

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Consent1**

**Council to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 Special Meeting.**

**Staff Contact: City Council**

Special Meeting  
September 5, 2023

The Scottsbluff City Council met in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2525 Circle Drive, Scottsbluff. The meeting was requested by a written call therefor by City Manager Kevin Spencer to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget statement. A notice of the meeting along with the proposed budget statement had been published on August 31, 2023 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 and proposed budget statement, also had been delivered to each council member, made available to radio stations KNEB, KMOR, KOAQ, and television station NBC Nebraska and the Star Herald. The notice and budget statement were also available on the City's website on August 29, 2023. 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, Matt Salomon, Angela Scanlan, and Betsy Vidlak. Absent: None. Also present were City Manager Kevin Spencer, City Attorney Kent Hadenfeldt, and Finance Director, Liz Loutzenhiser. 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.

Mayor McKerrigan opened the public hearing at 12:01 p.m. for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the FY 2023-2024 budget and gave the following summary of the budget:

FY24 Budgeted Government Wide Total Revenues net of transfers \$35,895,241 (increased mostly due to \$4,250,000 debt issuance for the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Mill & Overlay project)

FY 23 Budgeted Government Wide Total Revenues net of transfers \$32,145,197

FY 24 Budgeted Revenues – General Fund only - \$11,056,829 (budgeted increase in sales tax revenues and NPPD lease revenues)

FY 23 Budgeted Revenues – General Fund only- \$10,099,901

FY 24 Budgeted Sales Tax Revenues \$7,234,598 (prior year budget included potential LB357 tax revenues if passed)

FY23 Budgeted Sales Tax Revenues \$7,537,233

FY24 Budgeted NPPD Lease Revenues \$3,435,000

FY23 Budgeted NPPD Lease Revenues \$3,039,635

FY24 Budgeted Government Wide Total Expenditures \$54,775,312 (includes capital expenditures \$14,217,991, debt service \$2,239,011, contingencies \$4,350,000).

FY23 Budgeted Government Wide Total Expenditures \$49,559,454 (includes capital expenditures \$11,432,720, debt service \$1,526,151, contingencies \$4,650,000)

FY24 Budgeted Total Operating Expenses (excludes debt service and capital expenditures) \$34,499,794 (largest increase was 5.0% COLA to General & Police personnel, 2.6% COLA to Fire personnel – government wide payroll and benefit increase \$1,204,639, 8% increase in health insurance anticipated claims and premium expense \$227,257 and 10% increase in property, vehicle and liability insurance expense \$81,550)

FY23 Budgeted Total Operating Expenses (excludes debt service and capital expenditures) \$28,610,949 (largest increase was 3.0% COLA to all personnel government wide \$896,705, 10% increase in health insurance anticipated claims and premium expense \$206,915 and 5-10% increase in property, vehicle and liability insurance expense \$120,513)

FY24 Budgeted Expenses – General Fund \$13,621,895 (includes \$250,000 contingency, \$500,000 for City Hall improvements, \$300,000 for 23 Club improvements, \$400,000 for library HVAC replacement, \$85,000 for two Development Services pickup trucks)

FY23 Budgeted Expenses – General Fund \$12,311,524 (includes \$250,000 contingency, 1.3M for various parks and general fund building HVAC improvements, \$20,000 for a new Police Department server, \$100,000 to CRA & Community Programming-carryover budget from prior year)

FY24 Budgeted operating expense General fund without capital improvements or contingency \$12,046,535

FY23 Budgeted operating expense General Fund without capital improvements or contingency \$10,741,524

FY24 Budgeted Full Time Employees authorized 139; FY23 Budgeted Full Time Employees authorized 136.

Mr. Steve Maul who resides at 102 W. 36<sup>th</sup> St., Scottsbluff, NE approached to ask questions regarding what he read in the paper concerning the budget. He asked why the City was budgeting to spend \$500,000 on renovations to City Hall. City Manager Spencer answered the lobby and council chambers need improvements; he does not anticipate spending that much, but this gives us the authority to do so. Mr. Maul also asked why there is a carryover of funds from last year. Mr. Spencer stated those are capital projects that were not completed in the last fiscal year. Some of those projects include general fund park improvements, Library HVAC, transfer station and vehicles. Mr. Maul then brought up Covid relief funds and what the City has planned for that funding. Mr. Spencer answered that discussion has been had for general fund projects such as improvements at Cleveland Field and an RFP for a Comprehensive Plan.

There were no more comments from the public. Mayor McKerrigan closed the public hearing at 12:23 p.m.

Council Member Colwell moved, seconded by Council Member Salomon to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 p.m., “YEAS,” Vidlak, Salomon, Colwell, Scanlan, and McKerrigan. “NAYS,” None. Absent: None.

Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk                      “SEAL”