

MINUTE RECORD

No. 729—REDFIELD & COMPANY, INC., OMAHA

LA VISTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING BUDGET WORKSHOP JULY 11, 2011

A meeting of the City Council of the City of La Vista, Nebraska was convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on July 11, 2011. Present were Mayor Kindig and Councilmembers Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, Ellerbeck, Crawford and Gowan. Absent: None. Also in attendance were City Attorney McKeon, City Administrator Gunn, Assistant City Administrator Ramirez, Police Chief Lausten, Fire Chief Uhl, Public Works Director Soucie, Public Building & Grounds Director Archibald, Finance Director Lindberg, Library Director Barcal, Community Development Director Birch, Recreation Director Stopak, and City Clerk Buethe.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Times on June 30, 2011. Notice was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of the acknowledgment of the receipt of notice attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated to the Mayor and City Council in the advance notice of the meeting. All proceedings shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Further, all subjects included in said proceedings were contained in the agenda for said meeting which is kept continuously current and available for public inspection at City Hall during normal business hours.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kindig called the meeting to order and led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

III. ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOCATION OF POSTED OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Kindig made an announcement of the location of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference.

IV. GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW – GUNN/LINDBERG

City Administrator Gunn gave an overview of the budget.

Gunn stated operating budgets are again at a 0% increase in the base. Staff will continue to watch in the future to avoid any problems with low cash reserve. Delays of purchases will continue as in the current year. Gunn gave an overview of the tax history. Gunn stated that a tax increase is being proposed for FY12.

Gunn stated that the city's debt capacity is fine and the city's fiscal agent continues to watch our debt and states the city is in good shape.

Finance Director Lindberg addressed Council regarding the assumptions included in the budget forecast. She indicated that the projected percentage of growth in valuation will be 5.3% over FY 11/12. This increase is mainly due to the annexations done in the current year. The City valuation decreased by 1.5% due to the tax value change and commercial lot valuation. Annexations are forecast for future years. The growth rate is 11% over the past 10 years. No increase in valuation is forecast for FY12. Sales tax is forecast conservatively to be up 2% in FY12. The city will lose state aid in FY12.

Lindberg stated that the expense forecast is based upon 1.5% annual growth in personnel costs and 0% in operations. (Personnel costs, including insurance are 1.5% personnel, 0% health insurance and 0% dental insurance).

Lindberg stated that the budgets of Administration, Street Administration, and Human Resources proposed are a 70/30 split as in the current fiscal year. The reserve is at 20% which is where the city wants it to be.

Councilmember Sell asked if an insurance increase of 0% is realistic. City Administrator Gunn stated that the large increase in health insurance in the past has been a large expense to the City and we need to look at what we can do to decrease that cost.

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Councilmember Gowan asked if we are looking at interlocals with other government entities. Gunn stated that everything is on the table and the employee focus group will look at what options are available and come back with a recommendation.

Councilmember Crawford asked about the time frame for the employee focus group to come back as he is concerned that this will take money out of employee pockets. Gunn stated that this is something which should have been looked at years ago and it may create more out of pocket costs for employees.

V. GENERAL FUND BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

City Clerk Buethe reviewed the budget for Mayor and Council indicating some minor increases due to increases in travel costs and additional training opportunities.

Buethe reviewed the budget for Boards and Commissions, indicating that increases are requested in travel due to the history of previous travel and additional training opportunities.

Public Building and Grounds Director Archibald reviewed his budget with Council. An increase is proposed in other contractual services due to increased expenses being passed on by Metro Community College.

Assistant City Administrator Ramirez reviewed the Administration budget with Council. She stated that the largest increase is in legal fees. Ramirez stated that fees incurred from the Cordish project will be reimbursed when the project is bonded.

Ramirez reviewed the Human Resources budget and stated that overall; the budget is less than in the current year. The recommendation is to set the base factor at 1.5% with no increase in ranges this year as the ranges sit slightly higher than the market rate at this point. Changes were made in the evaluation form to have fewer core competencies to eliminate redundancies and to make them less time consuming. The proposed change to the rating scale would need to go to Council for approval. Councilmember Sheehan asked if we have changed the rating scale. Ramirez stated we have not. Sheehan stated he likes the current scale. Councilmember Crawford stated he feels the rating system is too complicated and too much staff time is spent on it. He would like to see some type of bonus plan. Councilmember Sell asked if the core competencies could be lowered to four.

Police Chief Lausten reviewed his department's budget with Council. Lausten stated the operating budget is flat except for the 911 increase in fees which is uncertain at this time. There is money budgeted for a new officer with the expansion in Southport which would be covered by grant money with the city having to pick up the salary after 3 years.

Chief Lausten reviewed the budget for animal control services stating that it is possible that the amount could decrease with the population from the Census which will update the MAPA numbers.

Fire Chief Uhl reviewed the Fire Department's budget with Council. Uhl stated that increases requested are due to rising fuel costs, replacement of Minitor 5 pagers, increased personnel going to training. Uhl stated that grant money is being sought for a fire extinguisher trainer. Mayor Kindig asked is the bunker gear is updated every 5 years and Uhl stated that it is in compliance with NFPA standards until they have 2 code changes which give it about a 20 year life. Mayor Kindig asked for a report as to whether all the reserve gear is still in compliance.

At 7:24 p.m., Councilmember Quick made a motion to take a five-minute recess. Seconded by Councilmember Ellerbeck. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, Crawford, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

At 7:35 p.m. Councilmember Sell made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Sheehan. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, Crawford, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Community Development Director Birch reviewed her Department's budget with Council. Birch stated that two additional part-time planning interns have been added back in to the budget with the increase need due to upcoming projects. She stated that the increase in travel and training is to allow the Chief Building Official to attend LEAD this year. Money has been added for wireless cards to access system out in the field so that inspectors can type up inspection cards and print

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out in the field. Councilmember Sheehan asked if they could get smart phones and do the same thing. Birch stated that the Blue Prints software does not have an app for a smart phone.

Public Works Director Soucie presented the Street Administration budget to Council. He stated that a slight increase in dues and subscriptions is requested as this will be for the professional engineering license for the Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer. The decrease in travel is because the LEAD program was a one-time expense last year. The increase in other contra contractual services is due to the AutoCAD software license renewal.

Soucie reviewed the Street Operating budget with Council. He stated that increases are due to annexation, 800 MHz costs, and the addition of a street foreman.

Soucie reviewed the Parks Division budget with the Council. Soucie stated that the increases are due to annexation, training costs for the Park Superintendant to attend LEAD, and increased replacement parts for an aging fleet.

Soucie reviewed the Sports Complex budget with Council. Soucie stated that the increases are due to annexation, chemicals, and field supplies.

Recreation Director Stopak reviewed his Department's budget with Council. Stopak stated his budget is holding steady with slight increase for the Senior ENOA Program and food supplies. The Assistant Director will be attending LEAD training this year.

Stopak reviewed the Pool budget with Council. He stated that there are no additional requests.

Stopak reviewed the Senior Bus Service budget with Council. Stopak stated that the budget is steady and at this time the numbers do not support addition of another bus. Councilmember Ronan commented on how great the service was when his mother used it.

Library Director Barcal reviewed her budget with Council. Barcal stated increases are due to the increase in database subscriptions and the elimination of some State funds. The Assistant Director will attend the LEAD training.

Lindberg reviewed the Public Transportation budget with Council. The increase in other charges is in anticipation of increased fuel prices.

VI. GENERAL FUND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES – GUNN/LAUSTEN

City Administrator Gunn stated that all capital outlay requests are not excessive but there is just limited funding available. This year the department heads went through and decided which equipment would be recommended for purchase. Police Chief Lausten explained the process used by the group and gave the recommend purchases with each department head answering any questions regarding any of their items.

Discussion was held regarding these purchases. Councilmember Gowan made a motion to eliminate the Tahoe. Seconded by Councilmember Sheehan. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Crawford, and Gowan. Nays: Carlisle, and Ellerbeck. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held regarding whether another piece of equipment should be put in or whether a decrease should be made. Councilmember Ellerbeck made a motion to decrease the capital outlay budget by \$35,000.00 (cost of Tahoe). Seconded by Councilmember Gowan. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Crawford, Ellerbeck and Gowan. Nays: Carlisle. Absent: None. Motion carried.

VII. MASTER FEE SCHEDULE – LINDBERG

Finance Director Lindberg gave an overview of proposed changes to the master fee schedule

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

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IX. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

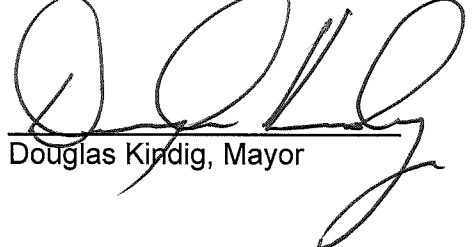
None.

X. ADJOURNMENT


At 9:10 p.m. Councilmember Gowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Ellerbeck. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, Crawford, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 2ND DAY OF AUGUST 2011.

CITY OF LA VISTA


Douglas Kindig, Mayor

ATTEST:


Pamela A. Bueth, CMC
City Clerk

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