

MINUTES OF THE BEATRICE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

A work session of the Beatrice City Council was held on the 26th day of February, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the BPS Administration Building Board Room, 320 North 5th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska.

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

Absent: Kerr

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

Roll Call: Yea: Billesbach, Catlin, Clabaugh, Cook, Fairbanks, Morgan, Parde.

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/BIDS

There were no public hearings/bids.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one appeared at public forum.

DISCUSSIONS/REPORTS

Planting milkweed, grass, wild flowers, and trees on the property between 1st Street and the Big Blue River and Ella Street and Grant Street.

Councilmember Fairbanks indicated he wants to mirror what Lincoln has done with regards to planting milkweed and other plants for the monarch butterfly and other insects. Councilman Fairbanks views the area near 1st and Grant Street as a mini Wilderness Park. Mark Pethoud, Director of Public Properties, indicated there are seventeen (17) acres at this location and he is

looking to plant native grasses, milkweed, flowering trees, and wild flowers. Councilmember Morgan indicated that Southeast Community College looked to do the same type of planting a couple of years ago and advised the City to do an educational piece along with it, so that people understand what the City is doing.

LB518 Rural Workforce Housing Fund.

Walker Zulkoski, NGage Executive Director, advised that LB518 passed last year by the legislature which allocated funds for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) to establish grants for workforce housing. The grant program is a one-for-one matching program and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) has said they will match the local matches as well. NGage has turned to Southeast Economic Development District (SENDDD) to administer this program. Tom Bliss, Executive Director of SENDDD, advised that the funds could be used for housing in a number of ways, including infrastructure development, new construction, second story development, and rehabbing existing houses. SENDDD is proposing a regional application including the communities of Deshler, Geneva, Auburn, and possibly Falls City and Beatrice. These communities would form an investment club. The investment club would then review proposals from these communities and decide which projects are funded, and which are not. Discussion ensued as to why communities such as Deshler and Geneva would want to partner with Beatrice and vice versa. Tom Bliss advised that a cash match is required and that the applications are due in March. The Council asked Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, to research this project and come back to them with answers for them to review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Billesbach, that the Beatrice City Council go into closed session at 7:53 p.m., for the protection of public interest to discuss real estate.

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

Reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Catlin, seconded by Billesbach, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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

Erin Saathoff, City Clerk

Stan Wirth, Mayor