

April 24, 2023

The city council of the City of Sioux Center met on the above date in regular session at 3:30 p.m. in the city offices. Members present were Mayor David Kraehling and Councilmembers John Brantsen, Eric Moerman, Dale Vander Berg, Randy Vreugdenhil, Jenn Vermeer. Staff present: Scott Wynja, Murray Hulstein, Darryl Ten Pas, Dennis Dokter, Adam Fedders, Brian Van Engen, Maggie Landegent, Joel Gonzalez.

The City Manager, Scott Wynja, and Utilities Manager, Murray Hulstein introduced the second group of department heads to give their annual report to the council: Ezra Weikert, Electric Dept.; Zeke Ellis, Wastewater Dept.; Harlan Rus, Streets Dept.; Harlan Kruid, Water Dept.; Brian Slothouber, Vehicles/Fleet. Also present: Troy Kunnari, Lorn Wielenga, Landon Slechta, Electric Dept., Marly Te Grotenhuis, Sean Berkenpas, Tim Vande Hoef, Wastewater Dept.; Louis Vander Velde, Zach Boneschans, Water Dept. The council received the reports for information and thanked the employees for their work.

Opportunity was given for public input/communication. Having no one present, the Finance Director, Darryl Ten Pas, submitted the consent agenda consisting of minutes of April 3, 2023, bills, and liquor license renewals for Fareway Store and Late Harvest Brewery. It was moved by Councilmember Vreugdenhil and supported by Councilmember Moerman to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The utilities manager reported that the community has been in a Water Warning since last July, and with good community response and efforts by the Sioux Center Water Dept., the local water system was able to meet demand. With the additional 800,000 gallons/day now available from Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, Hulstein recommended lifting the Water Warning. It was moved by Councilmember Vander Berg and supported by Councilmember Vermeer to lift the Water Warning put in place July 1, 2022, and thank the community for their efforts to conserve water. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The utilities manager reported that the City has been conducting interviews for an open lineman position within the electric department. Following interviews, staff has offered the position to Wyatt Resmen. It was moved by Councilmember Moerman and supported by Councilmember Brantsen to ratify the appointing of Wyatt Resmen as an electric department employee. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Assistant City Manager, Dennis Dokter, reported that a public hearing was set for the council to take action on a proposal to sell city-owned property, Lot 10 of the Highway Park – First Addition to Ten Kredit to expand operations. Mayor Kraehling opened the public hearing calling for all written and/or oral comments. Hearing none, he closed the hearing. It was moved by Councilmember Vander Berg and supported by Councilmember Vreugdenhil to approve **RESOLUTION SC-R-22-23, A RESOLUTION TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED REAL ESTATE**. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Ayes: Brantsen, Moerman, Vander Berg, Vermeer, Vreugdenhil. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The utilities manager and finance director reported that, following a water rate study, staff is recommending a two-part rate increase for 2023 and 2024 of between 6-8% per year to help cover costs of ongoing community growth with new lines to developing areas, maintaining aging sections of pipe in older neighborhoods, system improvements including preparing for a third water tower, and adding quantity and quality of water. It was moved by Councilmember Brantsen and supported by Councilmember Vermeer to approve the second reading of **ORDINANCE NO. SC-O-01-23, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. SC-O-02-18, IN ESTABLISHING RATES FOR DETERMINING CHARGES TO BE MADE TO CONSUMERS FOR WATER AND OTHER SERVICES FURNISHED BY THE CITY OF SIOUX CENTER, IOWA**. Upon roll call vote, the vote was: Ayes: Brantsen, Moerman, Vander Berg, Vermeer, Vreugdenhil. Nays: None. Second reading passed.

The utilities manager reported that the City submitted a bid for 300 MMBTU of capacity in a Northern Natural Gas (NNG) open season, in which customers can bid for additional transportation capacity. Once

NNG evaluates bids, they will send a price to consider for up to 300 MMBTU. It was moved by Councilmember Moerman and supported by Councilmember Brantsen to ratify the bid for 300 MMBTU firm transmission capacity on NNG Company and authorize the utility manager to negotiate and execute documents with the NNG Company for additional natural gas transportation for the Sioux Center Municipal Natural Gas Utility. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The utilities manager shared that the City is looking to replace a 20-year-old sewer jet and purchase two pickups. It was moved by Councilmember Vreugdenhil and supported by Councilmember Vander Berg to authorize staff to proceed with replacing the sewer jet and purchasing two pickups within the coming year. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The utilities manager reported that Natural Gas Department employee Kris Pieper has completed his evaluation period and recommended Pieper be moved to permanent employment status. It was moved by Councilmember Vreugdenhil and supported by Councilmember Vermeer to approve Kris Pieper for permanent employment status with appropriate commensurate pay increase. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The city manager recommended the council consider the purchase of about 99 acres of property northwest of Sioux Center for future development. It was moved by Councilmember Vreugdenhil and supported by Councilmember Moerman to approve the purchase of 98.79 acres of property for \$3,309,465. Upon voice vote, all the councilmembers voted Aye. Nays: none. Motion carried.

In other business the council:

- heard a report from Assistant Utilities Manager, Adam Fedders, on Highway 75 reconstruction work from 20th to 13th Street South, and heard that the next project coordination meeting, open to the public, is planned for May 10 at 10 a.m. at the Sioux Center Library. Monthly project meetings are planned for 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. They also heard a report that the project has greatly increased the demand for locates and additional help will be needed.
- heard that future meetings were set for May 15, at 3:30 p.m. and June 5 at 4 p.m.

The city manager requested Executive Session regarding employee conditions pursuant to Iowa Code 21.9. It was moved by Councilmember Vander Berg and supported by Councilmember Brantsen to enter executive session. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Brantsen, Moerman, Vander Berg, Vermeer, Vreugdenhil. Nays: none. Whereupon Mayor Krahling declared executive session beginning at 5:05 p.m. After discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Vreugdenhil and supported by Councilmember Moerman to end executive session. Upon roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Brantsen, Moerman, Vander Berg, Vermeer, Vreugdenhil. Nays: none. Whereupon Mayor Krahling declared executive session ended at 5:22 p.m. No additional action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

David Krahling, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Scott Wynja, City Clerk