

## **MINUTES OF THE BEATRICE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

A work session of the Beatrice City Council was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2012 at the Sargent Room, Beatrice Public Library, 100 N 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Attending: Mayor Schuster, Councilmembers: Carey, Catlin, Fetty, Langdale, Moore, Parde, Schmale, and Tiemann. Also present: City Administrator Tobias Tempelmeyer and City Attorney Gregory Butcher.

Absent: None

Mayor Schuster announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room and is accessible to members of the public.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve agenda as submitted.
- b. Receive and place on file all notices pertaining to this meeting
- c. Receive and place on file all materials having any bearing on this meeting.

Moved by Fetty, seconded by Langdale, that the items listed under the consent agenda be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Carey, Catlin, Fetty, Langdale, Moore, Parde, Schmale, Tiemann.

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Grant Application for Scott Street Ball Field Improvements**

Mark Pethoud, Director of Public Properties, described proposed changes to the Scott Street Ball Fields. Pethoud noted these changes will increase parking capacity, move most of the parking south of the ball fields, remove congestion from Bluff Street, provide designated handicap parking, create a playground, and also close Scott Street temporarily during baseball season from April 1 to August 1. Pethoud estimates costs to total \$64,000, with the playground making up \$40,000 of those costs. The project will likely be paid for through a grant application. One to one matching funds would be available through the grant and the city would need to have half of their matching funds made up of cash. There may be private dollars contributed by the various groups who regularly use the fields. City Administrator Tempelmeyer noted that the grant application typically takes two years. Councilmembers discussed future expansion and options beyond the proposed plan. The Councilmembers expressed a desire to have planning and development of this project continue and for staff to bring forth a resolution at a future Council Meeting to apply for grants for this project.

## **Parking on Court Street in the 700 Block and 1000 Block of Court**

Beatrice Police Chief Bruce Lang spoke regarding a request from Valentino's for the installation of a handicapped parking spot on Court Street and a 15 Minutes Loading and Unloading Zone be designated on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, both adjacent to Valentino's property on the southeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Court Streets. Discussion was had by the Councilmembers regarding the time limit for such a loading zone, the users of the potential loading zone, and alley loading zones next to the Valentino's property. Steph and Terry Perkins, owners of Valentino's were present and spoke to the need and uses of each of these spots and the problems they may eliminate. Mr. Perkins explained that the loading spot would be utilized by take-out customers, delivery drivers, and others. Councilman Moore stressed that should we begin to grant loading and unloading zones it opens the door for other downtown business to make such requests. Councilman Parde expressed and the Council agreed that a desire existed to have this issue considered at a future Council Meeting as two (2) separate items, one (1) for the handicapped space and one (1) for the loading zone.

Terry Cossel came before the Council to discuss the matter of a loading zone generally located on the north side of the 1000 block Court Street. Currently the designated area is a posted "No Parking" area. Cossel described his business and how it operates at this location. The Council had a discussion regarding the original resolution designating the area a "No Parking" area and the intentions behind that designation. Beatrice Police Chief Bruce Lang spoke to issues of enforcement currently and under ideas as proposed by the Councilmembers. Councilman Moore reiterated his concern that this would cause other business owners to come forward to request loading zones. Councilman Tiemann suggested loading zones all along Court Street through the business area. Councilman Fetty noted that most loading zones are located at the ends/corners of blocks and not in the middle. Mayor Schuster stated that he would instruct City Engineer Rex Behrends and Chief Lang to make a recommendation to bring forth at a future Council Meeting to which members of the Council may amend and vote as they see fit.

## **Chamber lease Agreement for Carnegie Building**

Jim Nelson appeared on behalf of the Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber") to discuss an amendment to the lease agreement between the City and the Chamber as to the use of the Carnegie Building. Under the current lease the Chamber is responsible for all utilities costs associated with the use of the building. NGage is also housed in the Carnegie Building occupying roughly 1/3 of the space made available. The Chamber wishes to avoid using their fees and dues to cover NGage's utilities. A discussion of how the billing should be handled was had. The Councilmembers expressed a desire to have this amendment to the lease agreement considered at a future Council Meeting.

## **Purchase of Real Estate in the Downtown Area**

Tobias Tempelmeyer stated that the City was interested in entertaining offers for purchasing property in the downtown area.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

