator Gunn distributed several corrected pages of the proposed budget based on the discussion at last night's meeting. She also responded to several questions that had been asked at the previous meeting.

Sewer Fund

Gunn stated that the City is still in discussions with Sarpy County regarding a sewer agreement. The City of Omaha will not submit sewer fees collected from La Vista's ETJ until the City has an interlocal agreement with the County. This has been an on-going process and the City is continuing to make an effort to get this agreement negotiated and put into place.

Gunn stated that a 5% increase in sewer use fees is being proposed in the budget even though a current sewer study has not been done. Again, this study will be completed once the agreement is in place with Sarpy County. Rather than waiting until the study is completed and having to increase sewer fees substantially, staff is recommending that a minimal increase be incorporated to stay in line with increasing costs. She also stated that at some point the City needs to start thinking about reserving funds for sewer replacement.

Public Works Director Soucie stated that funding is included in the Sewer Operations Budget for an additional full time Maintenance Worker I position. This position was actually added as part of the Southport annexation package and was approved for hiring in the spring of 2006. An increase in funding for part time salaries is also proposed to allow for increasing the number of hours worked by the shop assistant from 25 to 30 per week.

One Capital Outlay item was recommended for funding – a lumber jack cutter in the amount of \$9,000.

Bond Fund

Gunn stated that a two cent tax levy is being proposed in the budget for debt service, which is the same as last year. Additional bonds will be issued later this year for the remaining portion of the Southport improvements. The debt schedule through the year 2027 was presented in the budget for review.

Capital Improvement and Construction Fund

Gunn stated that with the implementation of the Capital Improvement Program process recently approved by Council, this piece of the budget will look different next year.

Three street resurfacing projects were requested during 2007, however the funding of only one of these, Marisu Lane Court, is recommended. The other two projects are on 69th Street and La Vista Drive and staff believes these could be funded as CDBG projects. They will be looking into that possibility over the next few months.

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Soucie reviewed other requests for project funding and updated Council on the status of current and on-going projects. The 96th Street project started this year and will continue into next year. This is a joint project with Papillion and Sarpy County and funding of \$750,000 is included in the 2007 budget for La Vista's portion. It is anticipated that 80% of the cost of this project will be reimbursed by federal funds and that those funds will be received in 2008.

A total of \$65,000 has been recommended for engineering studies of specific areas on Giles Road. Several concrete panels in the westbound lanes were repaired after water problems were discovered. The same situation is now occurring in the eastbound lanes and Soucie wants to determine the cause. There has also been some movement noticed in one of the bridge decks that needs investigating. The third item included in this amount is the new signage for the Interstate changing 126th Street to Giles Road.

Funds have been included in the Construction Fund for ROW acquisition and the engineering of Phase I improvements to the intersection of 132nd & Giles Road. Soucie stated that MAPA funded most of the cost of a study of this area. The costs associated with this first phase of the project are being split with Sarpy County.

The cost of additional traffic signals on Giles Road has been included in the Street Maintenance portion of this budget.

The only sidewalk project included in the 2007 budget is one near Portal Elementary School at a cost of \$8,000.

Funding for City signage improvements was not recommended.

The milling and overlay of 84th Street from Harrison Street to Giles Road has been included in the Construction Fund budget. The cost of the milling and paving is split 50/50 with the Nebraska Department of Roads as this is a state highway, however the cost of storm inlets, turn lanes, and pavement marking is funded entirely by the City. As part of this project a right turn lane will be added to southbound 84th Street at Giles Road.

The project to improve Harrison Street from 48th Street to 71st Street will begin in 2007. Funding has been included for design and ROW acquisition. This is a joint project with the City of Omaha and Douglas and Sarpy County. Harrison will ultimately be widened to three lanes in this area (two traffic lanes and a center turn lane) with a signal at 66th & Harrison. The cost of the signal is being funded by the Market Pointe developer. Other work on Harrison Street will include repairs to the railroad bridge at approximately 93rd Street (cost shared with Sarpy County) and retaining wall repairs between 78th & 80th Street.

The opening of and equipping a second fire station has been included in this budget. The station is expected to be completed in February or March of 2007.

Several improvements to the Sports Complex including parking lots, picnic shelters, and sidewalks were requested by Soucie for next year, however they are not being recommended for funding. Gunn stated they were all good project requests, however she did not feel they could be included this year. She stated that if the Swimming Pool Committee were to come back with a recommendation for a new facility a possible bond issue could include some of these projects, as well.

Funding has been included for improvements to the restrooms at City Park and Central Park as well as the additional scope of the pool study.

Again this year funding for the Keystone Trail Project has been included in the Construction Fund. This project is dependent upon the receipt of a grant, which has been applied for in the past. Soucie stated he feels that we are getting into a better position each year to have the grant request approved.

A municipal facilities plan for City Hall, the Community Center and Public Works has been included in the budget as well as partial roof replacement on the City Hall/Community Center building.

Funding has been included for Phase VI of the Thompson Creek Improvements, the piece from 84th Street to the upper lake on the golf course. This project will be 60% funded by the NRD.

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Lottery Fund

Gunn reviewed the proposed transfers from the Lottery Fund including several for debt service payments, a transfer to the Golf Fund, and a transfer to the Construction/Capital Improvements Fund.

Golf Fund

Recreation Director Stopak addressed the Council regarding the Golf Clubhouse budget. He stated that additional funding was being requested for part time salaries to ensure 2-person coverage in the clubhouse during peak times.

Public Works Director Soucie presented the Golf Maintenance budget. A reclassification of the Assistant Superintendent position from the 111 range to the 113 range is being requested as well as the funding of one additional seasonal employee.

Funding has also been requested for the Superintendent to attend the National Golf Course Superintendents Conference.

Several Capital Outlay items were requested, however the administration is recommending funding of only two—the purchase of replacement nets and the purchase of a furnace for the maintenance shop building.

Councilmember McLaughlin referenced the remaining debt schedule for the Golf Course and proposed that the City pay this debt down with lottery funds. He indicated his frustration with having to subsidize the course each year with lottery funds. City Administrator Gunn stated that would be difficult to do with the City's current cash flow. She stated that ultimately the lottery fund would be wiped out if any surplus revenue was used toward this debt. McLaughlin indicated he understood that lottery revenues were budgeted for specific purposes, however if the revenues exceed the projections, any excess could be used to pay down this debt. He proposed using any lottery revenues received over the budgeted amount, but only up to \$900,000, for golf course debt payment.

Councilmember Ellerbeck stated he was comfortable with the fact that the golf course was financed on a long term schedule and felt the City should just see this obligation through without earmarking additional revenue to pay off the debt earlier than scheduled.

McLaughlin stated he would like to see projections as to how his proposal would affect the lottery fund and a comparison with other bond issues regarding interest rates. Gunn indicated she would have staff bring back these numbers.

Councilmember Sheehan stated that Council has amended the budget mid-year in the past and could do it again for this purpose if, after reviewing the numbers, they agreed it was something they wanted to pursue.

Economic Development Fund

Gunn stated that no applications have been received to date for the Economic Development Fund. It is proposed that an additional \$96,000.00 in sales tax revenue be directed into this fund during the 2007 fiscal year. The fund currently has a balance of \$384,000.00.

Off-Street Parking Fund

This is a new fund that has been established to manage the debt and costs associated with the City's off-street parking district project. After the parking lot is constructed beginning next fiscal year, maintenance costs associated with the lot will be included in this fund.

Executive Session – Personnel Performance and Contract Negotiations

At 7:42 p.m. Councilmember McLaughlin made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel performance and contract negotiations. Seconded by Councilmember Sell. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

At 7:59 p.m. the Council came out of executive session. Councilmember Sell made a motion to reconvene in open and public session. Seconded by Councilmember Ronan. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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IV. Comments from the Floor

Donna Kozak, a citizen of La Vista, addressed the Council. She made several positive comments regarding the City's new website and made suggestions as to items she would like to see posted on the sight. She also asked about the procedure for getting citizen inquiries answered. Mayor Kindig stated that staff responds to citizen inquiries when they are submitted on behalf of the elected officials. Kozak also commented positively on the new large-letter street signs.

V. Comments from Mayor and Council

Councilmember Gowan asked about the possibility of getting the City's domain name for email and the website changed to something simpler. Gunn stated staff could investigate what this would entail.

Councilmember Sell stated he liked the budget process and the format of Department Heads doing presentations of their budgets.

Mayor Kindig thanked staff for their work on the budget and indicated he also felt the new process involving department heads was a good one.

The Mayor reminded Council that National Night Out activities will be held in Central Park on Sunday evening, July 30. He asked them to contact Mary at City Hall if they were available to help. He also reminded Council that the annual D.A.R.E. pool party was scheduled for Thursday of this week.

VI. Adjourn

At 8:17 p.m. Councilmember Gowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Quick. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 1ST DAY OF AUGUST 2006.

CITY OF LA VISTA


Douglas Kindig, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rita M. Ramirez, CMC
City Clerk