

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Regular Meeting

Item Consent1

Approve the minutes of the August 26, 2020 Special Meeting.

Staff Contact: City Council

Special Meeting
August 26, 2020

The Scottsbluff City Council met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2525 Circle Drive, Scottsbluff, NE. A notice of the meeting had been published on August 23, 2020 in the Star Herald, a newspaper published and of general circulation in the city. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting; that the meeting would be open to the public and that anyone attending was encouraged to wear a mask and to respect social distance guidelines. It also stated that anyone with a disability desiring reasonable accommodation to attend the council meeting should contact the city clerk's office and that an agenda of the meeting kept continuously current was available for public inspection at the office of the city clerk in City Hall; provided, the city council could modify the agenda at the meeting if it determined that an emergency so required. A similar notice, together with a copy of the agenda, also had been delivered to each council member, made available to radio stations KNEB, KMOR, KOAQ, and television stations KSTF and KDUH, and the Star Herald. The notice was also available on the City's website on August 21, 2020. Mayor Raymond Gonzales presided and City Clerk Wright recorded the proceedings. Mayor Gonzales welcomed everyone and informed those in attendance that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for the public's review. The following Council Members were present: Raymond Gonzales, Jeanne McKerrigan, Nathan Green, and Terry Schaub. Absent: Scott Shaver. Also present were Interim City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Attorney Kent Hadenfeldt, and Finance Director Liz Hilyard.

Mayor Gonzales stated no other business shall be transacted at the special meeting unless all Council Members are present to consent and the City Council declares the existence of an emergency. He then asked if there was such an emergency. There was none.

Mayor Gonzales opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to the FY 2020-2021 budget. He additionally instructed those in attendance that copies of the budget are available for those who do not have access to one. He also informed all in attendance of a new requirement by the State that now stipulates an elected official present the budget to the Council and community, stating in the past it was conducted by the City Manager and Finance Director.

Mayor Gonzales explained the FY 20-21 budgeted governmental wide total revenues net of transfers is \$28,025,521; this is an increase due to Sales Tax and NPPD Lease Revenues, adding the City has not budgeted any debt for this fiscal year.

The General Fund revenue for FY 20-21 is \$8,806,527. The increase, again, is primarily due to Sales Tax and NPPD Lease Revenues. This also includes the hotel occupation tax and receipts from permits. The FY 20-21 budgeted Sales Tax revenue is \$5,900,000. He explained a difference for this budget cycle is the amount is based on revenues actually collected and not estimated. The NPPD Lease revenue is \$2,825,000, due to the Lease Payment increasing one-half percent.

The FY 20-21 budgeted Expenditures is \$48,651,933; including Capital Expenditures of \$8,833,201. Debt Service is budgeted at \$2,438,068. Westmoor Pool, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library and the Public Safety Building will all be paid off in December of 2020. Budgeted contingencies amount to \$5,450,000. These contingencies are from the Enterprise Funds of Sanitation, Water and Wastewater and are in place if there is a catastrophe, explaining the budget would not have to be amended because funds are available. The budgeted Total Operating Expenditures, excluding debt and Capital Expenditures, is \$27,278,397. This includes an increase of 2 million due to \$500,000 allocated to the Community Redevelopment Authority; \$320,000 equating to a 10% increase in health insurance of

anticipated premiums and claims for the upcoming fiscal year; \$665,000 for increased payroll and benefits, including a 5% increase in workman's compensation, property and vehicle insurance and 10% increase in liability insurance across all funds. The FY 20-21 General Fund budgeted operating expense is \$12,629,537. This includes a \$250,000 contingency, approximately \$1.1 million for the Pathway Expansion, and \$400,000 for 23 Club Improvements, clarifying, 23 Club does have \$600,000 budgeted, however, initially it was thought construction would be underway at this point and some of the money would have been spent in the prior year budget. The FY 20-21 Operating Expense budget, without Capital Improvements or contingencies, is \$10,138,508, increasing by \$1 million due to \$500,000 designated to the Community Redevelopment Authority, \$385,000 increase in Public Safety Wages and benefits; also an increase in property and liability insurance expense. He further added departments did not receive increases in their budgets and there was a 3% increase in the sanitation utility, resulting in \$40,000.

Mayor Gonzales then asked for comments from the public. Mr. Geoff Nemnich, 23 Club President, approached Council regarding funding for phase 2 of the project. He asked Council to use \$250,000 of their discretionary funding to help with the completion of the complex. Council Member Schaub asked Finance Director Hilyard about Westmoor Pool and if it was included in the budget. Ms. Hilyard stated it is budgeted for normal operations, like it was a year ago, but there is nothing in the budget for major repairs. Mr. Kuckkahn then added to get the pool open for next season it would take approximately \$100,000 and that money is available, however, the slide will need repairs, but the lazy river and zero depth pool are functional. Ms. Hilyard commented to build a pool for a City of our size, it would cost in the range of \$6-8 million. As far as debt capacity, the City could not do a five or seven year term; looking at more of a 10 to 15 year payoff, but even that would be tight as it would tie up the debt capacity, explaining this would be general obligation debt as the City does not have a utility fund to support the payoff.

Council Member Schaub then asked if there is room to designate \$250,000 for 23 Club. He was asking on the assumption they did not get the \$200,000 grant from the Game and Parks.

Mr. Kuckkahn, before answering, started discussion on the Council list of projects they would like to see completed using the discretionary funding. It was determined that approximately \$300,000 would be needed to do the practical items on the list, adding there should be enough money after completing those items, to be available for 23 Club.

Council Member Green asked about the traffic safety study that was conducted at the high school and if money was allocated for that. Mr. Kuckkahn stated money was not allocated specifically for that project because they do not how much funding will be needed.

After discussion, Mr. Kuckkahn reminded Council the discretionary funding was not available until October 1st and they should not wait until the end of the next fiscal year to utilize it.

There was no further discussion and Mayor Gonzales closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

Council Member Green introduced the Ordinance adopting the budget statement to be termed the annual appropriation bill for FY 2020-2021. This was read by title on first reading: **AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET STATEMENT TO BE TERMED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL; TO APPROPRIATE SUMS FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND TO PUBLISH IN PAMPHLET FORM.**

Mayor Gonzales introduced the Ordinance to amend and change the solid waste collection fees and was read by title on first reading: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF AMENDING AND CHANGING THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEES AT CHAPTER 6 ARTICLE 6 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, REPEALING PRIOR PROVISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROVIDING FOR**

PUBLICATION IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Mr. Kuckkahn reminded Council this Ordinance was brought forward because of the 3% increase that was talked about in the budget work session.

There being nothing additional on the agenda, Council Member Schaub moved, seconded by Council Member Green to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m., “YEAS,” Gonzales, Schaub, McKerrigan, and Green. “NAYS,” None. Absent: Shaver.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

“SEAL”