

**City of Seward, NE**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2016**  
**Regular Session**

**Item G1**

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES OF  
BUDGET WORK SESSION ON AUGUST 16, 2016 - Deputy  
Clerk Varner**

**Administrative Report: A motion to approve the minutes as written or with modifications would be in order.**

**Staff Contact:**

August 16, 2016

The Seward City Council met at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 to conduct a Work Session, with Mayor Joshua Eickmeier presiding and Assistant Administrator /Clerk-Treasurer /Budget & Human Resources Director Bonnie Otte recording the proceedings. Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were present: Jon Wilken, Ellen Beck, Dean Fritz, \*\*John Singleton, Chris Schmit, Dick Hans. Other officials present: City Administrator Bruce Smith. Absent: Councilmembers Sid Kamprath and Karl Miller.

Department Heads present were: Ed Gonzalez, Alan Baldwin, Tim Richtig, Becky Baker, Mel Aldrich, Bob Core, Larry Ruether. Also in attendance were: James Kimsey, Erich Helge, Jonathan Jank, Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership (SCCDP), and Ryan Burger, Gabriel, Burger & Else, CPA, PC.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by the method of communicating advance notice of the regular and special meetings of the City Council of the City of Seward, Nebraska, as stated in Ordinance No. 2015-08, which was adopted on the 5th day of May, 2015; said method stating that the notice of such meeting, with the agenda thereon, be posted in the following places: City Hall, Seward County Courthouse, Municipal Building, and Seward Public Library. The certificate of posting notice is attached to these minutes. Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda are attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

\*\*Councilmember John Singleton entered the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

#### 1. WORK SESSION FOR PROPOSED 2016-2017 CITY BUDGET

Terry Galloway, CPA, PFS, Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, presented a Cash Summary for all funds beginning with the audited October 1, 2015 cash balances through the estimated cash balances on September 30, 2017, using the proposed draft budget. He also shared the Comparative Valuations, Levies and Taxes from 2010 through the proposed 2016/2017 Budget, noting a drop in general funds cash of 1.1 million dollars. He reviewed valuations over the years and explained the lid exceptions and constraints. Mr. Galloway shared some best practices for general fund operating cash and debt service. Mr. Galloway indicated that the proposed budget shows a cash shortfall in the general fund of \$100,000 and if Council wishes to approve a balanced budget, there would need to be an increase in revenues, decrease in expenses or combination.

Mayor Eickmeier explained that the past couple years, the budget document was approved with a large amount of projects and items to be bonded. However, the bonding was not appropriate for many of the items and cash was used, resulting in a declination of the general fund cash and cash reserves. He stated the proposed budget is much more transparent and does not create a situation that looks on paper that the City has a lot of cash on hand. The reality is that the City did not have a lot of cash on hand because the bonding did not happen.

Jonathan Jank, SCCDP, thanked the City Council for their continued support and funding.

Ryan Burger, Gabriel, Burger & Else, CPA, PC, stated the City has not yet received their final valuation from Seward County, which is expected by the end of the week. He stated, due to publication requirements for the budget hearing to be held on September 6, the budget numbers must be finalized and to the newspaper for their deadline by August 26. Otherwise, the City Council needs to set a special meeting for the following week. He stated, any change in the levy needs also to

August 16, 2016

be determined by this publication deadline. None of the Council present requested consideration of a different levy than what was set the prior year.

There was a brief discussion of moving forward with setting aside money for ballfield lights and generating revenue from out-of-town game-players. Park/Recreation/Cemetery/Golf Director Bob Core stated the most recent estimate for the ballfield lights is \$120,000 per field. He stated there may be interest in 1 late game (utilizing lights) per week. They have rearranged use of the fields so there is a field open for players (so they do not have to go out of town).

Ed Gonzalez, Junior Jays, stated it should be considered that there would be 4 extra games if lights were added (1 game on each of the 4 lit fields).

City Administrator Smith asked for direction from the City Council on the proposed budget and was directed to get the budget to balance. No other direction was given.

2. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Councilmember Schmit moved, seconded by Councilmember Singleton, that the August 16, 2016 City Council Work Session be adjourned.

Aye: Hans, Schmit, Singleton, Fritz, Beck, Wilken

Nay: None

Absent: Miller, Kamprath. Motion carried.

THE CITY OF SEWARD, NEBRASKA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Eickmeier, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie Otte  
Assistant Administrator  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Budget & Human Resources Director