

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Monday, August 15, 2022**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Consent1**

**Council to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2022 Special Meeting.**

**Staff Contact: City Council**

Special Meeting  
July 27, 2022

The Scottsbluff City Council met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2525 Circle Drive, Scottsbluff. The meeting was requested by a written call therefor by Interim City Managers Kevin Spencer and Elizabeth Loutzenhiser. A notice of the meeting had been published on July 22, 2022 in the Star Herald, a newspaper published and of general circulation of the city. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting would be open to the public, 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 July 22, 2022. Mayor McKerrigan presided and City Clerk Wright recorded the proceedings. Mayor McKerrigan 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: Jeanne McKerrigan, Jordan Colwell, Nathan Green and Angela Scanlan. Absent: Selina Lerma. Also present were Interim City Managers Elizabeth Loutzenhiser and Kevin Spencer. Also present were Deputy Finance Director, Chris Burbach, Human Resource Director Cami Kite, and Public Works Director Mark Bohl. Mayor McKerrigan 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. She then asked if there was such an emergency. There was none.

Interim City Manager Spencer started the workshop by thanking Council for their support. He also praised Finance Director Loutzenhiser and City staff as they have worked together during the rising cost of inflation, adding this budget is very conservative, practical, and reasonable.

Mr. Spencer then went over the Capital Projects of each department, highlighting major expenditures. Some of those expenditures included refuse trucks, compost facility equipment and transfer station for the Environmental Services Department; Plaza Improvements for the Parks Department; Motor Grader and Plow Truck for Transportation; Booster Pump installation for the Water Department; and Sewer Main Reline and Treatment Plant Operations Equipment for the Wastewater Department.

In addition, the Police Department is budgeting for two marked patrol cars, server, and license plate reader, whereas the Fire Department has line items for a pickup and apparatus replacement.

He also shared information regarding the ARPA funds, stating we have received the first payment. One project considered for these funds include landbank support.

Mr. Spencer than went over the proposed utility rate increases as follows:

	Current	Proposed	Per Month Increase	
Environmental Services	\$23.93	\$24.64	\$0.71	3%
Stormwater Surcharge	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.25	\$0.25	13%
Wastewater	\$23.57	\$24.27	\$0.70	3%
Water	\$12.85	\$13.24	\$0.39	3%
Total estimated monthly	\$62.35	\$64.40	\$2.05	

Ms. Loutzenhiser then approached Council stating the total overall budget is approximately \$50 million, with Capital around \$11 million of that total; debt is at \$1 million. She commented there are positive ratios, we have a strong cash position for capital improvements. With the \$11 million we are reinvesting that in cash back into the community through capital projects and expenditures, adding it is huge, it is a big chunk of the budget and we have virtually no debt. It is a nice position to be in.

During discussion, Council Member Colwell asked what is the contingency plan if LB357 does not pass? Mr. Spencer stated those are discussions that will have to be started as Westmoor pool is nearing its end of life. Decisions will have to be made whether to have a tank pool, a waterpark, or an aquatic center. Ms. Loutzenhiser also explained that if LB357 does not pass we do have the ability to issue a healthy amount of debt and service that with our existing property tax levy without raising it, stating the debt would be a long-term commitment and would be the most the City has taken on for years.

Another item brought up for discussion was lighting along the Pathway near the YMCA. Mr. Spencer stated Pathway hours are dusk to dusk according to City Code, but he does realize it is used in the early mornings by joggers and walkers. He then added that there is not an electricity source, so putting in lights would be very expensive, around a half a million dollars. The question was asked about utilizing solar lighting, with Mr. Spencer stating we do not have a good answer for that yet.

Regarding the operating budget, Mr. Spencer stated there are some increases with utilities and insurance. He informed Council there will be a LARM representative coming out to meet with us next month to go over our rates and how we can possibly lower them. He added we are in a contract with LARM for three years and stated how pleased he and staff is with their services.

Also discussed was continued funding for the Gering Multipurpose Center for Senior Meals. Currently the City provides \$1,000/month and will continue as Scottsbluff has many utilizing the service. Mr. Spencer stated there has been discussion about a Center in Scottsbluff, but nothing has been formalized or finalized.

Council took an eight-minute break at 10:18 a.m. reconvening at 10:26 a.m.

Concerning personnel, proposed cost of living increase is as follows:

- General non-union employees 3.0%
- Fire Union Employees 3.0%
- Police union employees 3.0% (under negotiation)
- IBEW union employees 3.0%

Currently the City has 136 Full Time Employees

At the end of the work session, Mayor McKerrigan thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication and encouraged staff to continue moving forward. Council Member Scanlan then moved, seconded by Council Member Colwell to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m., “YEAS,” Colwell, Scanlan, Green, and McKerrigan “NAYS,” None. Absent: Lerma.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk

“SEAL”