

MINUTES OF THE BEATRICE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

A work session of the Beatrice City Council was held on the 22nd day of June, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the BPS Administration Meeting Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

Attending: Mayor Wirth, Councilmembers: Billsbach, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr,
Morgan, Parde.

Absent: Councilmembers: Catlin

Mayor Wirth 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 Parde, seconded by Billsbach, that the items listed under the consent agenda be approved, accepted, and/or ratified as presented.

Roll Call: Yea: Billsbach, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Animal Control Services

City Administrator Tobias Tempelmeyer noted the current contract with Steve Bragg for animal control services will expire at the end of the current fiscal year (ending September 30th). City Administration would like direction from the Council regarding how to proceed with a new contract for animal control services. Under the current contract Mr. Bragg is paid a flat sum of \$60,000 for his on-call services. Councilmember Kerr would like us to keep track of Bragg's hours to see what we are getting for our money. A discussion was had regarding IRS implications of such a decision. Councilmember Fairbanks would like to see us bid this matter. Fairbanks also considers these to be professional services due to the certification requirements. Councilmember Clabaugh noted that when Bragg is out of town he must pay someone to be available for animal control services. Mayor Stan Wirth inquired on how the council would like to proceed. A Members Cook and Morgan thought we should negotiate with Bragg first. Members Fairbanks, Parde, and Kerr felt we should bid the item out. City Attorney Greg Butcher inquired how the newly passed purchasing policy would affect the outcome. Butcher noted that if animal control services are deemed professional services then the policy may not require or allow for bids. Mayor Wirth will have the City Administration research the matter and bring back a proposal that is cohesive with the purchasing policy.

Strategic Planning

Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator noted that Beatrice Public Schools has hired Cambrian to do a strategic plan for them. Cambrian quoted a strategic plan for the City at \$54,000. Tempelmeyer did research and found a number of cities and villages had done strategic plans for significantly less funds. A copy of plans from Gretna, Bellevue, and Hickman were distributed in the packet. Councilmember Cook noted the he could not remember there being a prior strategic plan, and Tempelmeyer concurred. Councilmember Fairbanks noted that he is in favor of the idea but wants to ensure that the plan is followed, implemented, and does not sit on a shelf like so many other plans in the past. Mayor Wirth noted that he liked to format and organization of the Gretna plan. Councilmember Morgan concurred and noted that we should put this out for bid. Morgan also asked about the timeline for the plan, three (3) year or five (5) year. Mayor Wirth noted that it would likely be a five (5) year plan. The City Administration will put out a RFQ in the immediate future.

Lighting on the Trail

Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, provided numbers that were generated by Electrical Superintendent Pat Feist. The estimated per mile cost of lighting is \$42,000 for lights, and \$63,527 for materials and labor. Pat estimates it would take his crew six (6) to seven (7) weeks to install one (1) mile of lights. The estimated cost to light all trails which will be completed by next year would total \$939,190.30. Tempelmeyer also noted there are a few grants but most funds are minimal (\$10,000) or federal funds with all the strings attached thereto. Councilmember Parde inquired about how Labor was included in these costs. Councilmember Kerr felt that we should complete the other portions of the trails first and that we don't have the available funds to spend on a project like this. Councilmember Fairbanks felt that you need only ask two (2) questions: (1) does it improve the city; and (2) can we afford it. Fairbanks felt that answer to both questions were yes. The funding for the project would come from the electrical budget. Councilmember Fairbanks would like to see this item be budgeted from a number of sources as it is completed. Mayor Wirth inquired on how the council would like to proceed. Councilmember Fairbanks would like this matter brought to a vote. City Administration will establish guidelines and location for a portion of the trail and bring such an item to the Council for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Parde, seconded by Clabaugh, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Roll Call: Yea: Billsbach, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Kerr, Morgan, Parde

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor