

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING, MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008

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 Meeting, July 28, 2008 at 8:30 a.m., in the Meeting Rooms of the Library/Learning Center, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on July 18, 2008. 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.

Mayor Kusek opened the July 28, 2008 Special Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 8:31 a.m. Present were Mayor Kusek, Council Members Dickenson, Benzel, Rowley, and Yeager. Also present were Administrative Assistant to the City Manager Tolstedt, City Treasurer King, and City Clerk Jines. Council Candidates Rachel Gonzalez and Fred Feldges also were in attendance.

- Mayor Kusek made the Open Meetings Law announcement and indicated the required posting was on the north wall of the room.
- Mayor Kusek began the meeting by reviewing the Golf Fund. Chuck Carbert and Dick Halstead were present from staff to answer questions. The Fund is currently reflecting a \$82,998 contribution from the General Fund. Health insurance has increased due to an employee enrolling on the City’s plan. Council would like to look at increasing the utility contribution made by the Men’s Club.

The Swimming Pool was the next Fund to be reviewed. Staff members present for discussion were Chuck Carbert and Shana Brown. The pool will remain open through Labor Day Monday. The need for two phone lines was discussed, one for public use and one for emergency only use. Demolition of the old swimming pool was questioned. Council would like staff to consider saving the building for future use such as storage and that the demolition be done in house with the City paying ourselves the landfill fees.

The Cemetery was discussed with staff members Chuck Carbert and Joe Lewis. Council questioned the one capital purchase of the sod cutter. Joe Lewis said the sod cutter would be shared between departments such as Parks and the Golf Course. It was reported that tree trimming was contracted services.

Library Director Dena Crews appeared before Council to discuss the Library proposed

budget. Hours of the Library were discussed and Dena Crews reported Sunday hours would be discontinued. Tony Tolstedt will review the budget numbers and determine if the current proposal includes the decreased hours.

The Parks Fund was the next matter before Council. Chuck Carbert and Joe Lewis were available to Council. Lighting at the various ballfield and parks was discussed. The geese population was also discussed regarding ways to decrease the number.

Chuck Carbert and Becci Thomas appeared before Council to discuss the proposed Museum Budget. The Museum is an all-electric facility. The shelving purchase was reviewed and Becci Thomas reported they may be modifying the proposed order to add some additional shelving. The picnic tables for the Museum area are in this year's Parks budget. Computer purchases were discussed and Becci reported a great deal of the cost was the inventory program. Mayor Kusek asked Finance Director King what revenue account lines would be needed to accept funds. Mrs. King reported City Manager Caskie was looking at a separate special account.

Larry Heinrich appeared before Council to review the Refuse and Electric Funds. Councilman Benzel asked about collecting bad debt and reverse 911 services. Mayor Kusek requested staff research the possibility of legal action against the engineering company that designed the landfill baler system. Mayor Kusek also questioned the difference in the Revenue Bond - Principal between the request and Manager's amount. Finance Director King reported the difference was due to the anticipated financing of the new baler system and an additional payment required. Larry Heinrich requested Council consider increasing the baler purchase from \$500,000 to \$575,000. Councilman Benzel asked if there is an anticipated rate increase. Staff reported there is not.

The Electric Fund was the next matter before Council. The purchase of the bucket truck was discussed. Councilwoman Rowley questioned the scholarship program and if there was a stipulation they work in the area for a period of time. Mr. Heinrich reported there is not; however, we have hired a graduate of the program. Reverse 911 services were discussed. Various other line items were defined and described for Council. Mayor Kusek inquired how much green power is the City purchasing, staff reported we thought 5% from the Kimball project but we will confirm. The Mayor thought we were also purchasing from the Ainsworth project. Load Management has been set at 23.5 Mw. Cell phone charges were discussed and Council questioned if the charges were duplicated between divisions.

Larry Heinrich informed Council it would cost \$100,000 for a new lighting system for the Bower/Shankland Field. ***Mayor Kusek requested an amendment be prepared for Council's consideration to add \$85,000 from Electric Fund Balance to the \$40,000 in the Parks' budget already allocated for a total of \$125,000 for the Bower/Shankland Field lighting.***

The Warehouse/Purchasing Fund was discussed. The proposed purchase of the forklift is for a used unit and will replace an old tractor style.

The Community Development Fund which was represented by Rick Houck our Community

Development Director was discussed. Administrative Assistant Tolstedt informed Council of the new Abatement Fund. Mr. Houck then reviewed several of his line items.

Water and Sewer Superintendent Mike Hulquist appeared before Council to review both the Water and Sewer Funds. Mr. Hulquist gave an update on the water main replacement program at the request of Council. The City has eleven usable wells at the present time. The City will need two arsenic treatment plants as of now, but we are planning on four.

Finance Departments (Accounting, Utility Customer Service, and Meter Reading) and R.S.V.P. were reviewed. Wages in Accounting were discussed and it was reported we are anticipating a short overlap with the hiring of a new Finance Director.

Council adjourned for a lunch break at 12:00 o'clock noon and reconvened at 1:17 p.m.

Public Facilities Director Eric Lenz appeared before Council to review Facilities Maintenance, Municipal Building, Library Learning Center Maintenance, Airport, Streets, Refuse Collection and Fleet Services.

Mayor Kusek inquired about the completion date for the ILS System. Staff reported it would be at least 18 months. Potash Avenue improvements were discussed, Mr. Lenz informed Council he would be asking the State for a relaxation of standards in order to utilize STP funds. Sweetwater Avenue was discussed. Council Candidate Rachel Gonzalez requested a no truck traffic sign be placed on Potash Avenue. Mayor Kusek stated he thought the alley rehabilitation programs would be completed this current fiscal year. Mr. Lenz stated there are at least four more alley projects. Mayor Kusek would like to have Eric Lenz research the possibility of getting a concrete crushing company to come and work in Alliance.

The Fire Department budget was reviewed with Fire Chief Troy Shoemaker. The only capital included in the proposed budget is for two defibrillators. Mayor Kusek would like staff to research the possibility of a Public Safety Sinking Fund for emergency equipment purchases.

Police Chief John Kiss reviewed the Police Administration, Police Operations, Police Support Services, Animal Control, and Emergency Management proposed budgets. The W.I.N.G. program was discussed and Council was informed of the federal funding decrease of the program. Alliance has been fully funding our participation in the program and most of the other Panhandle participants will continue as well.

Legal Services and Risk Management were reviewed with City Attorney Larry Miller. Mr. Miller expressed his concerns regarding taking over everything this October, but he understands Council's concerns with funding. ***Mayor Kusek would like staff to prepare an amendment to increase Legal Services - Other Attorney Fees from \$5,000 to \$10,000.***

Council reviewed the Management Information Systems budget with MIS Director Shari Lund, Personnel and City Council with City Clerk Jines, and City Manager with Administrative Assistant Tony Tolstedt.

Council requested staff to prepare an amendment to the City Council's budget by raising the Contingency Fund from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Administrative Assistant Tolstedt provided information on the General Fund Revenue projections. Under Licenses & Permits need to add a line item for ATV licensing.

Other funds were reviewed: BID, HUD, Community Betterment, Economic Development, Redevelopment, Internal Services, Permanent Fund, LB 840 Fund, Sales Tax Fund, Abatement, and Debt Service. Finance Director King reviewed the Fund Summaries.

- Mayor Kusek stated, "there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 5:05 p.m."

Dan Kusek, Mayor

(SEAL)

Linda S. Jines, City Clerk