

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A special meeting of the City Council was held on the 31st day of August, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the BPS Administration Meeting Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Mayor Wirth led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Attending: Mayor Wirth, Councilmembers: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde

Absent: None

Mayor Wirth announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted 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.
- d. Approval of minutes of special meeting on August 24, 2015, as on file in the City Clerk's Office.
- e. Approval Change Order #1 decrease in the amount of \$350.00 and final contract price of \$160,638.00 to Ditch Diggers for the Highway 77 Big Blue Water Main Crossing Project, as recommended by BPW.

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

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

There were no public hearings/bids.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Number 5806 implementing the Beatrice Sidewalk Improvement Program

Mayor Wirth introduced Resolution Number 5806 implementing the Beatrice Sidewalk Improvement Program.

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Cook, that Resolution Number 5806 be passed and adopted.

Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, noted this is the program that was discussed last week. The program offers two (2) options; partial cost reimbursement for reimbursement up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost up to a maximum of \$1,500, or a loan of up to \$5,000 to be paid back within four (4) years. Mayor Wirth noted the program is available for residential,

commercial, and industrial properties located within the City. Councilman Fairbanks inquired if there was a cap on the funding. Tempelmeyer noted that would be decided by the dollar amount the City Council approved to put into the budget for this program. Councilman Kerr inquired if this program would have any effect on the TIF program and Tempelmeyer noted it would not. Councilman Clabaugh indicated he is in favor of the program and hopes there is a large amount of interest. Councilman Parde inquired when an application could be submitted. Tempelmeyer noted it could be prior to completion and also noted that all applicants will have to follow all city codes and requirements. Mayor Wirth inquired what dollar amount the Council felt would be sufficient to fund the program. Councilman Morgan indicated he felt the \$50,000 that was discussed last week would be a good place to start as it would cover approximately thirty-five (35) applicants per year. Councilman Parde inquired who would decide which projects are chosen and Mayor Wirth indicated it would be based on a first come, first serve basis.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution Number 5806 has been passed and adopted.

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one appeared at public forum.

DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

Biennial Budget for FY2016 & FY2017

Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, presented the City Council with options that were brought forward from the previous discussion in regards to additional staff members for the Public Properties Department, funding for the Sidewalk Improvement Program, and a request from Councilman Kerr for the completion of the Skateboard Park in one (1) year instead of a two (2) year period.

Option A and B – Additional Staff Members

Councilman Kerr inquired what the Department Heads felt would be sufficient for their department to run smoothly and effectively. Mark Pethoud, Director of Public Properties, indicated upon discussions with Rob Mierau, Building Inspector, he feels that the addition of one (1) full time employee for the Public Properties Department and one (1) full time employee split between the two (2) departments would be sufficient. Mierau indicated he feels that if he had a part time employee to focus on code enforcement for ten (10) hours per week the department would be able to catch up on the nuisances, as well as keep up with them in the future. Councilman Kerr also inquired if the part time employee for the Building Inspection Department would need any certifications. Mierau noted that employee may be required to obtain a property maintenance certification. Councilman Parde noted it is important to add a part time employee for code enforcement alone in order to improve the City's appearance as visitors drive through. Councilman Fairbanks inquired why the City had the need for a code enforcement officer when a

police officer can issue a ticket for a nuisance violation. Greg Butcher, City Attorney, noted the concerns with a police officer issuing a citation for a nuisance is that there are specific time channels and notices that need to be followed. Councilman Kerr noted that while anyone who sees a violation should report the issue, it does not happen and that is why the City needs to have someone that focuses on the code enforcement issues. Council President Catlin inquired if there would there be option to allow for the part time employee to work additional hours if needed. Mierau noted he is optimistic that with the part time employee focusing on the code enforcement, the department will be able to stay on top of those issues. Councilman Parde inquired for Option B total of \$45,500 for the Public Properties Department, where is the funding for the Building Inspection Department come from. Tempelmeyer noted that there was already \$7,500 in the budget for the addition of a part time employee.

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Kerr, that the proposed FY16 and FY17 Biennial Budget be amended to add one (1) full time employee to the Public Properties Department with budgeted cost of \$45,500 in FY16 and \$47,400 in FY17.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

Option C - Sidewalk Improvement Program

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Billesbach, that the proposed FY16 and FY17 Biennial Budget be amended to add \$50,000 in FY16 and FY17 for the Sidewalk Improvement Program from the General Fund.

Councilman Fairbanks inquired if it would be possible to add additional funding to the program and give Administration the ability to adjust if needed. Councilman Cook indicated he would like to stick with the \$50,000 for the first year to see what the interest in the program has been and re-evaluate funding at a later date. Linda Koch, Finance Director, inquired if the Mayor and City Council wished to increase the tax levy or if they would prefer the cost be absorbed. Mayor Wirth noted the cost should be absorbed.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

Option D - Skateboard Park

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Kerr, that the proposed FY16 and FY17 Biennial Budget be amended to add \$26,000 from Keno funds in FY16 for Skateboard Park Improvements and remove \$50,000 from Keno funds in FY17 for Skateboard Park Improvements.

Councilman Cook noted he was concerned with Keno funds being reduced the additional \$26,000. Councilman Kerr inquired if Beatrice Plus funds would be an option in order to not decrease Keno funds further and noted he would just like to see the project completed in one (1) year. Councilman Fairbanks indicated he would prefer to leave as Keno funds.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular City Council meeting is Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beatrice Public Schools Administration Building Meeting Room. There will be a Special Meeting on September 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Beatrice Public Schools Administration Building Meeting Room.

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Clabaugh, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde
Nay: None MOTION CARRIED.

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor