

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, August 5, 2013

Regular Meeting

Item Consent2

Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2013 Special Meeting.

Staff Contact: Cindy Dickinson

The Scottsbluff City Council met in a special meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2525 Circle Drive, Scottsbluff. A notice of the meeting had been published on July 12, 2013, 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. 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 12, 2013. An agenda kept continuously current was available for public inspection at the office of the city clerk at all times from publication of the notice to the time of the meeting.

Mayor Randy Meininger presided and City Clerk Dickinson recorded the proceedings. Mayor Meininger welcomed everyone in attendance and encouraged all citizens to participate in the council meeting asking those wishing to speak to state their name and address for the record. Mayor Meininger informed those in attendance that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the back of the room on the west wall for the public's review. The following Council Members were present: David Boeckner, Raymond Gonzales, Randy Meininger, Mike Deibert, and Scott Shaver. Absent: None.

Mayor Meininger asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. Mayor Meininger asked if any citizens with business not scheduled on the agenda wished to include an item providing the City Council determines the item requires emergency action. There were none.

Before beginning work on the new budget, Mayor Meininger reviewed the list of projects completed since April, 2010. The list included many capital improvements and city infrastructure improvements, the majority of which are complete or in progress. He complimented the staff for their work on these projects.

City Manager Rick Kuckkahn reviewed the assumptions for the upcoming year, which include:

- 2.2% Cost of Living adjustment (based on CPI) and merit increases.
- 5% health insurance increase
- Electricity increase of 8% for 2013 and 4.5% for 2014 (based upon FY12 actual)
- Heating fuel increase of 1% for 2013 and 3% for 2014 (based upon FY12 actual)
- Gasoline increase of 1% for both 2013 and 2014 (based upon FY12 actual)
- Insurance is based upon the current year with adjustments when we receive the estimates from LARM.
- Unemployment reduced to 1.25% on the first \$9,000.00

Mr. Kuckkahn explained that there is not a projection for debt service, as staff is suggesting a new fund for capital improvements aside from debt service. This would simplify the process of purchasing capital equipment and eliminate legal fees involved with a capital lease purchase. Smaller items have a shorter life period, with no need to finance. Council agreed that a separate fund is a better way for smaller capital equipment purchases. Mr. Kuckkahn added that the Debt Service fund would stay in place for any potential larger projects that would be bonded.

Public Safety – The draft budget included the assumption of adding another Police Officer to serve as a School Resource Officer (SRO). The Scottsbluff Public School Superintendent is very supportive of having an SRO for the High School and the Middle School.

The Police Department will be trading in 6 patrol cars and replacing them with 2 unmarked cars.

Mr. Kuckkahn discussed adding another firefighter position and suggested adding a code enforcement duty to the firefighter job description. He suggested that while the firefighters are out in the community, they can also report code enforcement violations. Council Members Gonzales and Shaver were not in favor of adding this component to the firefighter duties. Council and staff discussed a number of scenarios regarding the Fire Department scheduling issues, including adding another firefighter position to help with current scheduling and increasing the volunteer participation. Council asked to see a projection with the salary for adding another firefighter.

The Library submitted a request for an additional part-time library technician. Mr. Kuckkahn commented that the Library is currently providing a great service and expanding their opportunities at the library. Mr. Kuckkahn was not supportive of adding an additional employee at the library. Council agreed that if additional employees are added, that priority would go to public safety.

Parks and Recreation – Staff discussed the future of the outdoor Splash Pool, which is currently maintained by the City. \$35,000.00 CIP funds requested would extend the use of the pool, however, staff is recommending that the City enter into a new contract with the School District before committing to additional repairs. The existing contract expires in 2015, and if the contract is not extended, the School District will have ownership of the outdoor pool.

KENO-Council discussed using \$10,000.00 for ADA curb compliance; \$15,000.00 for East Overland Beautification; and a percentage for the residential tree program.

Westmoor Pool – The current balance of the pool bond is \$1.375 million. This is scheduled to be paid off in 2022. Council discussed the possibility of paying it off sooner and asked what the effect would be.

Council also discussed the possibility of improving Veteran's Park and possibly adding a splash pad, with the approval of the Riverside Discovery Center, per their current contract.

Council took a break at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Transportation and Utility – Environmental Services show a small increase in fees, however, wastewater will be reduced, leaving an overall monthly increase of approximately \$0.50 per property.

Council reviewed the list of Capital Improvement Projects, which included continuation of the software for Administration, equipment for Parks and Recreation, improvements to playgrounds and pools, and a columbarium at the cemetery.

Public Works – Many of the street projects are completed or underway. The recycling program is successful and will require more equipment. New equipment will include a street sweeper and new trucks.

Water – the City will be working on three big projects which include the water main in the Hillerage Addition; a Water treatment project at the well field and water treatment. They will also be replacing trucks and equipment.

Wastewater will be replacing a sewer main and making repairs to trouble spots. The composting project will require more equipment, but will save money over the long term, as there will no longer be a need for the reed bed.

Economic Development- Council discussed the contract with Twin Cities Development and the participation the City Council has with the Board. Council Member Boeckner explained that the Council previously had a vote on the Board, but it was restructured to eliminate politics from the Board. Council also discussed the inclusion of Western Nebraska Housing Opportunities (WNHO) with TCD, of which some members were not supportive.

Mayor Meininger listed the following key concerns regarding the Twin Cities Development discussion: Council's opinion of having a staff member on the TCD Board; what would the TCD structure look like if they were separated from WNHO; and would like regular reports from TCD. Council suggested meeting with the TCD and WNHO Boards to clarify issues and concerns.

Staff will bring back a budget document reflecting the information discussed.

Moved by Council Member Boeckner, seconded by Council Member Deibert, "to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m." "YEAS", Boeckner, Gonzales, Deibert, Shaver and Meininger, "NAYS" None. Absent: None.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

"SEAL"