

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, February 2, 2015

Regular Meeting

Item Consent1

Approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Staff Contact: Cindy Dickinson, City Clerk

Regular Meeting
January 20, 2015

The Scottsbluff City Council met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 2525 Circle Drive, Scottsbluff. A notice of the meeting had been published on January 16, 2015, 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 accommodations 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 January 16, 2015. 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Meininger welcomed everyone in attendance and encouraged all citizens to participate in the council meeting asking those wishing to speak to come to the microphone and 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: Raymond Gonzales, Jordan Colwell, Randy Meininger, Liz Hilyard 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.

Moved by Council Member Gonzales, seconded by Mayor Meininger that,

1. "The minutes of the January 5, 2015 Regular Meeting be approved,"
2. "A public hearing be set for February 2, 2015 at 6:05 p.m. for the One and Six Year Street Improvement Plan,"
3. "A public hearing be set for February 2, 2015 at 6:05 p.m. to consider an Ordinance text change limiting the areas that may be subdivided without improvements,"
4. "A public hearing be set for February 2, 2015 at 6:05 p.m. to consider a Resolution adopting a map showing allowable areas for large lot development into the Comprehensive Plan,"
5. "A claim from Cathy Reynolds, Dented Fender Bar and Grille, be acknowledged and forwarded to the city's insurance carrier,"
6. "Approve the RFP for a Fueling Card System and authorize the City Clerk to advertise for proposals to be received until 11:00 A.M., February 9, 2015," "YEAS", Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, and Hilyard. "NAYS" Shaver. Absent: None.

Moved by Council Member Shaver, seconded by Council Member Colwell, "that the following claims be and hereby are approved and should be paid as provided by law out of the respective funds designated in the list of claims dated January 20, 2015, as on file with the City Clerk and submitted to the City Council," "YEAS", Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. "NAYS" None. Absent: None.

CLAIMS

ACCELERATED RECEIVABLES SOLUTIONS,WAGE ATTACH,89.3; ACTION COMMUNICATIONS INC.,EQUIP MAINT,470.79; ASSOCIATED POOL BUILDERS, INC,EQP MTC,1632.5; ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE CO,LIFE INS,34.36; AUTOZONE STORES, INC,VEH MAINT,427.51; B&C STEEL CORPORATION,SUPP - IRON,861.3; BLUFFS SANITARY SUPPLY INC.,DEPT & JANIT SUPPL,394.73; BRODART CO,DEP SUP,552.48; CAPITAL BUSINESS

SYSTEMS INC.,EQUIP MAINT,165.93; CELLCO PARTNERSHIP,CELL PHONES,385.11; CITIBANK N.A.,INVEST SUPPL,251.04; CITY OF GERING,DISPOSAL FEES,41324.63; CITY OF SCB, EQUIP MAINT,59.44; COMPUTER CONNECTION INC,RENT-MACH,46.42; CONTRACTORS MATERIALS INC.,DEP SUP,738.14; COPIER CONNECTION,DEPT SUP & MNTNCE,439.85; CRESCENT ELECT. SUPPLY COMP INC,SUPP,252.29; CULLIGAN OF SCOTTSBLUFF,DEP SUP,276.3; CYNTHIA GREEN,DEPT SUPPL,309.98; D & H ELECTRONICS, BUILDING SUPPLIES,580.51; D & H ELECTRONICS INC.,BLDG MAINT,141.57; DALE'S TIRE & RETREADING, INC.,VEH MAINT,626.53; DEMCO, INC,DEP SUP,514.32; DITCH-WITCH OF WEST TEXAS INC,EQP MTC,10.57; DUANE E. WOHLERS,DISPOSAL FEES,912.5; FARMERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT,CON SRV,2028; FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER, INC,EQUIP MAINT, 2393.58; FRANK IMPLEMENT CO,EQUIP MAINT,1482.13; FRONT RANGE FIRE APPARATUS LTD,VEHICLE REPAIRS,679.27; FYR-TEK INC,EQUIPMENT REPAIRS,95; GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL CORPORATION,DEP SUP,314.21; HAMPTON INN,DEP SUP,236; HAWKINS, INC.,CHEMICALS,1959.05; HEILBRUN'S INC.,DEPT SUPPLIES,1578.89; HIGH PLAINS SCUBA,DRY SUITS, 3322.23; HYDROTEX PARTNERS, LTD,GEL MELT & POWER KLEEN FOR DIESELS,1225.31; ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST-457,DEF COMP,1325.14; IDEAL LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS, INC.,DEPT SUPPLIES, 1083.67; INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES INC,BKS,107.95; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,W/H PAYROLL TAXES,62077.85; INVENTIVE WIRELESS OF NE, LLC,DEP SUP,8; J G ELLIOTT CO.INC.,BONDS,70; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL,DEPT SUP,115.5; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL,UNIFORMS,202.74; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL,EQP MTC,131.93; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL,DEP SUP,14.99; KENNETH LEROY DODGE,VEH MAINT,50; LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT,VEHICLE PREMIUM,580.14; LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES,CONFERENCE,1113; LEXISNEXIS RISK DATA MANAGMENT INC, CONSULTING,100; M.C. SCHAFF & ASSOCIATES, INC,COMPOST FACILITY,1922; MADISON NATIONAL LIFE,LIFE & DIS INS,1747.81; MARIE'S EMBROIDERY,UNIFORMS,6; MENARDS, INC,DEPT SUP,444.51; MIDLANDS NEWSPAPERS, INC,LEGAL PUBLISHING,1466.43; MIDWEST CONNECT, LLC,DEPT SUPP,380.12; MONUMENT CAR WASH INC,VEH MAINT,158.3; MONUMENT PREVENTION COALITION, CONTRACTUAL,939.94; MUNICIPAL PIPE SERVICES, INC.,EQUIP MAINT,1245.5; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER,NE CHILD SUPPORT PYBLE,2218.31; NE DEPT OF REVENUE,SALES TAX,26526.03; NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIPS,275; NEBRASKA MACHINERY CO,SUPP,1709; NEBRASKA SALT AND GRAIN CO,1 LOAD ICE SLICER,4064.2; NEBRASKALAND TIRE, INC,SET OF TIRES, 1632.67; NEOPOST,POSTAGE,1000; NETWORKFLEET, INC,SUPP,18.95; NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, INC. OF SCOTTSBLUFF,DEPT SUP,93.06; OCLC ONLINE COMPUTER LIBRARY CENTER, INC,CONT SRVC,300.85; PANHANDLE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, UNLEADED GASOLINE, 31371.74; PANHANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC, SAMPLES,45; PLATTE VALLEY BANK,HSA,13432.73; POSTMASTER, POSTAGE,866.64; POWERPLAN, REPAIRS TO GRADER,2361.6; REGION I OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES,825; REGIONAL CARE INC,MEDICAL CLAIMS,42,077.60; REGISTER OF DEEDS,LEG FEE,10; ROOT SPRING SCRAPER CO,SHEAR PINS FOR ROOT SNOW BLOWER,169.72; RS VENTURES LLC,VEH MAINT,1403.37; RUSHMORE MEDIA COMPANY, INC,STRM WTR CNTRCL SRVCS,337; S M E C,EMP DEDUCTION,238; SANDBERG IMPLEMENT, INC,EQP MTC,921.25; SCB FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 1454,FIRE EE DUES,210; SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY COURT,LEGAL FEES,119; SCOTTSBLUFF BODY & PAINT,TOW SERVICE,420; SCOTTSBLUFF LANDSCAPING INC,CON SRV,425; SCOTTSBLUFF POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,POLICE EE DUES,432; SCOTTSBLUFF PUB SCHOOLS,JAN SRV,7645.7; SCOTTSBLUFF SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY, LLC,UNF CTH,1210; SHERIFF'S OFFICE,LEGAL FEES, 157.56; SHERWIN WILLIAMS,DEP SUP,50.89; SIMMONS OLSEN LAW FIRM, P.C.,CONTRACTUAL SERVICES,12058.1; SLAFTER OIL CO INC.,DEP SUP,23.32; SPENCER MCMURTRY,DEP SUP,726.66; TERRY D SCOTT,VEH MTC,289.48; TEXAS PNEUDRAULIC INC,VEHICLE MTNC,295.92; THE CHICAGO LUMBER

COMPANY OF OMAHA INC,DEPT SUPPLIES,9; TODD, JAMES,GASOLINE,20; TOMMY'S JOHNNYS INC,CON SRV,1305; TRI-STATE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, LLC,STRM WTR CNTRCL SRVCS,260; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC,FEES,990; UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC,CONT SRVC,295.35; UPSTART ENTERPRISES, LLC, DEPT SUPPL,101.33; US BANK,SCH CON,484.48; VALLEY BANK & TRUST CO,BOND FEES,350; W & R INC,EQUIP. MAIN,784.84; WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,RETIREMENT,30278.91; WESTERN PLAINS BUSINESS FORMS INC,CONTRACTUAL SVC,61.84; WESTERN TRAVEL TERMINAL, LLC,VEHICLE MAINT,39; WINTER EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC,SUPP - SNOW PLOW BLADES,3790.1; WYOMING FIRST AID & SAFETY SUPPLY, LLC,DEPT SUP,240.06; YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTSBLUFF, NE,FITNESS PROGRAM,2678.1; ZM LUMBER INC,DEP SUP,521.08; REFUNDS: PAM ADAMS, 6.24; AMANDA BOSTRON, 6.24; KEN COULTER 6.26; JOAN KLANDERUD, 6.24; EARL SCHUBARTH .47; REBECCA LEIDER, 88.29; JERRY DARNELL, 9.55.

Mr. Dennis Hadden with Dana Cole and Company presented the results of the City's audit for year ended September 30, 2014. Mr. Hadden explained that the city uses preferable accounting policies. There were no unusual transactions and all of the information they reviewed was within the acceptable practices. They were able to access all requested records. Mr. Hadden commented that the audit showed an unmodified opinion. He explained the issues the city experienced last year with going through a software conversion and added that everything seems to be in good shape following the conversion. The City has proper internal control and is compliant with accounting laws. City Manager Kuckkahn and the City Council voiced their appreciation of the outstanding work of Finance Director Renae Griffiths. Mr. Hadden agreed that the City of Scottsbluff audit went very smoothly thanks to the efficiency of Ms. Griffiths' preparation.

City Planner, Annie Folck, gave the Council some information regarding the call for Artists to design artistic bike racks for downtown. Ms. Folck was approached by the NEXT Young Professionals about using a portion of the proceeds from the Beer and Wine Festival to purchase bike racks for downtown. They will provide a \$500.00 stipend for each selected design. A selection committee consisting of representatives from the NEXT Young Professionals, BID, West Nebraska Art Center, the City and local cycling groups will review the submissions which are due February 13, 2015. The six bike racks will be placed downtown on Broadway. City staff will also review the current Ordinances regarding bike routes in the downtown area. City staff will install the bike racks after they are completed.

Anne James, Executive Director of Riverside Discovery Center (RDC), gave the City Council an annual report for year-end 2014. She reported that attendance was up with on-location and off-grounds education visits with a total impact of 42,509 visitors. The number of visitors receiving education also increased, to 13,862 making the RDC the largest non-formal educator in a 241 mile radius.

Some of the capital improvements include a circular pathway through the zoo, the new Heritage Barn, and a stage which has been used many times for special events. The RDC currently has 16 rare species at the zoo. Ms. James thanked the Council for their continued support of the Riverside Discovery Center. Council Member Colwell commented that this a great facility to take out of town visitors and expressed his appreciation for all of their hard work.

Assistant City Manager Johnson presented the agreement with M.C. Schaff and Associates for the sanitary sewer main project. Council awarded this bid at the January 5, 2015 meeting. Moved by Council member Gonzales, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, "to approve the agreement with M.C. Schaff & Associates, Inc. for engineering services relating to the Sanitary Sewer Main and Siphon Improvement Project and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement," "YEAS", Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, and Hilyard. "NAYS" Shaver. Absent: None.

Mr. Johnson presented the annual Certificate of Compliance from the Nebraska Department of Roads for maintenance of Highway 26 for 2014. Moved by Council Member Colwell, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, "to approve the Certificate of Compliance for the Maintenance Agreement with the State of Nebraska for 2014 and authorize the Mayor to execute the certificate," "YEAS", Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. "NAYS" None. Absent: None.

Mr. Johnson also presented the Maintenance Agreement No. 22 with Department of Roads for continuation of road maintenance for Highway 26. Nothing has changed with agreement from the previous year. Moved by Council Member Shaver, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, "to approve Maintenance Agreement No. 22 with the Nebraska Department of Roads for the continuation of road maintenance and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement," "YEAS", Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. "NAYS" None. Absent: None.

Assistant City Manager Johnson presented the amended contract with Gold Watch, the company that transports our recyclables. The proposed amendment increases the amount of the contract by \$50 per round trip. This increase is based on the cost of living adjustment. This adjustment will be reviewed and tied to the annual increase or decrease in the City's general fund departments. With the increase, this company is still substantially less than other haulers. Mr. Johnson explained that they are responsible for taking all sorted recyclable materials that are collected at Environmental Services to Denver for processing. Moved by Council Member Hilyard, seconded by Council Member Colwell, "to approve the amended contract with Gold Watch, LLC for transporting of recycled materials, increasing the roundtrip compensation to \$ 800.00 per trip, and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract," "YEAS", Colwell, Meininger, and Hilyard. "NAYS" Gonzales, Shaver. Absent: None.

Public Works Director Mark Bohl, gave the Council a report on the snow removal process that the department followed after the recent snow storm with approximately three feet of snow accumulation. This is an extremely unusual, large snow fall for our area. There are 98 miles of roads to plow of emergency routes and major arterials. With a large amount of snow, they windrow to the center of the road, then the loaders pick up the snow. If they go to the curb with the plows with a large accumulation of snow, the storm drains are blocked. This becomes a serious problem as the snow freezes and is difficult to remove. They have a 10 man crew, and during extreme situations, they will hire additional contractors to assist with the snow removal. One of the biggest problems they have is private lots that have been cleared and the snow is moved back to the curb. They are trying to inform property owners to not push the snow back to the street after they have cleared it.

Mr. Bohl added that if the department also cleared all residential streets, there would be 305 total miles, which would be extremely expensive. A major problem they have is the alleys, for service vehicles. They have talked about installing plows on the refuse trucks, which staff is looking into. They also spread a salt mix on the ice. The Police Department has been very helpful with vehicles left in the emergency snow routes.

Mayor Meininger commented that the City is obligated to clean the emergency snow routes. After those are done, staff will analyze the street conditions and work to get the feeders to these routes done as timely as possible to help residents get to the major routes.

City Manager Kuckkahn presented the information regarding the purchase of a new snow blower. The larger, diesel blower we have is no longer working as it hit a landscape boulder. Mr. Bohl found a good replacement from Nebraska Environmental that we can rent for \$2500.00 per month, then purchase it at the beginning of our next fiscal year. The total price will be \$55,000.00. All rental payments will be applied to the purchase of the equipment. Council authorized staff to proceed with the purchase of this snow blower.

Mr. Kuckkahn presented the amended 23Club Lease which excuses the annual rent of \$3,000.00 for 5 years, which will enable the 23 Club to purchase 4 new scoreboards in the amount of \$15,000.00. The scoreboards we now have at the 23 Club do not work properly and electricians are unable to repair them. Staff feels this is a good exchange to solve this equipment problem. Mayor Meininger added that keeping the ball fields in good condition and adequate for tournaments is in alignment with the Economic Development Plan. Moved by Council Member Hilyard, seconded by Council Member Gonzales, "to approve the amended agreement for the 23 Club lease and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement," "YEAS", Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, and Hilyard. "NAYS" Shaver. Absent: None.

Mr. Kuckkahn presented the contract for the campground hosts for this summer, which shows an increase of \$50.00 per month, due to additional duties. Moved by Council Member Gonzales, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, "to approve the contract with Campground hosts, Richard and Darlene

Johnson for \$850.00 per month for five months, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. “NAYS” None. Absent: None.

Mr. Kuckkahn presented the contract for the Softball Coordinator for this summer, which is the same amount as last year’s contract. Moved by Council Member Hilyard, seconded by Council Member Shaver, “to approve the contract for Softball Coordinator, Andy Hayward for \$800.00 per month for five months, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. “NAYS” None. Absent: None.

Mr. Kuckkahn presented the contract with Josh Hodges for Umpire Coordinator for this summer. Moved by Council Member Gonzales, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, “to approve the contract for Josh Hodges, Umpire Coordinator for \$200.00 per month for four months, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. “NAYS” None. Absent: None.

Mr. Kuckkahn presented the resolution supporting the implementation of the Economic Development Plan. Both Gering and Terrytown have adopted this Resolution, which is the first phase to implementation of the plan. Moved by Mayor Meininger, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, “to approve Resolution No. 15-01-01, supporting the future implementation of the Thomas P. Miller and Associates Regional Economic Development Plan,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard. “NAYS” None. Absent: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-01-01

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR AND FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THOMAS P. MILLER AND ASSOCIATES REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA) has completed work on the regional economic development plan. The plan provides a recommended list of target industries, strategic planning community assessments as well as recommendations for site selection and improvements to the current economic development processes. Throughout the planning process TPMA focused on planning for a regional approach and encompassed input and analyses from Gering, Terrytown, Scottsbluff and the rest of Scotts Bluff County. The importance of a regional approach was considered one of the most important aspects of using this plan to its fullest potential.

WHEREAS, The plan is a product of interviews and conversations with public, private, civic, and institutional stakeholders to identify the important issues, clarify perceptions and suggest opportunities. Citizens provided input through two public meetings. TPMA is confident that the region's partners and stakeholders viewpoints and suggestions guided the foundation of this plan.

WHEREAS, The plan is a dynamic document which opens the door to elevating the region's economic development effort and building on the many assets and advantages already in place and being developed. This plan should be viewed as a guide to "tweak" as the region's stakeholders see fit. It is not a rigid, static step by step approach rather it is intended as a guide to build on, modify. This is a plan where the region can capitalize on the momentum of community interest and successfully begin the process of implementation.

WHEREAS, The immediate need is to have region - wide acceptance of the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SCOTTSDLUFF, NEBRASKA THAT: The Scottsbluff City Council accept, adopt, approve and support to move the plan to implementation understanding that the plan is not the final word but a framework to build on.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SCOTTSDLUFF, NEBRASKA, THAT:

In the future the City Council recommends forming a group to guide the process of implementation. A group that represents a range of interests impacting the regions preparedness to encourage new growth, expand or improve what we have and champion the plan.

This Resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF JANUARY 2015.

Randy Meininger, Mayor

Attest:

Cynthia Dickinson, City Clerk
"SEAL"

Mayor Meininger introduced Ordinance No. 4144, correcting the legal description on Ordinance No. 4127 which was read by title on first reading: **AN ORDINANCE DEALING WITH ZONING, AMENDING SECTION 25-1-4 BY UPDATING THE OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP TO SHOW THAT LOTS 1-3 AND TRACT 2, BLOCK 6; LOT 7, BLOCK 13; AND LOT 8 AND TRACT 1, BLOCK 14 OF THE FIVE OAKS FINAL PLAT, ALL IN FIVE OAKS SUBDIVISION, CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, NEBRASKA, WHICH IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS A-AGRICULTURE, WILL NOW BE INCLUDED IN THE R-IA SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, AND REPEALING PRIOR SECTION 25-1-4.**

Moved by Mayor Meininger, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, "that the statutory rule requiring the Ordinance to be read by title on three different days be suspended," "YEAS", Gonzales, McCarthy, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard, "NAYS", None. Absent: None.

The motion carried having been approved by three-fourths of the Council Members. Moved by Mayor Meininger, seconded by Council Member Hilyard, "that Ordinance No. 4144 be adopted," "YEAS", Gonzales, McCarthy, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard, "NAYS", None. Absent: None.

Mayor Meininger asked for any public comments prior to the second reading of the Ordinance proposing an Occupation Tax on Hotel Accommodations. Mr. Charles McDermid, owner of the Scottsbluff Holiday Inn Express approached the Council and explained why he is opposed to this additional tax. With the Scotts Bluff County tourism tax and sales tax, the additional 4% occupation tax would make the total taxation on hotel rooms in Scottsbluff 16%. From a lodging perspective, he feels his customers will make the comparison with surrounding locations, and this tax would be more than any of the surrounding cities. He understands the need for additional funds to maintain the City, however, he feels this tax will hurt their business. The main source of their business comes from business travel, sales, and government employees, not necessarily from tourism attractions. Ms. Jennifer Heinold, General Manager at the Holiday Inn Express, commented that most of their business customers are there during the week, which is generally sold out. She believes that a higher tax would definitely eliminate some of their business.

Mayor Meininger introduced the Ordinance which was read by title on second reading: **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN OCCUPATION TAX ON HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS; REPEALING PRIOR SECTIONS LOCATED IN CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 6 AND CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE 2 OF THE SCOTTSBLUFF MUNICIPAL CODE, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Moved by Council Member Hilyard, seconded by Council Member Colwell, "to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of a strategy session to discuss the purchase and sale of

real estate in the City of Scottsbluff, “YEAS”, Gonzales, McCarthy, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard, “NAYS”, None. Absent: None.

Moved by Mayor Meininger, “to include the following in Executive Session: the City Council, City Attorney, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Planner,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, McCarthy, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard, “NAYS”, None. Absent: None.

Mayor Meininger stated that at 7:30 p.m. the City Council would go into Executive Session for the purpose of a strategy session to discuss the purchase and sale of real estate in the City of Scottsbluff, to include the City Council, City Attorney, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Planner.

Moved by Council Member Shaver, seconded by Council Member Colwell, “to reconvene out of Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, McCarthy, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard, “NAYS”, None. Absent: None.

Regarding the item on the purchase of real estate in the City of Scottsbluff, there was no action taken by the Council.

Regarding the item of selling city owned property, moved by Mayor Meininger, seconded by Council Member Shaver, “to direct staff to proceed with the possible sale of parking lots 2 and 15,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, McCarthy, Meininger, Shaver and Hilyard, “NAYS”, None. Absent: None.

Under Public Comments, Lanette Richards approached the Council to explain her concern about LB 330 regarding liquor sales. The areas she’s concerned about is the bill eliminates a limit on the sale of alcohol, making sales available 24/7; changing the tax on hard cider to be the same as beer, from \$.95 to \$.31; eliminating the requirement of alcohol sales being 150 feet from a church; allowing the distribution of powdered alcohol; allowing the re-sale of seized alcohol; and adding a 30 day grace period for liquor licenses. The hearing on LB 330 is Monday, January 26, 2015, which she is planning to attend and encouraged the City Council to write a letter to the General Affairs Committee and Senator John Stinner expressing the concern about this bill. Council agreed with Ms. Richards’ concerns and directed staff to write a letter of opposition to be sent to the General Affairs Committee and Senator Stinner.

Under Council Reports, Council Member Gonzales attended the Riverside Discovery Center Board meeting and will submit a report to the Council. He suggested that all Council Members do the same with the committees they serve. Council Member Shaver attended the Twin Cities Development retreat and was asked to provide items the Council would like them to work on. This will be discussed during the implementation of the Economic Development Plan.

Moved by Council Member Colwell, seconded by Council Member Gonzales, “to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.,” “YEAS”, Gonzales, Colwell, Meininger, and Hilyard. “NAYS” Shaver. Absent: None.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk