

MINUTE RECORD

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

LA VISTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING BUDGET WORKSHOP JULY 14, 2009

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 14, 2009. Present were Mayor Kindig and Councilmembers Sell, Ronan, Sheehan, Carlisle, Quick, Ellerbeck, Crawford and Gowan. Absent: None. Also in attendance were City Administrator Gunn, Assistant City Administrator Ramirez, Police Chief Lausten, Fire Chief Uhl, Public Works Director Soucie, Public Building & Grounds Director Archibald, Finance Director Lindberg, Library Director Iwan, Community Development Director Birch, Recreation Director Stopak, and City Clerk Bueth.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Times on July 2, 2009. 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 at City Hall during normal business hours.

I. CALL TO ORDER II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kindig called the meeting to order and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOCATION OF POSTED OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Kindig made an announcement of the location of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference.

IV. BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Administrator Gunn began with some updates since the previous workshop. Handouts were given for requested information from Council on Monday. The first handout showed the split between the Administration and Sewer Fund Budgets for the previous two years and for the proposed budget year. The second handout was a summary of positions beginning with the year 2004. Information was given on the range in which the fire training officer position would be. The final handout showed the savings from engineering fees that would offset the wages of the Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director position.

Sewer Fund

Finance Director Lindberg stated that a User Rate Study has been completed and gave an overview of the sewer agreement with Omaha. Based on the study the city will see an increase of 8% in sewer rates. Councilmember Crawford asked what this increase will cost the homeowner. Lindberg states she did not have that information but will get an answer for him. Crawford asked if it would be \$50.00 per month which appears to be what citizens in Omaha will pay. Lindberg stated that it will be much less for our residents. Lindberg stated that all of the cities attached to Omaha's sewer system are currently negotiating with Omaha as to what the final rates will be. The rate increase will be explained to residents in the November CityWise newsletter.

Public Works Director Soucie stated that the sewer maintenance budget does not have any significant increases. An increase requested for overtime is based on prior years use, primarily for snow removal. An increase is requested for Professional Services – Other due to increases in agreements with the county and state. Travel and Training increase requests are due to increased hotel and per diem increases. The requested increase in Contractual Services is for janitorial services for Public Works which is split with the Street Administration portion of the budget. The sewer camera request will be financed and is greatly appreciated by the sewer maintenance department as they continue to have problems with the old camera which is currently in Florida, again, for service. Councilmember Quick asked if this will be different than the old camera and will it be able to do more things. Soucie stated that this camera has newer technology and will be able to do many things the old camera was not capable of doing. The sewer flush nozzle and air compressor were not recommended for funding this year.

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Soucie reviewed the Storm Water Management budget with Council stating there were no changes to this budget. Councilmember Ellerbeck asked if we have a strategy for replacement of old sewer lines. Soucie stated that most of the old lines are east of 72nd Street and south of Harrison Street and TD² is doing some preliminary work to determine a plan for replacement. There is street replacement that needs done there also so we want to coordinate these two in order to be efficient in our spending.

Bond Fund

Gunn provided an overview of the Bond Fund and is not projecting increases to the bond fund in the near future. Gunn did state that fiscal years 2012 and 2013 will be critical as the debt payments move from the lottery fund to the bond fund as the lottery fund will no longer be able to support the total principal and interest payments for the Library, Police Station, and District 2 Fire Station. Gunn stated that Lindberg is working with our fiscal agent to look at refinancing some bond debt for some savings.

Capital Fund

Assistant City Administrator Ramirez stated that there were few changes to the CIP since Council received a draft in early spring. We won't know about the grant award for the Fire Station until the end of December. The amounts for the fire station and the Thompson Creek project will not take place if the grant money is not available.

Lottery Fund

Finance Director Lindberg stated that Lottery revenue projections will remain at the current level through 2015. Transfers are scheduled to the debt service fund for principal and interest on the Library bond issue, the Police Facility bond issue, and the 2nd Fire Station bond issue. These transfers can only be done through 2013 from the lottery fund. A transfer to General is recommended to fund the ICSC related travel. A transfer is recommended to the Golf Fund. A transfer is recommended to the Capital Fund. In the Lottery budget, under professional services, funding is recommended for marketing and exhibition materials associated with ICSC and other City marketing items, expenses related to the City's 50th year celebration and the City's Holiday Lights Initiative. Discussion was held regarding the city's role in La Vista Days and staff was directed to bring information back to the Council.

Golf Fund

Lindberg stated that golf rounds have increased 24% from the previous based on rounds from June 2008 through June 2009. The final payment for the golf course will be in 2013. Salaries in the golf fund are set at the 3% base with a 20% increase in health insurance and a 10% increase in Dental Insurance. Operations increase is flat through FY15.

Stopak reviewed the Golf Clubhouse budget with Council. A request for additional money in part-time salaries was to cover an increase for returning part time employees and to keep two employees on duty at all times from April to November 1. An increase is requested to purchase a copy/fax/scanner/printer, television, and popcorn machine. Mayor Kindig asked if we are looking at having volunteers (Rangers) to help monitor the course. Stopak said that he will explore this option. Councilmember Ronan agrees that a ranger would be helpful as we have many inexperienced players on our course.

Soucie reviewed the Golf Course maintenance budget with Council. He stated there are no significant changes. An increase is requested in Part Time Salaries to extend the season of one of the seasonal positions from March to October. The amount for replacement of fairway nets has worked well to insure a supply on hand in the case of damage to existing nets. Mayor Kindig asked if there is enough funded for chemicals. Soucie said that there is. He stated that our current golf course superintendent has worked with the parks department to do combined purchasing for a better price.

Economic Development Fund

Gunn stated that a sales tax revenue transfer from the General Fund is not required for FY10 to make the debt service payment on the grant and loan made to John Q. Hammons to facilitate construction of the Hotels and Conference Center. This is a reduction from prior estimates as a result of the interest received on the bond issue and the fact that JQH did not draw down the entire loan amount.

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Off-Street Parking Fund

Gunn stated that there are some additional requests in the maintenance funding for the city parking lot.

Soucie reviewed the Off Street Parking budget with Council. Soucie stated that since we have taken on the water feature it has taken a couple years to determine what we need for upkeep and where adjustments need to be made. An increase in Botanical Supplies is requested due to the need for more extensive landscaping materials. Mayor Kindig asked if the problem with trucks driving over the curbs has been resolved. Soucie stated that it is still a problem but has lessened. The City may have to look at changing some parking to truck lanes in the future.

Mayor Kindig asked if there was anything else Council would like to see in the budget or anything they would like to discuss. Gunn stated that this is the best place to discuss any changes before we do publication in the paper for budget hearings.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Martin Ware of La Vista stated that he is concerned with a scrap metal business being run from a house on his street. Gunn stated she would send someone to look at it tomorrow.

VII. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

There were no comments from Mayor and Council.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:08 p.m. Councilmember Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Sell. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, Crawford, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF AUGUST 2009.

CITY OF LA VISTA


Douglas Kindig, Mayor

ATTEST:


Pamela A. Buethe, CMC
City Clerk