

November 8, 2010

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010

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, November 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., in the Alliance Learning Center Meeting Rooms A&B, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on November 3, 2010. 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 Yeager opened the November 8, 2010 Special Meeting of the Alliance, Nebraska City Council at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Ralph Yeager, Council Members Dan Kusek, Trent Benzel, Lori Rowley and Fred Feldges. Also present were Interim City Manager Larry Miller, Assistant to the City Manager Aaron Smith, and City Clerk Linda Jines.

Present for the School Board were President Tim Kollars, Board Members Duane Dobson, Troy Schnell, Terry Curtiss, Ande Girard, and Alan Cornish. Also present were School Superintendent Dan Hoelsing, Business Manager Kevin Wilkinson, and Secretary to the Board Lori Watson.

- Mayor Yeager read the Open Meetings Act Announcement and indicated the required posting was on the east wall of the room.
- School Board President Kollars opened the meeting wanting to explore ways to cooperate between agencies for a better future. School Superintendent Hoelsing stated the three items he requested to be on the agenda were the use of the School Administration Meeting Room, School Resource Officer, and entering into a relationship with the Alliance Public Library.

Mr. Hoelsing stated he wanted the Schools and the City to do more together and one tool to better serve the citizens would be to enter into an Interlocal Agreement. Should we enter into

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an Interlocal Agreement it would be a way to upgrade the meeting room with new technology. This upgrade would allow an increased use of the facility for teleconferencing. Sample Interlocal Agreements were handed out for reference, and it was reported that South Sioux City, Norfolk, Grand Island as well as several other communities already have Interlocal Agreements in place. By entering into such an agreement it will also increase the opportunities for joint grants.

Councilwoman Rowley asked how the Cooperative Fund receives monies. Supt. Hoelsing stated through fees collected for selling services. An example cited when fees are collected is when the school sells one class to another school because the other school may not have the instructors necessary to provide the class.

Supt. Hoelsing reported the schools were not able to help with the transportation request for the dedication of the Veteran's Cemetery because an Interlocal Agreement was not in place. He reiterated the schools do not want to have an adversarial relationship with the City.

The School Board acknowledged the use of City facilities for their programs and expressed appreciation. Again, they felt the Interlocal Agreement would be of benefit in this area.

The School Resource Officer was the next topic of discussion. Supt. Hoelsing informed Council that the School Resource Program will not be able to continue without an Interlocal Agreement being in place. He stated presently the principals are reporting to him that the officer is not around the schools as much as they would like and as stipulated in the contract. Police Chief Kiss disagreed with the statement. Chief Kiss stated there are so many needs requested of the officer by the schools that it is difficult to provide the educational component of the program. Chief Kiss also reported the officer was fulfilling the time requirements of the contract; however he may be called to assist other law enforcement personnel when an emergency situation occurs. He stated the need was so great that an additional officer could be justified. Middle School Principal Katie White informed the group she had no complaints of Officer Shannon. She stated he did a very good job especially in dealing with abuse allegations. Ms. White did inform the group that it is hard to share the SRO services with the other schools. Supt. Hoelsing stated the schools are undertaking several programs such as truancy on their own behalf and are more interested in educational cooperation.

Supt. Hoelsing informed the City Council that the school had received Parent Involvement Grants for both of the two elementary schools in the amount of \$10,000 each. These funds could be used to put internet access testing into the public library which will allow parents and children to test at more convenient times. The deadline for use of these grant funds is April 30, 2011. An Interlocal Agreement would be required before this program could move forward.

Supt. Hoelsing distributed material describing the steps for the construction of the performing arts center the school has undertaken and provided background history. The facility will cost 6.6 million dollars which is a not to exceed guarantee, of which the school has already secured funding. The final project amount with the combined low interest and no interest loans over a thirty year timeframe will be approximately 9 million dollars. The project will include a

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“full fly” facility which will allow Broadway productions. The completion date for the project is estimated to be November 1, 2011. A fundraising event is schedule to begin within the next two weeks with a goal of raising \$250,000. The first roll-out of the event will be offered to school staff. Supt. Hoelsing stated the City was invited to participate early in the project planning and he was disappointed in the City’s support. He would like to see the City’s support now with the waiving of the building permit fees. Councilman Kusek stated he was not in favor of waiving the building permit fees and setting a precedent; however, he would propose the use of community betterment funds. School Board member Terry Curtiss stated the permit waiving was requested prior to receiving the not to exceed guarantee on the facility cost, and whatever support extended by the City will be greatly received.

Supt. Hoelsing also provided handout materials of previous correspondence relating to parking lots for the school’s use. The school would like to see 16th Street vacated to provide additional parking. The current construction project is anticipated to add 127 parking spaces. Councilman Kusek responded with the history of the pool land transfer and the acquisition and construction of a parking lot for Grandview School. At this time Councilman Kusek is unaware why there may need to be discussion on an additional parking lot at the City’s expense. School Board member Terry Curtiss stated the additional discussion may be the result of the additional 200’ of land being transferred to the City, which is the property that the dog park is located.

Councilwoman Rowley then addressed the Central School property which was sold by the school to a private party and then re-sold to another private party. The last owners defaulted on their financing which has left the property in limbo. The City’s concern is the lack of maintenance on the property and the unsightliness of the grounds. The City is afraid of being held responsible for the property and the expenses involved.

In closing the meeting, both Boards stated the need to get old issues off the table in order to move forward for the betterment of both groups.

- Mayor Yeager stated, “there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 9:18 p.m.”

Ralph Yeager, Mayor

(SEAL)

Linda S. Jines, City Clerk