

July 24, 2013

# ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013

STATE OF NEBRASKA            )  
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 COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE        ) §  
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 CITY OF ALLIANCE             )

The Alliance City Council met in a Special Budget Workshop, July 24, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., in Meeting Rooms of the Library/Learning Center, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on July 17, 2013. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, 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 Council could modify the agenda at the meeting if it determined an emergency so required. A similar notice, together with a copy of the agenda, also had been delivered to each of the City Council Members. An agenda, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk during regular business hours from the publication of the notice to the time of the meeting.

Mayor Feldges opened July 24, 2013 Special Budget Workshop of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 4:03 p.m. Present were Mayor Feldges, Council Members Benzel, Lewis, Seiler and Yeager. Also present were City Manager Cox, Finance Director Waggener, City Attorney Howard and City Clerk Jines.

- Mayor Feldges read the Open Meetings Act Announcement and indicated a copy of the Act was posted on the west wall of the meeting room.
- Mayor Feldges announced the purpose of the Special Budget Workshop was to review the proposed 2013-2014 budget, goals and capital purchases.

City Manager Cox made a presentation to Council that reviewed the City’s Vision and Goals, strategic planning, opportunities and challenges, and priorities.

Following City Manager Cox’s presentation, Finance Director Waggener reviewed staffing, cost of living adjustments in relation to the Consumer Price Index, and Fund Transfer Flow Chart.

Department Heads reviewed their proposed capital purchases with the Council:

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Police Chief Kiss reviewed the proposed capital for Police Administration, Operations and Support. Council suggested that funding for both vehicle purchases and the video camera be placed in the City Council's Contingency Fund to be available for purchase availability if necessary; however they would like staff to attempt to utilize our vehicles longer if financially feasible. Council also indicated a strong desire to move forward with the consolidation of dispatch services between the City of Alliance and Box Butte County. Council expressed disappointment that backup electric services were not addressed earlier in the development of the Police Annex.

Fire Chief Shoemaker presented the capital for the Fire and Ambulance services. Council requested a listing of other communities that currently have Emergency Operations Centers and inquired if Public Safety Tax Funds could be utilized for this project.

Shana Brown, Cultural and Leisure Services Director reviewed the capital requests of Parks and Public Grounds and the Cemetery. It was suggested to move the Laing Lake fishing dock to next year. Council also discussed the possibility of a new well to maintain the water level of Laing Lake.

Tourism capital was reviewed with Kevin Howard.

Council took a 10 minute break at 5:40 p.m.

Following the break, Water and Sewer Superintendent Mike Hulquist presented his capital requests. Council proposed deferring the water tower demolition at the Airport and substituting the Water Scada System update at \$90,000.

The Golf Course capital was reviewed with Shana Brown. Several options were discussed for improvement of the parking lot.

Airport capital was reviewed with Airport Manager Lynn Placek. Ms. Placek reported the Bush Hog Mower could be removed. She also informed the Council that she believed a Water Study would be in order, as water availability will be essential to the future development of the Airport.

Public Facilities Director Eric Lenz reviewed the capital proposals of Refuse Collection and Streets. City Attorney Howard Olsen had a question regarding inspection services for the Downtown Revitalization Project which will need additional research.

The Utility Office improvements were identified as new restroom facilities and remodeling required for ADA requirements.

The Library roof replacement can be removed from the capital list as it is currently in progress utilizing insurance funds as a result of storm damage.

A lengthy discussion took place on the need for a new Parks facility due to the condemnation of the current facility located at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Big Horn Avenue. The proposed

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new site for the Parks facility is the former swimming pool located at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Cheyenne Avenue. The upkeep of all City facilities and the need to make Council aware of future needs was discussed.

Police Chief Kiss provided an overview of the Viper Program.

Randy Waggener, Finance Director reviewed the GIS and MIS proposed capital. Council suggested the GIS mini cargo van be deleted at this time. He also informed Council of the planned furniture update and drive-up window replacement in the Utility Customer Service Office.

Council discussed the \$15,000 which was listed for Council Chamber Equipment upgrades. Council liked the idea of purchasing tablets and moving forward with paperless Council preparation.

Due to Electric Superintendent Larry Heinrich's absence little discussion was had on his proposed capital, except Council suggested that the funding for the replacement of Vehicle Nos. 400, 406 and 410 be placed in the Electric Contingency fund in case replacement is absolutely necessary due to the failure of a unit, otherwise they will not be replaced. Council also asked City Manager Cox to review if the replacement of E-7, E-9 and E-12 were absolutely necessary and suggested removing them from the upcoming year. Council inquired as to the options available (lease vs. purchase, new vs. used) for the replacement of the landfill front-end loader (R-12).

- Mayor Feldges stated, "there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 7:40 p.m."

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Fred Feldges, Mayor

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Linda S. Jines, City Clerk