

# MINUTE RECORD

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

## LA VISTA CITY COUNCIL MEETING BUDGET WORKSHOP JULY 16, 2008

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 16, 2008. Present were Mayor Kindig and Councilmembers Sell, Ronan, Sheehan, Carlisle, Quick, Ellerbeck, McLaughlin and Gowan. Absent: None. Also in attendance were 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 Iwan, 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 July 3, 2008. 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. BUDGET WORKSHOP

#### Sewer Fund

Finance Director Lindberg stated that a User Rate Study is underway to establish a long-term rate structure and is expected to be completed soon. The Master Fee Schedule shows a 6% proposed increase in sewer fees based on information including revenues, expenditures and fund balance. Sewer administration reflects 40% of the expenses of the General Fund Administration, Street Administration, and Human Resources which is a reduction of 10% from previous years.

Public Works Director Soucie stated that the sewer maintenance budget does not have any significant increases. Councilmember Sheehan asked as to why there is no increase in motor vehicle supplies due to fuel increases. Soucie stated that the amount budgeted last year for a new piece of equipment was overestimated so therefore the same amount this year will cover increases in price.

City Administrator Gunn stated that Soucie had a very good case for the need to purchase the sewer camera and although she did not recommend approval for this it may be something the council wants to look at within the next year after the rate study is complete to see if there are funds available to finance this and amend the budget if necessary.

Soucie stated that the current sewer camera is shared with Papillion as the two cities purchased it jointly. It is aging and parts for repairs are very difficult to find. The trade in value given last year may have decreased due to age and inability to find parts. The current sewer camera could be sold to Papillion for half of the trade in value. The new camera would not be purchased jointly.

Councilmember Carlisle asked when the study will be done. Lindberg anticipates it will be complete by October 1.

Councilmember Quick suggested that it be put in the budget and not purchased if the funds are not there rather than having to amend the budget later. Gunn stated that it would need to be financed and a portion put in the budget for payments.

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The Mayor asked if council wanted to put the sewer camera in the budget. Consensus was to put it in.

## Bond Fund

Gunn provided an overview of the Bond Fund and recommended an eight cent tax levy for debt service. The goal of the city is to stay at a stable rate. There are some uncertainties as we look into the future. This fund does not show debt associated with the Off-Street Parking Facility, the Golf Course and Economic Development Program.

Gunn stated that, should the aquatic center bond issue pass, the hope is that it will be shown as a separate line on tax statements, although not sure if that can be done.

Gunn stated the City is still receiving very good bond ratings.

Councilmember Sheehan asked if the decrease in levy rate over time is calculated on a \$100,000 home. Gunn stated that it is on a \$150,000 home. Sheehan want to clarify that as the rate goes down, valuation continues to rise and the homeowner may not actually see a drop in their overall tax payment amount.

## Capital Fund

Assistant City Administrator Ramirez stated that there were a couple changes to the CIP due to carryover projects that will not be completed this construction season including the Golf Course pond pump project, the Portal Greenway study, the construction of the La Vista Link to the Keystone Trail, the 132<sup>nd</sup> & West Giles Road intersection improvements, the Harrison Street widening project from approximately 71<sup>st</sup> Street to 48<sup>th</sup> Street, and the Quiet Zone railroad crossing improvements on West Giles Road.

Ramirez stated that the 84<sup>th</sup> Street visioning project has been added to the CIP for 2009.

Councilmember Sheehan asked Ramirez to explain the priority numbering system on the project report. Ramirez stated that the software allows priority numbers from 1 through 10. The CIP committee has a set of criteria they use to rate each project and then the rating of these projects are fit into the software numbering system. The information for the CIP ratings is available. Councilmember Sell asked who is on the CIP committee. Ramirez stated that the committee includes Community Development Director Birch, Public Works Director Soucie, Finance Director Lindberg, City Engineer John Kottmann, City Planner Baker, and Assistant City Administrator Ramirez. Councilmember Sheehan asked if the committees rating points could be attached with this report. Ramirez stated that she will provide that information.

## Lottery Fund

Finance Director Lindberg stated that Lottery revenue projections have been reduced in anticipation of a new contractor agreement currently in negotiations. Transfers are scheduled to the debt service fund for principal and interest on the Library bond issue, the Police Facility bond issue, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fire Station bond issue. These transfers can only be done through 2013 from the lottery fund. A transfer to General is recommended to fund the ICSC related travel. A transfer is recommended to the Golf Fund. A transfer is recommended to the Capital Fund. In the Lottery budget, under professional services, funding is recommended for marketing and exhibition materials associated with ICSC and other City marketing items and expenses related to the City's 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked what we would do if for some reason we do not have a lottery agreement. Lindberg stated that we would adjust accordingly.

## Golf Fund

Finance Director Lindberg stated that golf revenues are down this year compared to the same time in 2007 but still up from 2006. The decrease this year is due to a very rainy spring and summer. 2009 projections show a 12% increase from 2008. The recommended lottery transfer to golf is up from 2008 due to salary adjustments and the replacement of nine carts. Recommended capital items include clubhouse deck refurbishing, maintenance shop walk-through door replacement, and annual fairway net replacement. The purchase of a spray rig is recommended and has been included in the operational budget to be financed.

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Discussion was held regarding the transfer from the lottery fund and the cost of amenities to the city.

Councilmember Ellerbeck asked that a report be done to show the cost per capita on services in the future.

Councilmember Ronan asked when the carts would go out for bid. Recreation Director Stopak stated that they would go for bid in the spring before the main golf season begins.

## **Economic Development Fund**

Gunn stated that it is proposed that sales tax revenue be transferred from the General Fund to make the debt service payment on the \$3 million grant and \$18 million loan made to John Q. Hammons to facilitate construction of a full service hotel and conference center facility in the Southport West subdivision. This is a reduction from prior estimates as a result of the interest received on the bond issue. Included in the revenue projections are the quarterly interest payments to be paid by John Q. Hammons on the \$18 million loan.

## **Off-Street Parking Fund**

Gunn stated that the transfer of sales tax from the General Fund will provide for debt service and routine maintenance. The remaining funds will be used to purchase the cart corrals which were budgeted in the current fiscal year, but not anticipated for completion until fiscal year 2009.

Councilmember Gowan asked how the parking lot is holding up. Soucie stated that the biggest problem is truck traffic that does not follow the signs and ends up tearing up the landscaping. Councilmember Sheehan asked if we can ticket these people. Police Chief Lausten stated that we can give them a parking ticket which will cost them \$10. If we see the truck actually cause the damage we can get the information of the company or driver and bill for the damage. Lausten stated that the municipal code related to parking violations is being looked at for possible changes with regard to infractions such as these. Councilmember Quick asked if the lot could be refigured to give the semis a place to park. Soucie stated that there is already an area for semis to park but they are not using the proper route to get there and therefore creating the damage. Soucie stated moving the semi parking lot may encourage semi parking for purposes other than shopping. Soucie stated that the delivery trucks are fine and use the correct routes and do not cause damage. About 98% of the trucks that come to shop also use the correct routes and do not cause damage. It is the 2% of trucks stopping to shop that cause all of the damage to the landscaping.

Councilmember Gowan made a motion to move "Comments from the Floor" up on the agenda ahead of Item V. "Executive Session". Seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, Ellerbeck, McLaughlin, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

## **VI. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Ralph Healey of La Vista stated that he is running for a council seat in Ward IV and addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the budget and leadership.

## **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL**

At 6:50p.m. Councilmember Gowan made a motion to go into executive session to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual to discuss personnel. Seconded by Councilmember Ellerbeck. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried. Mayor Kindig stated the executive session would be limited to the subject matter contained in the motion and repeated the motion.

At 6:55 p.m. the Council came out of executive session. Councilmember Ellerbeck made a motion to reconvene in open and public session. Seconded by Councilmember Gowan. Mayor Kindig stated the discussion in executive session was limited to the subject matter contained in the original motion. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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## VII. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59 p.m. Councilmember Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Sell. Councilmembers voting aye: Sell, Ronan, Quick, Sheehan, Carlisle, McLaughlin, Ellerbeck, and Gowan. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5TH DAY OF AUGUST 2008.

CITY OF LA VISTA

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Douglas Kindig, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pamela A. Buethe, CMC  
City Clerk